



University of Iowa Health Care

## **2021 CAREER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CEP) AWARD**

**University of Iowa and Mayo Clinic**

### **LYMPHOMA SPECIALIZED PROGRAM OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE (SPORE)**

**Letter of Concept Deadline: Noon (Central Time), Friday, April 16, 2021**  
**Invited Full Proposal Deadline: Noon (Central Time), Friday, May 14, 2021**  
**Project Period: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022**

From: University of Iowa/Mayo Clinic Lymphoma Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE)  
George Weiner, MD, Co-Principal Investigator  
Jon Houtman, PhD, Co-Director, SPORE Career Enhancement Program  
Thomas Witzig, MD, Co-Principal Investigator  
Grzegorz Nowakowski, MD, Co-Director, SPORE Career Enhancement Program

#### **OVERVIEW**

The University of Iowa/Mayo Clinic Lymphoma Specialized Program of Research Excellence (UI/MC Lymphoma SPORE) is a center grant funded through the National Cancer Institute. The program is designed to train junior faculty in translational, multidisciplinary research in lymphoma or to support established senior investigators who wish to change their research trajectory to translational lymphoma research. The duration of the award is for one year with a possible second year, based on exceptional progress and continued translational trajectory of the awardee. Career Enhancement Program awardees will have priority access to Lymphoma SPORE core resources: Biospecimens, Biostatistics, and Clinical Trials. **We strongly encourage you to speak personally to one of us to obtain advice and guidance if you are considering submitting a proposal.**

Funding is anticipated to start on July 1, 2021. Funding levels are contingent upon the amount awarded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in 2021.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

This program focuses on two types of candidates:

1. Laboratory investigators at the senior post-doctoral or junior faculty (Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Consultant, Research Associate, or Research Scientist) who have demonstrated outstanding research potential and have an interest in a career in translational lymphoma research, but are not yet independently funded to perform this research. More experienced successful investigators with an interest in shifting their focus towards translational lymphoma research are also eligible.
2. Clinicians who have demonstrated interest and ability in translational research during their clinical fellowship training, are committed to careers in translational research, and wish additional research training in pursuit of this career.

**MENTORING TEAM OR KEY COLLABORATORS**

Junior faculty applicants are encouraged to identify a mentoring team with one primary mentor and others with relevant expertise in basic, population, and/or clinical/translational research. Established investigators will have less need for career advancement mentoring and should identify collaborating individuals with strengths in appropriate areas of lymphoma research. The primary mentor should have external research funding in lymphoma, translational research productivity, and the willingness to commit the time and assistance needed to maximize the applicant's potential for success. Interested applicants who have questions should contact Dr. George Weiner (UI; [george-weiner@uiowa.edu](mailto:george-weiner@uiowa.edu)) or Dr. Thomas Witzig (Mayo; [witzig.thomas@mayo.edu](mailto:witzig.thomas@mayo.edu)).

**AMOUNT OF AWARD**

A maximum of \$25,000 per year in direct costs will be provided through the UI/Mayo SPORE grant with support from each institution for a **total award of approximately \$50,000**. The exact amount of the award is contingent on NIH funding. NIH funds must be spent by June 30, 2022.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For additional information, please contact Tami Thompson 319-353-8987 or Maria Bertorello 319-353-8634 [maria-bertorello@uiowa.edu](mailto:maria-bertorello@uiowa.edu) (UI), Cara Thomas 507-266-2040 (Mayo), or the Project Directors: Jon Houtman, PhD (UI; [jon-houtman@uiowa.edu](mailto:jon-houtman@uiowa.edu)) or Grzegorz Nowakowski MD, (Mayo; [Nowakowski.grzegorz@mayo.edu](mailto:Nowakowski.grzegorz@mayo.edu)).

