

**ANNOUNCEMENT****AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY (ACS) “SEED GRANTS” FOR JUNIOR FACULTY****DEADLINE: Noon, Tuesday, April 1, 2025****OVERVIEW**

This announcement invites applications from junior faculty members from all departments and colleges of the University of Iowa. This is a one-year, cancer-focused research award supported through the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center's American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant (ACS-IRG). The purpose of these seed grant awards is to foster research in cancer that cannot readily be supported through other available sources, and to permit the initiation of promising new projects or novel ideas necessary to obtain preliminary results for junior faculty to successfully compete for national research grants. These grants are intended to support independent, self-directed investigators early in their careers, for whom the institution provides the research facilities, the resources and space customary for an independent investigator.

An individual may receive a second year of ACS-IRG seed grant funding for the same pilot project only. The award is contingent upon the review and approval of the original project progress.

- ***A second year of support will be based on competitive renewal and requires a full re-application that will be reviewed with new submissions.***
- ***The award is contingent upon the committee's review and approval of a progress report. Documented progress towards the aims outlined in year one will be essential.***

Thus, applicants who received ACS-IRG awards in 2023 or 2024 may apply for a second grant for the same project, for consecutive grant periods. A recipient can receive only one ACS-IRG seed grant in their career.

Applications are encouraged from investigators performing basic or clinical research including cancer control, health services research, and behavioral/psychosocial research, and health policy and outcomes research related to cancer. American Cancer Society (ACS) funds are intended to assist independent researchers in conducting initial explorations which may lead to publication(s) and a successful application for support from a national funding agency.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Eligibility is limited to fully affiliated University of Iowa junior faculty (Associates, Assistant Professors, Instructors, or Research Scientists) within six years of their first independent research or faculty appointment. Research must be conducted at the University of Iowa. These awards are intended for junior faculty who are eligible to apply for NIH R01 grants, but have not had an NIH R01 or equivalent grant. Faculty who have been awarded NIH grants with two years or less of funding (R03 or R21), or career development awards from NIH (K99/R00, K01, K22) or from other funding agencies are still eligible. Individuals who have received an ACS Research Scholar Grant (RSG) are not eligible. Senior faculty members (higher than Assistant Professor or equivalent), post-doctoral fellows, fellow associates are not eligible to apply. The ACS guidelines stipulate that no awards are to be made to investigators pursuing any project funded by the tobacco industry. All applicants are required to verify their eligibility through their Departmental Chair.

**AWARD INFORMATION****MAXIMUM AWARD:** Up to \$40,000 per project**PROJECT PERIOD:** One year to spend allocation, with no extension**APPLICATION:** Complete guidelines and forms are available at the following website  
<https://cancer.uiowa.edu/cancer-research-funding-opportunities>

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION

**SUBMIT TO:** Holden Research Review Committee, Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center Administration, E220 GH, by **Noon, Tuesday, April 1, 2025**

## TERMS OF AWARD

### **DEADLINE: Noon, Tuesday, April 1, 2025**

Applications will be accepted until **Noon, Tuesday, April 1, 2025**, in the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center's Administrative Office, E220 GH. Please email a composite electronic copy as a single PDF file to HCCC's Office of Cancer Career Enhancement and Training (hccc-occet@uiowa.edu). Applications do not need to be routed through the Division of Sponsored Programs Office.

### **PROJECT PERIOD: June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026**

Each ACS-IRG Seed Grant award must be spent or encumbered within one year. No extensions will be granted. As outlined above, for grants awarded in 2023 or 2024, an individual may receive a second pilot project grant for the same project. The Holden Research Review Committee requires and will review a progress report as part of the consideration of the application for continuing funding during the yearly award cycle process.

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Incomplete applications, applications not adhering to the ACS guidelines or applications not adhering to the 10 PAGE LIMIT will be returned without review.

**DUPLICATE AWARD:** If funding is awarded for the same project, simultaneously submitted to a national funding agency, ACS funds are to be returned to the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center.

**BUDGET REVISIONS:** The principal investigator may make minor alterations within the budget, provided such changes do not violate the basic budget restrictions outlined on page 5 of these guidelines.

