Ovarian Cancer SPORE Career Enhancement Program
2017 Request for Applications

Background
The RPCI-UPCI Ovarian Cancer Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE) supports four Individual Research Projects, four Cores, a Career Enhancement Program (CEP) and a Developmental Research Program (DRP).

The SPORE grant mechanism is aimed at translational research projects. The NIH definition of what constitutes translational research for SPORE applications is:

*Translational cancer research transforms scientific discoveries arising from laboratory, clinical, or population studies into clinical applications that reduce cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality.*

The goal of the CEP is to recruit and support new independent investigators in the field of translational ovarian cancer research. Research initiatives that will be funded by the CEP are expected to have a major translational component, including those with an emphasis on etiology, diagnosis, early detection, treatment, or population science. Outstanding entry-level scientific and clinical faculty (i.e. Assistant Professor) are invited to apply. In some instances, CEP awardees may include senior postdoctoral fellows or clinical fellows transitioning to faculty positions and deemed to have high potential to develop independent research programs. The CEP aims to promote diversity within ovarian cancer researchers by encouraging applications from qualified individuals from traditionally underrepresented groups.

Eligibility
- Full-time Faculty Member at RPCI, UPCI, or University of Pittsburgh, Assistant Professor who hold NIH New Investigator status (no record of R01 or R01-type funding)
- Senior postdoctoral or clinical fellows who intend to dedicate their early career to ovarian cancer research and who will transition to a faculty position by the start of funding

*Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to apply for a CEP award.*

Format
Applicants are required to adhere to a modified NIH R21 format; required documents and page length are provided in the Checklist. In addition, applicants are required to include a lay abstract, description of the translational potential, timeline for completion of research project, letter of support from their mentor, and a one-page career development plan that includes a description of interactions with their mentor as well as short-term and long-term career goals. Laboratory, clinical, epidemiological, and behavior-based projects that emphasize translational ovarian cancer research are all eligible for this award. All data critical to review must be included in the proposal text. *Applications that include an appendix will be administratively withdrawn.*

Review Criteria
All applications will be reviewed by scientific investigators and patient advocates using a modified NIH research project review criteria and the NIH scoring system (1-9). These criteria include:

- Significance
- Investigator(s)
- Innovation
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- Approach
- Translational Potential
- Potential to produce definitive results within the proposed time frame
- Potential to advance to R01-type funding or to a SPORE Individual Research Project

Funding
The CEP will fund two to three awards of up to $40,000 per year for two years. Second year funding is contingent on acceptable progress of the project, as documented in a progress report. Successful applicants are required to submit a final progress report at the end of the funding period. Funds cannot be used for salary coverage of Principal or Co-Investigators, indirect costs, travel, publications, or equipment not specifically needed for the proposed research. Salary coverage for technicians, graduate students, or postdoctoral fellows is permitted.

Successful applicants will be required to attend and occasionally present their ongoing work at monthly RPCI-UPCI Ovarian Cancer SPORE meetings, the RPCI-UPCI Ovarian Cancer SPORE annual retreat, and appropriate meetings for their respective home institutions (RPCI: GYN DSRG Meeting; UPCI: Gynecological Oncology Work in Progress meetings).

Resubmissions
Previously submitted applications that did not receive a fundable score are eligible for funding consideration. Resubmissions must include a 1 page response to previous reviewer comments and indicate the application as a resubmission on the cover page.

Renewals
Previously funded CEPs are eligible for renewal. Renewal submissions must include a 2 page progress report and indicate the application as a renewal on the cover page.

Deadlines
Pre-proposals: Prospective applicants are required to submit a non-binding, pre-proposal due Monday, April 17, 2017 at 5:00 pm. Pre-proposals should include the Scientific Abstract, Translational Potential, and Specific Aims.

The pre-proposal is used for reviewer assignment. Therefore, specific aims, abstract and translational potential should not be significantly modified once submitted for the pre-proposal.

Full proposals including all documents listed below are due Monday, May 1, 2017 at 5:00 pm.

Questions
For scientific questions, please contact the CDP Principal Investigator at your institution:
RPCI: Dr. Kirsten Moysich (kirsten.moysich@roswellpark.org)
UPCI: Dr. Francesmary Modugno (modugnof@upmc.edu)

For administrative questions, please contact Dr. Amit Lugade (amit.lugade@roswellpark.org)
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Checklist of documents to submit for full proposal in required order:

☐ Cover Page ................................................................. (must use provided cover page)
☐ Response to Reviewers (for resubmission applications) ........................................... (1 page max)
☐ Progress Report (for renewal applications) ............................................................... (2 page max)
☐ Scientific Abstract ........................................................................................................ (1 page max)
☐ Lay Abstract ................................................................................................................. (½ page max)
☐ Translational Potential ................................................................................................. (½ page max)
☐ Candidate’s Biosketch ................................................................................................. (NIH Format)
☐ Other Support ................................................................................................................ (PHS 398)
☐ Mentor’s Biosketch ........................................................................................................ (NIH Format)
☐ Biosketches for up to two co-investigators – OPTIONAL ........................................... (NIH Format)
☐ Letter of Support from Mentor
☐ Budget ............................................................................................................................... (SF424 R&R)
☐ Budget Justification ........................................................................................................ (no page limit)
☐ Specific Aims .................................................................................................................. (1 page max)
☐ Research Plan ................................................................................................................ (5 page max)
☐ References Cited ............................................................................................................. (no page limit)
☐ Timeline and Milestones ............................................................................................... (1 page max)
☐ Career Development Plan .............................................................................................. (1 page max)
☐ If human subjects or animals are involved, include IRB/IACUC approval letter or submission date

Appendices are not permitted.

Combine all sections into one PDF document and email your submission by the deadline, Monday, May 1, 2017 5:00 pm, to Dr. Amit Lugade at amit.lugade@roswellpark.org

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Timeline for the RPCI-UPCI Ovarian Cancer SPORE CEP

04/17/2017  Pre-proposals due (send to amit.lugade@roswellpark.org)
05/01/2017  Full proposals due (send to amit.lugade@roswellpark.org)
06/12/2017  Applicant notifications – tentative, subject to change
07/01/2017  Budget start date – tentative, subject to change