

The Wright Foundation Trust

Transformative Cancer Grant Program – Request for Proposals

2023–2024 Academic Year

The Robert E. and May R. Wright Foundation is seeking proposals for Transformative Cancer Research Grants from individuals, or teams of scientists, to accelerate new forms of cancer prevention and cures through innovative basic/translational research. The proposed laboratory-based work must have clear potential in the next few years to move novel scientific discoveries into the clinic for an impact on patient care and outcomes.

Applicants may request up to \$100,000 for one year of funding with the possibility of a second year of funding. For a second year of funding at the level of \$100,000, applicants are required to submit their proposal and a separate progress report (see below). A timeline with specific milestones must be included for consideration of continued funding beyond the initial grant.

Application Process

General Guidelines

Eligibility

Anyone who will be a full-time faculty member at the Keck School of Medicine as of July 1, 2023, is eligible to apply as principal investigator. Co-investigators may come from other schools at USC.

Scope of Research

The following are strongly encouraged:

- Translational laboratory cancer research (particular interest in new treatment and biomarker development)
- Innovative and new directions for cancer research
- Clear pathway for translation to clinical research to change the paradigm of patient care and outcomes. Projects more proximal to translation may be prioritized.

If your proposal for a Transformative Cancer grant was funded in FY23 by the Wright Foundation you may be eligible for a second year of funding. If you are seeking a second year of funding, include in your proposal a progress report, up to one page in length, describing the progress made in relation to the specific aims of the original submitted proposal, as well as a projection of funds to be expended and unexpended by the end of year 1 of the project. These requests for a second year of funding will be competitively reviewed.

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Submission Guidelines

By **5:00 PM PDT on April 10, 2023**, please email a single PDF file of the application to Cort Brinkerhoff, Special Project Manager in the Office of Research: cort.brinkerhoff@med.usc.edu. Please follow up if you do not receive a confirmation that your application was received.

Selection

Applications will be peer-reviewed internally at USC. Recommendations for funding will be presented to the Wright Foundation Board of Trustees, chaired by the Dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC, at the annual board meeting near the end of the USC fiscal year. Awardees will be notified in July of 2023.

Award

Approved proposals will be funded beginning September 1, 2023.

Application Format

The application should be prepared using **Arial 11-point font** with a document layout of **0.5-inch** margins all around. Place your name in the header (upper right) and page numbers in the footer (lower right). Figures, charts, tables, legends, and footnotes may use a font size no smaller than Arial 10.

Please create **one single PDF file** containing the following information in the order listed below. Please incorporate your last and first name into the PDF file name using the following naming convention: Lastname_Firstname_Wright-Transformative-2023

1. **Project Title**

2. **Principal Investigator**

Name:

Title:

Primary Department Affiliation:

Primary School Affiliation:

Email Address:

Campus Address:

Phone:

3. **Co-Investigators** (if any)

Same info as number 2 above

4. **Grants Administrator**

Same info as number 2 above

5. **Lay Abstract** (max 300 words)

6. **Research Plan**

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The application must be no more than 6 pages (including tables and figures) and utilize no smaller than Arial 11-point font size. Page limits exclude references and bio-sketches. The following sections must be included:

- A. Translational vision
- B. Specific aims and hypotheses
- C. Preliminary data
- D. Approach
- E. Timeline and milestones

7. Budget

Please provide proposed budget (up to \$100,000 annually for up to two years) on PHS 398 Budget Forms

- Use Form Page 4: Detailed Budget for Initial Period for year 1
- Use Form Page 5: Budget for Entire Proposed Project Period for year 2, if relevant
- Forms are available at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>

8. Budget justification

Provide on separate page using page format and font described in Application Format, above. Allowable costs include, but are not limited to:

- Salary/benefits for support staff or trainees
- Student stipends
- Materials and supplies
- Animal costs
- Equipment and software (limited to <\$10,000 and strongly justified)

Not allowable: PI/Co-I salaries, indirect costs, space charges, administrative support, travel, publication charges

9. NIH Format Biographical Sketch (for PI and all co-investigators)

Form available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>

10. NIH Format “Other Funding” Page (for PI and all co-investigators)

Form available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/othersupport.htm>

11. Regulatory Approvals

These are not required at the time of submission, but proof of all required regulatory approvals (e.g., IRB, IACUC, Radiation Safety Committee, Biosafety Committee) is required before access to awarded funds will be granted.

Questions

Direct any questions about this RFA to Cort Brinkerhoff: cort.brinkerhoff@med.usc.edu.