**PROGRESS REPORTS:** Recipients will be required to submit a progress report summarizing the results of the study supported by the ACS-IRG, including information on published papers and grant support as a result of, and separately from, the seed grant support received for the project, with one paper copy and one electronic copy (PDF) provided of all publications resulting from the work. Failure to submit a progress report will jeopardize future funding to the individual and to the institution. Annual updates will be required for seven years (These are critical for successful ACS-IRG renewal). Progress reports will be requested annually from Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center Administration.

**PUBLICATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** All recipients of seed grant funding must adhere to the ACS policy to acknowledge funding support. The following acknowledgement should be included in publications supported through this American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant:

*\*\*“This research was supported through the Institutional Research Grant Number IRG-24-1291246-49 from the American Cancer Society, administered through The Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Iowa.”*

## TERMS OF AWARD *(Continued)*

**PATENTS:** Grants are made with the understanding that patents will not be applied for in connection with any discovery made under grants awarded by the ACS without prior written consent of the ACS.

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS:** Due to the special nature of these seed grants, transfer of funds to other institutions is not allowed.

**ACCOUNT ACTIVATION:** Award activation of the account number is dependent on receipt from the investigator of required approval forms from the institutional review boards. The approvals include any of the following: 1) Human Subject Review IRB Committee A (Sponsored Programs Office), 2) Animal Care and Use Committee (Animal Care Office), 3) Radiation Protection (Health Protection Office), and 4) Bio-Safety Committee. Copies of all approvals should be submitted to Ann Sieren, Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center Administration.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications must be submitted on the forms provided.

We encourage applicants to ask a senior investigator, experienced in obtaining peer reviewed support, to review the application prior to submission to provide advice on the structure and grantsmanship of the proposal.

### FORMATTING THE APPLICATION

- Single spaced, one sided, with a maximum of 5/8 inch margins. Space between paragraphs is recommended. Use 12 point Times New Roman or 11 point Arial as the minimum font size for the text of the application. A 10 point Times New Roman or 9 point Arial font may be used for figures, legends, and tables with fixed spacing that can be photocopied; DO NOT reduce line space or reduce by photocopying.
- The application should follow the headings listed in the Application Format section of these guidelines.
- The entire application must NOT EXCEED 10 PAGES (pages 1-8 and Attachments I and II). Material in excess of the 10 page limitation will not be considered.  
\*\*The application face page and letters of support do not count toward the 10 page limit.
- Do NOT send supplementary material pertinent to the application unless you have received a specific request from the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center's Research Review Committee. Applications will be disqualified, if not adhering to these specific guidelines.
- Submit composite PDF of the complete proposal and any letters of support. Any deviation from the page limit will be automatically disapproved by the Research Review Committee.
- E-mail an ELECTRONIC COPY, as a single PDF file, of the complete proposal to [hccc-occet@uiowa.edu](mailto:hccc-occet@uiowa.edu)

**FACE PAGE**

Complete name/degree/title, education and training for the biographical information as requested. Complete information on eligibility, and have application signed by your Departmental chair. All applicants are required to verify their eligibility through their Departmental Chair.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH INCLUDING APPOINTMENTS, OTHER RESEARCH SUPPORT, PUBLICATIONS (PAGE 1-2)**

1. Complete information on Appointments
2. Other Research Support - (List all current and pending grant support, including agency, principal investigator, percent effort, amount and terms of award, or list "none." Grants that are primarily intended for the junior investigator's salary, such as the NIH "K" series, R03s that have not been renewed, ASH scholar awards, F32 awards, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Awards, and Hartford Foundation Grants, are considered allowable, and should be recorded in the "Other Research Support" section.)
3. Publications (of Applicant)

**ABSTRACT (PAGE 3)**

**RESEARCH PLAN (PAGES 4-7)**

Complete information on Description of Research Proposed - The proposed Research Plan should include:

- 1) Title of Project, 2) Objective, 3) Background and Significance (emphasizing cancer relevance), 4) Specific Aims of the project, 5) Methods, 6) Selected Publications and Cited Literature related to the research project, and 7) description of research facilities.
- 2) Important: Describe the cancer relevance of your project in lay terms, i.e. language that someone with no scientific background whatsoever, could understand (e.g. imagine trying to explain the value of your research to a class of high school seniors).

**MENTORSHIP PLAN (Brief Paragraph)**

In the proposal, please include a brief paragraph describing a mentorship plan such as the composition and role of a mentorship committee. This will allow the review committee to confirm the applicant will receive adequate advice from more senior investigators.

