

The Ohio State University
Comprehensive Cancer Center
December 2024

INTRAMURAL RESEARCH AWARDS PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The OSU Comprehensive Cancer Center (OSUCCC) is now accepting applications for the Spring, 2025 Intramural Research Program (IRP) Pelotonia Research Awards Program. IRP Pelotonia Awards are intended to foster innovation and discovery among OSUCCC-James researchers by providing the seed money needed to develop promising research and to generate preliminary data and publications that will make them competitive for NCI funding. Grants are only awarded if they are highly meritorious.

Contents

Important	1
General Guidelines	1
Idea Awards	3
Junior Investigator Award	4
Community-Based Participatory Research Awards	5
Clinical Trial Awards and Protocol-Specific Research Support	6

Important

- **Pelotonia Fundraising** – The commitment of the OSUCCC-James research community to Pelotonia fundraising is very important. By fundraising for Pelotonia, IRP applicants demonstrate their personal commitment to the mission and that you are willing to work for Pelotonia and the OSUCCC-James. This sends a strong message to all donors.
- **Pelotonia Fund Sharing** – Please note that when Riders or Challengers fund share with others, then you are donating the dollars raised to others. **If your fundraising amount drops below the required \$1,250, then your eligibility for review is threatened.** Riders who have met their minimum only through the fundraising efforts by their Peloton will not be eligible. Riders who do not meet the minimum by direct donations and rely primarily on their Peloton to meet the fundraising commitment must demonstrate significant direct involvement in fundraising for the Peloton.
- **New Faculty Start-up Funds** - Please remember that new faculty with start-up funding may only apply for IRP funds with research ideas that are different from their original research plans, as stipulated in offer letters.

General Guidelines

1. Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss planned submissions with the relevant Deputy Directors, Associate Directors, and Dr. Monica Venere for scientific priority and merit. These are:
 - a. Basic Science: Drs. Matt Ringel
 - b. Clinical/Translational: Drs. Zihai Li
 - c. Population Sciences: Dr. Electra Paskett
 - d. Shared Resources: Dr. Sharyn Baker
2. Applicants are similarly encouraged to discuss planned submissions to ensure eligibility, seek clarification on the application procedures (required components and on-line submission) with Jules Breckenridge or Dr. Monica Venere.

3. Support for this program primarily comes from Pelotonia funds. Please see Eligibility Criteria for information on applicants' required fundraising for Pelotonia.
4. Applicants may resubmit a revised application as many times as they deem appropriate; however, after two submissions, further submissions must be approved by Dr. Monica Venere and/or the study section chair(s) prior to submission.
5. Applications are evaluated by OSUCCC and external reviewers. The comments from the reviewers will be provided after the review is completed.
6. PIs and Co-PIs of applications cannot serve as reviewers during the cycle in which their application is being considered. Co-Investigators or other persons listed on the grant must step out of the room at the time of discussion for their application.
7. Salary support for faculty may **not** be requested.
8. Faculty that has received prior IRP funding must show that they have completed or made significant progress for earlier awards in terms of grant submissions and publications. If there were no grant submissions or publications, then a reason must be stated. Poor progress on earlier awards may affect funding decisions.
9. Investigators with significant CCC support (e.g., start-up packages or other ongoing research support) should discuss their application in advance with Dr. Venere prior to submission.
10. Funding recommendations will be made by a committee composed of the OSUCCC Director, the Associate Directors, and Dr. Monica Venere. Final decisions are made by the OSUCCC Director.
11. Use of shared resources will be considered, e.g., using OSUCCC shared resources for services available from them.

Eligibility Criteria

- All projects must be clearly cancer focused, with the likelihood of future NCI funding the highest priority. Significance, innovation, scientific merit and study team drives that likelihood.
- OSUCCC membership is not required to apply.
- **Pelotonia participation requirement – All PIs must have contributed to the fundraising effort of this critical OSUCCC resource. If the requirements are not met at the time of review, applications will be administratively withdrawn without review. PIs, whether one or more, must have participated in Pelotonia 2024 as a Rider or Challenger, and must have raised a minimum of \$1,250 in fundraising. The \$1,250 minimum fundraising cannot be done through Peloton fund sharing from another Rider/Challenger. For faculty who joined OSUCCC after June 1, 2024, the above is waived, but are expected to register and participate in the 2025 ride and meet the requirements as above. In unusual circumstances, the fundraising requirement may be reduced or waived. Any concerns or questions should be directed to Jules Breckenridge.**