Please Submit Materials to:

**UI:** Tami Thompson/Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center/5970 JPP ([tami-thompson@uiowa.edu](mailto:tami-thompson@uiowa.edu))

**Mayo:** Cara Thomas/Mayo Clinic Hematology Research/ST 6-28 ([Thomas.Cara@mayo.edu](mailto:Thomas.Cara@mayo.edu))

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## **INSTRUCTIONS**

**APPLICATION PROCESS****Step 1 – Letter-of-Concept: Deadline Noon, Friday, April 16, 2021 (Central Time)**

A 1-2 page letter-of-concept describing the proposed research, in addition to a statement outlining the potential of the research to improve the detection, diagnosis or treatment of lymphoma, should be submitted to the attention of Tami Thompson (UI, [tami-thompson@uiowa.edu](mailto:tami-thompson@uiowa.edu)) **AND** Cara Thomas (Mayo, [Thomas.Cara@mayo.edu](mailto:Thomas.Cara@mayo.edu)). Letters-of-concept will be reviewed by the Career Enhancement Research Committee of the UI/MC Lymphoma SPORE with selected investigators invited to submit full proposals.

The letter-of-concept should include the following information:

- a) Title and overview of the proposed project
- b) Area of expertise of the PI and other investigators
- c) Relevance of the project to Lymphoma research
- d) Statement of how the proposed project will lead to a full research project with funding potential

**Step 2 – Invited Full Application: Deadline Noon, Friday, May 14, 2021 (Central Time)****SUBMIT ELECTRONIC COPY WITH ALL SECTIONS IN ONE PDF DOCUMENT**

A full application will be requested from individuals with meritorious letters of concept that meet the P50 Lymphoma program goals.

1. *Cover sheet* (1 page), to include:
  - a. Title of Project, Name of Applicant, Degree(s), Current Academic Position, Department, Address, Telephone Number, and email Address
  - b. Name of Mentor, Title and Department
2. *Abstract* (limit 1 page)
3. A proposed *research description* of no more than 5 pages (excluding literature citations) that includes:
  - a. Specific aims
  - b. Background and significance
  - c. Any preliminary data (not required)
  - d. Experimental approaches including at least one half to one page describing the training activities such as any coursework to be taken, new laboratory techniques to be learned, etc.
  - e. Timeline and Statement of the trainees' career goals
  - f. Literature cited (not part of the 5 pages)
4. *Budget Page with Justification*: Outline expenditures for the project. Funds should be used to support the research project, including partial salary support for the awardee, research personnel, supplies, and other expenses. Equipment purchases, mentor salary support, and travel are not allowed.
5. *Applicant's curriculum vitae or NIH biosketch* and copies of up to three of the applicant's most current publications.
6. *Mentor requirements*: *Letter of support, curriculum vitae or NIH biosketch*, and list of prior trainees. Established investigators will have less need for career advancement mentoring and should identify collaborating individuals with strengths in appropriate areas of lymphoma research.

**Full proposals should be submitted before noon (Central Time) on May 14, 2021 and directed to:**

**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Cancer Center Administration Attention  
Tami M. Thompson  
[Tami-Thompson@uiowa.edu](mailto:Tami-Thompson@uiowa.edu)  
Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center,  
UI Health Care, 5970Z JPP  
(319) 353-8987

**AND****MAYO CLINIC**

Attention Cara Thomas  
[Thomas.Cara@mayo.edu](mailto:Thomas.Cara@mayo.edu)  
Hematology Research ST628  
Mayo Clinic Rochester  
(507) 266-2040

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## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Evaluation and Scoring**

The application will be evaluated in the following areas:

1. The qualifications of the applicant with emphasis on prior productivity and potential for success as an independent translational researcher in lymphoma
2. The significance, scientific merit and translational potential of the proposed research
3. The value added to the Lymphoma SPORE
4. The qualifications and track record of the primary mentor

