

Pacific Ovarian Cancer Research Consortium

Notice of Availability of Funds for Career Development Awards in Interdisciplinary Translational Ovarian Cancer Research

Release Date: Friday, April 14, 2006

Application receipt date: Friday, June 16, 2006

Letter of Intent (LOI) is required by Friday, May 5, 2006. The POCRC Executive Committee will review LOIs for candidate eligibility and consistency with program priorities. Invitations to submit applications will be sent out approximately two weeks after the LOI due date. Detailed LOI instructions are included below.

Program Goal

The primary goal of the Pacific Ovarian Cancer Research Consortium (POCRC) Career Development Program (CDP) is to facilitate the development of translational, interdisciplinary, and leadership research skills in outstanding young and new investigators who are developing careers in translational ovarian cancer research. CDP awardees will explore diverse scientific approaches to specific biomedical questions. By working through scientific problems with mentors, awardees will develop not only the skills of an independent investigator, but also the perspective and tools of the translational scientist. The program is also tailored to meet the needs of established investigators who seek to broaden the scope of their research expertise by incorporating a translational research focus in ovarian cancer.

Funding:

Approximately \$150,000 is available annually from the POCRC to support career development of one or two investigators interested in pursuing careers in translational ovarian cancer research.

Eligibility:

Investigators eligible for salary support include established investigators who are new to the field of translational ovarian cancer research as well as junior faculty. Candidates must have an MD, PhD, or equivalent degree; clinicians must have completed residency training. Candidates will hold a faculty position of Assistant Professor/Member or higher. Established, outstanding scientists without prior focus on translational research in ovarian cancer are also encouraged to apply.

Scientists at institutions participating in the POCRC will be given highest priority. For proposals of equal merit, priority will be given to the candidate who 1) proposes to conduct work that will contribute/complement the translational research objectives of the program and 2) plan to conduct work that is in accordance with the collaborative interdisciplinary philosophy established by the program.

Amount and Length of Support:

You may request a maximum of 40% salary support for one year (July 3, 2006 to July 2, 2007).

Interdisciplinary Mentors:

Applicants may choose at least 2 outstanding scientists from different disciplines from any of the collaborating POCRC ovarian SPORE institutions, or outside investigators if they bring unique expertise. In general, however, at least one of the mentors will be a senior POCRC SPORE investigator. Candidates will work with their mentors to develop a research plan/study that complements ongoing work of the SPORE and/or opens new areas of ovarian cancer translational research. If necessary, the research

mentors will usually dedicate the necessary resources, including laboratory and/or office space if applicable, to support the candidate's research plan.

Letter of Intent:

To expedite the review and award process, please submit a letter of intent addressed to Dr. Nicole Urban, Career Development Committee Chair. This letter may be submitted either by e-mail (nurban@fhcrc.org) or regular mail. The letter should be no longer than 1 page using an 11-point font size. The following information should be included:

- 1) Name of Candidate, current title, institution, and contact information
- 2) Prior training/experience in ovarian cancer, interdisciplinary, and/or translational research
- 3) Short and long term research goals
- 4) Names of the candidate's interdisciplinary mentors along with their titles, institutions, and areas of expertise
- 5) Estimated length of support needed to achieve independence as a translational researcher

Candidates interested in obtaining **POCRC specimens** to conduct career development studies need to provide a summary of the specimens needed to complete the research plan within the letter of intent. Specifically, the candidate must specify the type, number, volume, histology, and any special requirements pertaining to the desired specimens. If the request is determined to be feasible by the Career Development Committee Chair and the POCRC Repository Manager, the candidate will be asked to complete a formal Specimen Use Application that will be submitted with the Career Development Program application on the June 16th deadline.

The POCRC Specimen Review Committee will review Specimen Use applications upon receipt. Applicants will be notified of the status of their specimen request at the end of the review process when the Executive Committee has made final funding decisions.