Application Requirements

- All applications can be accessed at <https://irp.osumc.edu/welcome>. Completed applications should be single spaced; font must be Arial 11-point type and no more than 6 lines of type per vertical inch. Margins should be at least 0.5" all around. **Six-page** limit except for Team Science Awards.
- All applications must be submitted through the IRP website using the forms provided there.
- Pertinent references should be provided; however, they do not count toward the page limit.
- An NIH biosketch for all PIs and Co-Is on an application is required; however, it does not count toward the page limit. ***Multiple biosketches for an application need to be submitted in one combined PDF in the appropriate section of the online application form.***
- A budget and budget justification are required, sufficient to allow the reviewers to assess feasibility of the project; however, the budget and budget justification do not count toward the page limit. ***The budget and budget justification should be submitted using the template provided on the website and uploaded as a PDF file in the appropriate section of the online application form. The Timeline and Major Milestones section should be included on the budget form, not in the application form. Please do not use any budget forms from past review cycles.***
- **NO appendices will be accepted.**

- An automated reply will be generated once your application has been received. If you do not receive this reply, please call Jules Breckenridge at 614-378-0149 for assistance.
- No paper applications will be accepted. Incomplete applications will be returned without scientific review.

Submission Deadline

The deadline for submission of full applications in all categories will be 5:00pm ET on January 31, 2025. No applications will be accepted after this time. The IRP website will open on January 2, 2025. Applications can be accessed and submitted online at <https://irp.osumc.edu/welcome>.

Review Process

Applications are assigned to one of three review panels, Basic, Clinical or Population Sciences review panels. Each review panel includes OSUCCC and external reviewers. The written comments from primary reviewers are provided to applicants. If an application names an OSUCCC Deputy Director, Associate Director or the Director of IRP as a PI or collaborator, reviews will rely solely on outside reviewers. Applications are ranked based on overall scientific merit that includes the potential for synergy among investigators from different disciplines or OSUCCC programs, the likelihood of success for future NCI funding, innovation and contribution to the OSUCCC mission. Awards will be made based on the overall ranking of the applications, and availability of funds. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions via notification letters with written reviews. Awards begin July 1, 2025.

Reminder: Our commitment to Pelotonia supporters is that we will fund the most cutting-edge science that will help catapult us to be a top 10 Cancer Center and get us that much closer to our vision of a *Cancer Free World*.

QUESTIONS: Ask the appropriate Study Section Chair, Director of the IRP, or Jules Breckenridge.

Idea Awards

This category is for all areas of cancer research (basic, clinical/translational and population sciences), with priority for research about reducing cancer health equities and for applications from OSUCCC PIs and Co-Investigators from two different research programs.

This funding opportunity is designed to fund high-risk, high-payoff research. Quantum leaps in science are frequently made by thinking “outside of the box” often with little or no preliminary data. Funding for the early pursuit of such initiatives is very hard to obtain. Although not required, priority will be given to applicants that propose a multiple-PI mechanism with 2 investigators from different scientific disciplines. Priority will be given to investigators from 2 different research programs. Idea awards will provide seed funding for ideas that can lead to critical preliminary data, new collaborations and discovery—that can, in turn, lead to breakthroughs in science, prevention and treatment and ultimately more **NCI R** level grants. For synergistic applications, each PI needs to have a clear contribution to the research, and something not limited to service. The PIs do not need to be OSUCCC members, but the application must have a clear cancer focus (applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss cancer focus with the Study Section Chairs or Dr. Goodfellow). Priority will be given to those applications that cross OSUCCC programs and to applications that bridge the areas of population, basic and clinical sciences.

This funding also is available for applications leading to implementation science awards where the innovation lies not in the hypotheses, but the establishment of new standards of care in prevention, early detection and treatment.

Funds may be requested for up to a 2-year period with a well justified budget not to exceed a total of \$150,000 over the life of the study or \$75,000 in Year 1 and \$75,000 in Year 2 (No indirect costs may be included). In addition, please include a timeline showing when an NCI “R” level grant will be submitted.

Progress reports are required prior to the 2nd year of funding being released showing adequate progress towards completion of aims.