### **REQUIREMENT OF AWARD**

Career Enhancement Program (CEP) Award recipients will be considered members of the Lymphoma SPORE and will attend the monthly SPORE meetings in person or via webinar. The awardee will be invited to attend the SPORE's annual 'Advance' in October. The awardee will provide an annual written progress report and will be expected to present their research project at a monthly SPORE scientific meeting or retreat. Reports should include project accomplishments, publications and presentations, current budgetary expenditures, research impediments and future plans. Additionally, final reports are due within 60 days of completion of the award. It is expected that the applicant will meet with the mentor regularly (at least monthly). Quarterly meetings with the Director and semi-annual meetings with the Director and mentor are required.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Publications (including abstracts or presentations at scientific meetings) resulting from projects supported by the UI/MC Lymphoma SPORE must carry the acknowledgement: "**Supported in part by Public Health Service grant number P50 CA097274 from the University of Iowa /Mayo Clinic Lymphoma Specialized Program of Research Excellence (UI/MC Lymphoma SPORE) and the National Cancer Institute.**" An electronic copy of all publications must be submitted to the UI/MC Lymphoma SPORE with the progress report. Since the SPORE is an NIH grant, all peer-reviewed manuscripts resulting from this support must comply with the NIH Public Access Policy and be submitted to PubMed Central for a PMCID once accepted for publication in a journal.

### **HUMAN SUBJECTS AND ANIMAL STUDIES**

Applications must meet all NIH requirements for human and/or animal studies. Documentation of protocol approval by the appropriate institutional committee will be required. Copies of all assurances and certifications must be provided to UI/Mayo Administration before funds can be allocated.

### **CORE RESOURCES ACCESS**

Access to SPORE Core resources (Administrative, Biospecimens and Bioinformatics, Biostatistics, and Clinical Trials) may also be available if justified in the application.

### **TERM OF AWARDS**

The term of the award is for one year with the potential of renewal for an additional year. A second year of support is available, depending on availability of funds, based on competitive review for prior applicants who still qualify and have made significant progress toward their translational research career goals during their initial year of funding.

### **FINANCIAL RECORDS**

A separate account must be maintained for each funded grant, and this account must be available for audit by program officials at the UI and the National Cancer Institute. Reports of expenditures and the return of any unexpended balance must be submitted to the UI/MC Lymphoma SPORE at the end of each year. NIH Funds must be spent by June 30, 2021. No extensions will be granted.

## **PATENTS**

No patent application for work done under a grant from the Specialized Program of Research Excellence at UI or Mayo Clinic shall be filed by the grantee institution or by the investigator without prior written approval of the National Cancer Institute and the applicant's institution.

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

Should the investigator discontinue the project, or leave the designated institution, the UI/MC Lymphoma SPORE must be notified two months in advance of these changes. Failure to comply with this policy may jeopardize any future awards to the institution(s). Unexpended funds from the award must be returned to the UI/MC Lymphoma SPORE within 60 days.

The University of Iowa and the Mayo Clinic are equal opportunity affirmative action employers. Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.

***Please note: Actual funding of the awarded grants may be delayed if National Cancer Institute funding for the parent UI/Mayo SPORE grant is delayed.***



University of Iowa Health Care

**ATTACHMENT I**

**Approval Form Checklist**  
**Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
**SPORE Career Enhancement Program Applicants**

*(return with application submitted)*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Investigator: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Proposal/Project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If the answer to any of these questions is affirmative, the proposal must be reviewed by the University's Institutional Review Board, prior to the initiation of the project or the establishment of an account.

<b>Receipt of Approval copies prior to initiation of account.</b> <i>Note: If any of these uses are involved in the project, then institutional approval is required before award activation. Please allow a maximum of 60 days from the award notification date to obtain relevant approval. Please submit copies of approved IRB and ACURF to the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center.</i>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
1. The experiments described in this proposal involve the use of human research subjects.		
2. The experiments described in this proposal involve the use of laboratory animals.		
3. The experiments described in this proposal involve the use of radioactive isotopes.		
4. The experiments described in this proposal involve administration of new or experimental drugs to humans.		
5. The experiments described in this proposal involve DNA recombinant molecules.		

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal Investigator