



SUNY Upstate Cancer Center Research Pilot Grants

Purpose of the RFA: To foster cancer research on novel ideas and generate preliminary data for extramural grant applications. The projects must have a clear focus on cancer. Applications must describe how the expected preliminary data that will be generated and how that data will support a federal grant submission (NIH, NSF, DOD, etc.). **Only current members of the Cancer Center Research Programs can apply.**

Projects should indicate how they will align with areas of interest at the Cancer Center, including:

- Interactions of tumor cells with their microenvironment
- Screening, discovery, and validation of novel anti-cancer agents
- Molecular targets and biomarkers in cancer
- Mechanisms of cancer initiation, progression, and metastasis
- Novel models and technologies in cancer research
- Mechanisms of drug resistance, side effects and sequelae from cancer treatments
- Lifetime survivorship and quality of life
- Cancer epidemiology

Funded projects will typically range from \$25,000 - \$50,000 (Pilot grants), and up to \$75,000 for the development of Early Phase Investigator Initiated Trial (Pre-IND studies). Awardees of pilot grants in 2023 are not eligible to apply for this cycle of grants.

Awards are to be spent within 2 years after receipt.

Priority will be given to collaborative projects between Basic Scientists and Clinical faculty, and for junior faculty. Clinical faculty are encouraged to apply. Projects must be for a new line of research that is not currently funded from other sources. *The following documents will be considered in the grant review process:*

- For **new investigators/young faculty** – 1-page of career development plan related to this grant funding: How will this grant funding promote the young investigator career? Resident/Clinical
- For **established investigator**: funding history of federal awards for cancer research (1- page). The submitted project cannot be part of an already funded grant but could be part of a pending grant (for example, a sub-aim on an R01 or DoD application).
- For **Award recipients from previous cycles**, please include a one-page summary of the published articles, submitted grant applications, conference presentations, and other awards received as a result of the prior pilot funding.

The projects will be rated on the following criteria: 1) significance and innovation in cancer research; 2) ability of the investigator(s) to explain the clinical importance of the project or pathway towards clinical application; 3) likelihood to lead to National Cancer Institute (NCI) or other federally-funded projects; and 4) the lead investigator's expertise and experience in the research area.

Agreement of Expectations: Awardees will sign an agreement at the time of accepting the funds that will emphasize the expectation of extramural funding pursued or awarded by the time of completion of the pilot project. **In addition, investigators will be expected to present their research progress at a campus-wide SUNY Upstate event, such as the annual Cancer Center Retreat or the Biomedical Sciences Retreat.** Investigators should also include plans for additional presentations at regional or national meetings. Abstracts and publications derived from this pilot funding mechanism should Acknowledge the SUNY Upstate Medical University Cancer Center.

Application Submission Procedures:

- **A grant submission must approved by the investigator's chair.**
- **Submit required electronic documents (PDF) through the Sponsored Programs website by **January 2, 2024 at 11:59PM**: Kelly Kilpeck will receive the notification at kilpeckk@upstate.edu.**

PROPOSED RESEARCH PLAN

1. Title
2. Abstract (limited to 300 words)
3. Specific Aims Page (maximum of 1 page)
4. Research Strategy including Significance, Innovation, Preliminary Data (if available, but not required), Approach, and Deliverables (maximum of 3 pages): Preliminary data directly relevant to the specific aims is not required but this section should demonstrate that the investigators possess the technical expertise and assets to complete the experiments. This section should describe how the specific aims will be achieved including possible alternative approaches, the results that are anticipated including the data required for a future grant submission, the biomedical importance, and, if appropriate, possible intellectual property that will be generated.
5. Facilities and Resources (maximum of 1 page) include description of research team and all institutional resources that will support the project.
6. Future Research Plans (maximum of 1 page) including National Cancer Institute extramural grant submissions pending and planned.
7. For **new investigators/young faculty**: 1- page of career development plan related to this grant funding: How will this grant funding promote the young investigator career? For **established investigator**: funding history of federal awards in cancer research (1- page).
8. For **Award recipients from previous cycles**, please include a one-page summary of published articles, submitted grant applications, conference presentations, and other awards received as a result of the prior pilot funding.
9. Budget and Budget Justification (maximum of one page each)
10. Bibliographical references (no page limit)
11. NIH Biosketch for the Principal Investigator and key personnel

Formatting Guidelines: minimum of 11 point font, fonts accepted: Arial, Georgia, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, ½ inch margins, single-spaced. You will be prompted to upload pdf documents for each section listed above. The website will compile a single pdf document that could be downloaded following the submission.

Application Submission Procedures

Submit through Upstate InfoReady website
Cancer Center Pilot Grant Website:

[InfoReady \(infoready4.com\)](http://infoready4.com)

Kelly Kilpeck

kilpeckk@upstate.edu

Grant Opens: December 5, 2023

Grant Deadline: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 @ 11:59 PM
Correction period – Wednesday, January 3, 2024 @ 4 PM