Note: Use of shared resources will be considered, e.g., using OSUCCC shared resources for services available from them.

Application Guidelines for IDEA Awards:

- Abstracts: lay (100 words or less) and scientific (500 words or less)
- Page limit 6 pages
 - Introduction, need, overarching theme and/or hypothesis and/or research question and specific aims – 1 page
 - Impact and significance
 - Innovation
 - Qualifications of PI's
 - Methods and statistical analysis plan
 - Planned targeted funding mechanism (i.e. NCI R01, R21, P01, K24 etc.) and how the research results are critical to successful funding (be specific)
 - Timeline and major milestones (***please include on Budget Form***)
- For resubmissions, include in the package the prior specific aims, IRP reviews and a 1-page description about how you have addressed the prior reviewers' comments. This does not count toward the page limit.
- Budget and budget narrative (NIH format) - this does not count toward the page limit
 - Faculty salaries are not permitted
- References are required; however, they do not count toward the page limit (***Please do not include References in the application file.***)
- An NIH biosketch for PIs and team members that include the most recent publications and funding. MUST use the NIH format - this does not count toward the page limit. Multiple biosketches must be combined in one PDF file and uploaded to the appropriate section of the online application.

Junior Investigator Award

This award is designed to support the research of junior faculty with mentored career development plans that will lead to a cancer related grant, preferably an NCI R01 award. New Investigator is defined as a research or tenure track scientist who meets the NIH criteria as a new investigator (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/). It is primarily meant to support exceptionally talented new investigators that have not previously competed successfully as PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award (see link for full details).

Note: The criteria for this category are similar to that for Idea Awards and are funded at the same level.

Note: Use of shared resources will be considered, e.g., using OSUCCC shared resources for services available from them.

In addition, the following items should be included to support the career development of the applicant (2-page limit).

- A well-defined career development plan that must be specifically tailored to meet the needs of the candidate and the ultimate goals of attaining independence as a funded investigator.
- A background statement about the applicant, scientific vision for an independent research position, resources and space available to the applicant's career development activities (coursework including grant writing, scientific meetings, workshops, etc.).
- The applicant must select at least one mentor (preferably two mentors with complimentary research expertise) and will work together to develop a research program that will lead to a successful R01 or similar award in the cancer field. The selected mentor(s) must have a track record of funded research relevant to the selected research topic, and adequate experience as a mentor.

- A strong letter of support from the mentor(s), co-signed by the department chair, stating the commitment to mentoring and how this will happen, affirmation that the applicant will work independently on the project and working toward an independent career, and availability of space and other resources.
- Brief description of the plan for evaluation of his/her progress in the proposed research goals and how this will facilitate the potential transition to an independent research program.

Community-Based Participatory Research Awards

In this category, grants will be awarded to an investigator who partners with a community entity (defined below) to conduct a cancer-focused research study that will lead to a peer-reviewed grant submission to the NCI. The goal of these grants is to allow the community – who has been supportive and participates in Pelotonia – to make substantial contributions to cancer research. Grants can be from any OSU researcher in any area of scientific investigation – basic, clinical or population sciences – but cannot be a purely outreach/educational/service project, i.e., the project must be hypothesis-driven, and research focused.

Community partners may include any of the following:

- Community based organizations, e.g., local ACS units, community-based cancer coalitions, etc.
- Researchers involved in community-based research at another university in Ohio, e.g., Ohio University, Cincinnati, Toledo, Dayton, Cleveland, etc.
- Clinics **not** part of OSUCCC-James clinical entities, e.g., non-cancer clinics, community health centers, local health department, regional hospitals, etc.

There must be clear evidence of a role for the community partner – other than as a research site in the project, including receiving funds from the grant to conduct project-specific activities.

As an example of this type of research that would lead to NIH/NCI funding, applicants can refer to this website: <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/programs/extramural/community-based-participatory.html>

Funds may be requested for up to a 2-year period with a well justified budget not to exceed a total of \$150,000 over the life of the study or \$75,000 in Year 1 and \$75,000 in Year 2 (No indirect costs may be included). Evidence of partnership with a community organization(s) will include funding of scientific activities at that organization, including leadership with impact to the science. No indirect costs may be included. In addition, please include a timeline showing when an NCI “R” level grant will be submitted. Progress reports are required prior to the 2nd year of funding being released showing adequate progress toward completion of aims.

