

**Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant  
Seed Grant Program  
2023 Request for Applications**

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center (BCC) is soliciting applications for American Cancer Society-supported seed grants. The American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant (ACS IRG) is a block grant that allows the BCC to award funding to early-career independent investigators who do not have current national peer-reviewed research grant support. This seed grant program is intended to support junior faculty in initiating cancer research projects, so they can generate preliminary results that will enable them to compete successfully for national funding in all areas of cancer research.

**ELIGIBILITY**

- University of Nebraska investigators at the level of Assistant Professor or equivalent, who are eligible to apply for independent national competitive research grants but do not hold an NIH R01-equivalent grant.
- The investigator must be within six years of their first independent faculty appointment and have a commitment from their institution for salary, space, and appropriate research resources.
- All applicants must be members of the Buffett Cancer Center. If you are not currently a member of the Cancer center, please contact Matt Winfrey (winfrey@unmc.edu) to request membership.
- If not a United States citizen, noncitizen national, or permanent resident, an applicant must have a visa that will allow them to remain in the U.S. throughout the grant period and long enough to fulfill all obligations of the award.
- Previous recipients of BCC ACS IRG seed grants are ineligible to apply.
- Applicants from populations that are underrepresented in the U.S. biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences research enterprise are strongly encouraged to submit proposals. Refer to the [Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity \[NOT-OD-20-031\]](#) for definitions and information about underrepresented populations. Additionally, the American Cancer Society has made targeted supplemental funding available via this mechanism for members of underrepresented populations.

**FUNDS AVAILABLE**

One-year seed grants of up to \$60,000 are available. Up to four awards will be made.

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES AND RESTRICTIONS**

- Investigators are limited to one application.
- The requested project budget must be in increments of \$5,000, and total budget requests may not exceed \$60,000. Below is a table listing allowable and unallowable expenditures, per ACS IRG regulations:

Expenditures Allowed	Expenditures Not Allowed
^ Research supplies and animal maintenance	^ Foreign travel ( <i>Special consideration given for attendance at scientific meetings held in Canada.</i> )
^ Technical assistance	^ Secretarial/administrative salaries
^ Domestic travel when necessary to carry out the proposed research program	^ Membership dues
^ Publication costs, including reprints	^ Student tuition and fees
^ Costs of computer time	^ Books and periodicals
^ Special fees (pathology, photography, etc.)	^ Office and laboratory furniture
^ Stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral assistants if their role is to promote and sustain the project presented by the junior faculty member	^ Office equipment and supplies
^ Equipment costing less than \$2,000 ( <i>Special justification is necessary for items exceeding this amount.</i> )	^ Rental of office or laboratory space
^ Registration fees at scientific meetings	^ Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings/laboratories
	^ Recruiting and relocation expenses
	^ Non-medical services to patients ( <i>Travel to a clinical site or patient incentives are allowable.</i> )
	^ Salary of principal investigator
	^ Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers
	^ Indirect costs

▪ **Regulatory Approvals:**

- For projects involving human subjects, vertebrate animals, and/or select agents research, prior IRB, IACUC, and/or IBC approval is not required at the time of application submission. However, it is expected that the appropriate protocols will be submitted so approval is imminent at the anticipated project start date. All applicable institutional approvals must be in place before award funds can be released. *IRB protocols must be submitted for review within 30 days of notice of award and final IRB approval provided to Cancer Center administration within 60 days of NoA.*
- For projects involving cancer studies being conducted at UNMC, the relevant protocols must be submitted simultaneously to the IRB and to the BCC Scientific Review Committee (SRC). Contact the BCC Protocol Review and Monitoring System (PRMS) office at 402-559-4232 with questions regarding this process.

## **APPLICATION FORMAT AND SUBMISSION**

The BCC ACS IRG Seed Grant Program 2023 Application template must be used.

### **Required Application Components:**

1. **Principal Investigator Biographical Information form**
2. **Research Project Information form**
3. **Detailed Budget with Budget Justification**
4. **Description of Research Proposed:**
  - **Scientific Abstract** summarizing the research question, the background of the project, the specific aims, the proposed approach, and the expected outcomes of the project (400-word maximum)
  - **Lay Abstract** that defines the goals and expected outcomes of the project in non-technical terms (250-word maximum)
  - **Research Plan** with the following sections:
    - A) **Specific Aims** (1-page maximum)
    - B) **Background, Significance, and Innovation**
    - C) **Preliminary Studies** (if any)
    - D) **Approach**
    - E) **Statement of Cancer Relevance** (6-page maximum for sections B–E)
    - F) **References Cited**
    - G) **Regulatory compliance information**, including **Protection of Human Subjects, Vertebrate Animals, and Select Agent Research** sections, as applicable
  - Inclusion of preliminary data is encouraged but not required, and appendices will not be accepted.
5. **NIH Biosketch** for the Principal Investigator (5-page limit)
6. **Other Research Support** for the Principal Investigator  
*Note: Other Support demonstrates active and pending support; the purpose of this document is to allow for assessment of an investigator's overall research commitment and to identify any overlap with existing projects.*
7. **Underrepresented Populations form**

**General Formatting Requirements:** Minimum 0.5-inch margins and Arial 11-point font are required. (Smaller type size may be used for figures and legends.)

### **Submission Instructions and Deadline**

All applications must be submitted as a single PDF to [buffetcancercenter@unmc.edu](mailto:buffetcancercenter@unmc.edu) no later than **11:59 pm CT on Friday, September 29, 2023**. Please include the last name of the project Principal Investigator in the subject line of the email. Proposals not adhering to the page limitations, formatting requirements, and/or application deadline will not be reviewed. Final funding decisions are expected to be made in November / December.

### **APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS**

Applications will be reviewed by the Buffett Cancer Center IRG Review Committee, which is made up of faculty members representing a majority of UNMC departments that are involved in various aspects of cancer research. These individuals have been asked to serve on the Review Committee based on their cancer research focus and expertise, home department, and academic rank to ensure that the Committee has adequate representation and input from an appropriate cross-section of the NU cancer research community.

### **APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA**

- Reviewers will be instructed to consider scientific merit, innovation, and feasibility in the application scoring criteria.
- Other review factors that may be considered include appropriateness of the project for the ACS IRG seed grant mechanism, as well as the likelihood of future research productivity of the investigator.

### **FUNDING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

- Seed grant recipients are responsible for working with their departmental grants administrator to monitor and manage award funds. It is expected that award funds will be spent within the one-year funding period.
- All awardees must submit written progress reports as required and be prepared to respond to additional requests for updates from Cancer Center administration and its collaborating organizations.
- Awardees should provide information to Cancer Center administration regarding any publications and additional funding that result from their seed grant award. Any publications and presentations resulting from a BCC ACS IRG seed grant must acknowledge support from both the American Cancer Society and the Buffett Cancer Center.
- Those selected for funding should be prepared to present their projects to the scientific community and potential donors as requested by the BCC and ACS.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For questions regarding this funding opportunity, please contact Buffett Cancer Center Administration at [buffetcancercenter@unmc.edu](mailto:buffetcancercenter@unmc.edu).