A current **Curriculum Vitae** should accompany LOIs. If appropriate, a letter of invitation to submit an application will be sent about two weeks after the deadline for the LOI.

Application Procedures:

- 1) Cover letter

A cover letter should accompany the application and be addressed to Dr. Nicole Urban. The cover letter, **two** hard copies and a CD containing a single electronic PDF file that includes the complete application package (cover letter, PHS forms, research plan, letters of support, specimen use application, etc) should be sent to:

Dr. Nicole Urban
FHCRC
P.O. Box 19024, M2-B230
Seattle, WA 98109

Courier and Federal Express Service address:
1212 Aloha Street
Seattle, WA 98109

- 2) Application

- Use the standard face page of the PHS 398 form and follow instructions accordingly. In items 7a through 8b, denote the direct and total costs for the first year, as well as for the entire period of support. Total costs should not exceed \$75,000. The face page should be signed by the Principal Investigator and the Business Official of the institution.
- Use the standard budget pages of the PHS 398 application. Allowable costs include salary support for candidate only, misc. supplies, and misc. other expenses. Budget justification for applicable costs is required.
- Provide biographical sketch, using the standard PHS 398 format.
- Use standard PHS 398 continuation pages to address the following:

Career Development Plan. Describe a career development plan incorporating your goals and prior experience. The plan must detail additional training and/or classes needed to meet goals. A systematic plan should be presented for obtaining the necessary research experience to launch an independent research career in translational ovarian cancer research. The career development plan must be specifically tailored to your needs and the ultimate goal of achieving independence as a researcher. Describe how the award will contribute to your ability to fulfill both short term and long term goals.

The plan should include a justification for one or two years of mentored research experience. Describe your mentors' respective areas of expertise and responsibilities, and the rationale for your choice of mentors. A convincing case must be presented supporting the justification that the proposed period of support will substantially enhance your career and/or will allow the pursuit of a novel or promising study with translational research objectives.

Research Plan. Describe a research plan that integrates a laboratory, clinical and public health science approach. The research plan must include sections on the Specific Aims, Background and Significance, Progress Report/Preliminary Studies, Research Design and Methods. *Mentors should participate in the development of this section.* Please include sources of funding that can be used to cover research costs, outside of the salary support needed to conduct the research.

Mentors' Statement. Please include letters of support from your mentors including information on relevant experience and commitment to your research plan and nature of the supervision that will occur during the proposed award period.

Format of Proposals:

The research plan should be no more than five pages in length, and should be written in NIH format (arial font, 11 point, 0.5" margins), addressing each of the following areas: Specific Aims, Background and Significance, Preliminary Results (if available), Research Design and Methods. References, human subjects, and vertebrate animals should be included as necessary, and are not subject to the five-page limit. Proposals will not be accepted without appropriate institutional sign-off.

Review of Application:

The Career Development and Executive Committees will review applications. The following criteria will be applied:

- 1) Strength of candidate in terms of prior training or experience in ovarian cancer, interdisciplinary, and/or translational research, scientific accomplishments, and potential for independent research and translational research leadership.
- 2) Consistency of career development plan with candidate's career goals and likelihood that proposed plan will contribute substantially toward achievement of goals.
- 3) Scientific and technical merit of the research plan and its relevance to the candidate's career objectives.

Awards:

It is the intent to select 1-2 meritorious applications for funding. Final funding decisions will be made by the POCRC Executive Committee.

Letter of intent may be sent electronically or by regular mail to the address below.

For general inquiries, please contact Samantha Hoyt (shoyt@fhcrc.org).

Send original application plus 2 hard copies and a CD containing an electronic PDF version of all application materials to the address below.

Nicole Urban, ScD
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
P.O. Box 19024, M2-B230
Seattle, WA 98109
e-mail: nurban@fhcrc.org
Courier and Federal Express Service address:
1212 Aloha Street
Seattle, WA 98109