Application Guidelines for Community Awards:

- Abstracts: lay (100 words or less) and scientific (500 words or less)
- Page limit of 6 pages
 - Introduction, need, overarching theme and/or hypothesis and/or research question and specific aims – 1 page
 - Impact and significance
 - Innovation
 - Qualifications of PI's
 - Descriptions of the community partner and what they will contribute (be specific)
 - Prior collaborations or work by the community partnership
 - Methods and statistical analysis plan
 - Planned targeted funding mechanism (i.e. NCI R01, R21, P01, K24 etc.) and how the research results are critical to successful funding (be specific)
 - Timeline and major milestones (***please include on Budget Form***)

- For resubmissions, include in the package the prior specific aims, IRP reviews and a 1-page description about how you have addressed the prior reviewers' comments. This does not count toward the page limit.
- Budget and Budget narrative (NIH format) - this does not count toward the page limit.
 - Faculty salary is not permitted.
- A letter of support from the community partner. The letter should be specific.
- An NIH biosketch for PIs and team members, including community partners, which include the most recent publications and funding. MUST use the NIH format – this does not count toward the page limit. Multiple biosketches must be combined in **one** PDF file and uploaded to the appropriate section of the online application.
- References are required; however, they do not count toward the page limit. **(Please do not include References in the application file.)**
- **Applicants are strongly encouraged to address questions with Dr. Electra Paskett and/or Dr. Monica Venere.**

Clinical Trial Awards and Protocol-Specific Research Support

This mechanism will use both Pelotonia and CCSG grant funding. As researchers at the OSUCCC–James, you know the importance of clinical trials in helping to advance our knowledge and understanding of cancer. Cancer trials not only help us develop new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer, but they also enable us to give patients and their families access to some of the most advanced cancer treatments available anywhere in the world. Our goal here is to provide seed funding for investigator-initiated trials that will help support novel concepts for new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer. These trials should have the following characteristics:

- Investigator-initiated
- Pilot study or phase 1 trial
- Innovative
- Not supported by industry (other than for drug supply)
- Preference for trials that translate OSU basic science into the clinics
- The trial should be associated with one of the OSUCCC CCSG research programs

Funds may be requested for up to a 2-year period with a well justified budget not to exceed a total of \$150,000 over the life of the study or \$75,000 in Year 1 and \$75,000 in Year 2 (No indirect costs may be included). Funds may be requested for correlative science, or for protocol-specific research support (i.e., CTO support). In addition, please include a timeline showing when an NCI “R” level grant will be submitted. Progress reports are required prior to the 2nd year of funding being released showing adequate progress toward goals. Only projects ready to start at the time of the award will be funded, otherwise the funds may be redirected.

Application Guidelines for Clinical Trial Awards:

- Abstracts: lay (100 words or less) and scientific (500 words or less)
- Page limit of 6 pages
 - Introduction, need, overarching theme and/or hypothesis and/or research question and specific aims – 1 page
 - Impact and significance
 - Innovation
 - Qualification of PI(s)
 - Descriptions of the clinical site, patient volume, planned accrual
 - Methods and statistical analysis plan
 - Describe how the cost of clinical care and treatment is funded
 - Planned targeted funding mechanism (i.e. NCI R01, R21, P01, K24 etc.) and how the research results are critical to successful funding (be specific)

- Timeline and major milestones (1 page) An IRB approved protocol must be ready to go at the time of funding or risk funds being redirected (***please include on Budget Form***)
- References are required; however, they do not count toward the page limit. (***Please do not include References in application file***).
- For resubmissions, include in the package the prior specific aims, IRP reviews and a 1-page description about how you have addressed the prior reviewers' comments. This does not count toward the page limit.
- Budget and Budget narrative (NIH format) - this does not count toward the page limit. Include budgeted funds for CTO support.
 - Faculty salary is not permitted.
- An NIH biosketch for PIs and team members that include the most recent publications and funding. MUST use the NIH format – this does not count toward the page limit. Multiple biosketches must be combined in **one** PDF file and uploaded to the appropriate section of the online application.
- The following questions must be answered on the online application form:
 - IRB Required? Yes No Not Yet
 - Animal Studies? Yes No Not Yet