**BUDGET PROPOSED (PAGE 8)**

The maximum seed grant award is \$40,000 for one (1) year and we do encourage applicants to apply for the full amount. The following budgetary restrictions apply to ACS grants:

1. Budget must not exceed \$40,000 (please round to the nearest \$100).
2. All requests for personnel should be justified.
3. Please adhere to the Expenditures Allowed/Expenditures Not Allowed items on page 5 of these guidelines.

**RESEARCH PROMOTION FORM (ATTACHMENT I (PAGE 9))**

Please complete the Research Promotion Form based on your willingness and ability to work with the ACS.

**ATTACHMENT II (PAGE 10)**

Approval Form Checklist: The applicant is required to complete the *Approval Form Checklist* and submit with the application.

## BUDGET GUIDELINES

Maximum allocation for this ACS-IRG seed grant has been set at \$40,000. A justification is required for all expenses, organized by the following Budget Categories. Grantees have one year to spend allocations of funds.

### BUDGET CATEGORIES

- Personnel: Names and positions of personnel must be individually listed. The percentage of effort devoted to research and fringe benefit cost categories should be completed fully. List names, titles, percent or hours of effort, salary, fringe, and total. NOTE: Tuition costs or laboratory fees are NOT allowed to be charged against ACS-IRG Seed Grant Funds.
- Consumable Supplies: Research supplies should be grouped under appropriate headings with amounts.
- Equipment: Equipment costing less than \$2,000. (Special justification is necessary for items exceeding this amount)
- Travel: Domestic (only) travel when necessary to carry out the proposed research program
- Miscellaneous Expenditures: Must be listed and justified individually.

### EXPENDITURES ALLOWED

- Research supplies and animal maintenance
- Technical assistance
- Domestic (only) travel when necessary to carry out the proposed research program
- Stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral assistants, if their role is to promote and sustain the project presented by the junior faculty applicant
- Equipment costing less than \$2,000. (Special justification is necessary for items exceeding this amount)
- Publication costs, including reprints
- Costs of computer time
- Special fees (pathology, photography, etc.)
- Registration fee for PI to attend one (1) scientific meeting

### EXPENDITURES NOT ALLOWED

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| ▪ Foreign travel costs (transportation, hotel, meals, etc) | ▪ Non-medical services to patients (travel to a clinical site or patient incentives are allowable) |
| ▪ Honoraria and travel expenses of visiting lecturers      | ▪ Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings and laboratories                           |
| ▪ Secretarial/administrative personnel                     | ▪ Office and laboratory furniture  |
| ▪ Salary of Pilot Project Grant Recipient                  | ▪ Office equipment and supplies (including computer hardware and software)                         |
| ▪ Tuition costs  | ▪ Rental of office or laboratory space   |
| ▪ Books and periodicals                                    | ▪ Recruiting and relocation expenses   |
| ▪ Dues and membership fees in scientific societies         |  |

## LETTERS OF SUPPORT

A letter of support is required from the Director of any Shared Resource (Core Facility) if the applicant plans to use the facility for extensive use on the project, i.e., Genomics Core, Flow Cytometry, Central Microscopy, etc. A Letter of Support from a Mentor for the project is also required. Copies of letters of support (if applicable to your project) should be included with EACH copy of the application.

## HUMAN RESEARCH STUDIES

All new cancer-related research involving human subjects, and thus needing approval by the Institutional Review Board (IRB), must first be reviewed and approved by the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center Protocol Review and Monitoring Committee (PRMC). Approval by the PRMC and the IRB must be obtained before any of the awarded funds will be made available and before the research can commence. It should be noted that the proposal submitted to the ACS-IRG Review Committee will not in itself provide sufficient information for PRMC review (for more information call the PRMC administrator at 319-353-4596). Submissions to the IRB and PRMC should occur well in advance of the desired start date. Regardless of delays incurred due to the PRMC/IRB review process, there will be no extensions made on the terms of the grant.

## RESUBMISSION

If the proposal is a resubmission of a prior seed grant application, please submit a **one page** letter responding to the prior criticisms from the previous grant submitted, noting the modifications and changes in the current application for evaluation.

## QUESTIONS

Contact Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center Administration

Megan Meyer, MBA  
Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center  
E220 GH  
384-5299  
[megan-meyer@uiowa.edu](mailto:megan-meyer@uiowa.edu)

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