Lung Cancer Research Foundation
Living. Breathing. Science.

Application Submissions Extended to July 15th, 2023

Request for Proposals: 2023 LCRF-Daiichi Sankyo- AstraZeneca Research Grant on Antibody Drug Conjugates

1. Program Summary

Lung cancer continues to be the number one cause of cancer deaths worldwide, accounting for an estimated 136,000 deaths annually in the United States alone.[1] Despite being the most common cancer killer of both men and women, lung cancer research remains critically underfunded. To help close this gap and improve outcomes, the goal of the LCRF research grant program is to fund innovative projects across the full spectrum of basic, translational, clinical, epidemiological, health services, and other research. 2023 LCRF research grants will provide $270,000 over a period of two years for projects focused on one or more of the following topics that support research studies to develop further understanding of the mechanism of action and biomarkers for TROP2 directed ADCs in lung cancer and HER2 directed ADCs in HER2 mutant NSCLC and primary and acquired resistance to TROP2 directed and HER2 directed ADCs, including:

- Employ state-of-the art technology to characterize ADC target expression on patient biopsies
- Development and evaluation of patient-derived xenograft models (PDX) from patients responsive and/or resistant to TROP2 directed or HER2 directed ADCs
- Discovery and/or validation of predictive biomarkers of TROP2 directed or HER2 directed ADCs efficacy in the lung cancer
- Prevalence of potential prognostic or predictive biomarkers from lung cancer cells and/or blood
- Co-expression of the identified biomarkers with other known biomarkers (eg actionable drivers, immune-related biomarkers, poor prognosis biomarkers)
- Evolution of the biomarkers pre-, during- and post-SOC treatment

2. Eligibility Criteria

Investigators must be affiliated with a non-profit academic or research institution and must be post-doctoral researchers, clinical fellows, or mid-career investigators with less than ten years' experience since their initial faculty appointment.

Applicants from US-based and international institutions are eligible to apply and may hold any residency/citizenship status. Applicants are prohibited from applying if they have received funding from the LCRF within the last 4 years. Senior investigators with more than ten years' experience since faculty appointment are generally not eligible for funding and are encouraged to mentor a junior team member through the application process. However, exceptions will be made for investigators with more than ten years' experience in other disease areas or topics. Ineligible investigators with these or other special circumstances may request review by contacting the LCRF grants office (see Inquiries section below) before submitting an application.

3. Budget Requirements

The maximum award amount is $270,000 for a period of two years (disbursed at $135,000 per year). Additional budget requirements and considerations include the following:

- Funding from this award may not be used to support institutional indirect / facilities and administrative costs.
- The grant must be the primary source of support for the project. Additional secondary funding (e.g. for core services support) is permitted.

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[1] American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2020. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2020.

- There is no limit on the amount of salary support that may be requested. However, appropriate justification for all budget items is required. Any salary requests in excess of 20% of the total budget must be explicitly justified.
- Any equipment costs must be limited and directly applicable to the research project (i.e. large, general equipment costs are not permitted).
- Direct patient care costs reimbursable by other sources may not be included.
- Travel and publication costs are permitted.

4. Data Sharing and Open Access Policy

LCRF is committed to promoting open science by helping to increase access to investigators' findings and improving collaboration and data sharing among the lung cancer research community. Accordingly, it is a condition of LCRF funding that all peer-reviewed articles supported in whole or in part by LCRF funds must be made available in the PubMed Central online archive no later than twelve months after publication. In addition, LCRF grantees must indicate explicitly in all reports, publications, and other research communications whether the data, methods used in the analysis, and materials used to conduct the research will be made available to any researcher for purposes of reproducing the results or replicating the procedure. At the time of submission of the full proposal, all investigators must indicate if they will or will not make their data, analytic methods, and study materials available to other researchers.

5. Application Instructions and Requirements

A. Go to https://proposalcentral.com/ and login under the "Application Login" section. After logging in, complete your Professional Profile before starting an application If you are already registered with ProposalCentral, access the site and log in with your Username and Password. If you do not have an account yet, please click on "Need an account?" and follow the instructions.

B. Click on the "Grant Opportunities" Tab.

C. A list of applications will be displayed. The list of applications can be filtered for just this organization by clicking "Filter by Grant Maker" at the top and selecting "Lung Cancer Research Foundation" in the drop-down menu. Find the "LCRF Pilot Grant" and click the "Apply Now" button in the "Apply Column".

D. See the deadlines for the LOI stage, if applicable, and the Proposal stage. **All deadlines are in US Eastern Time**. If a document icon is showing, you can click on it to download it. This includes necessary information about the deadline from the grant maker.

E. Click the link or download the document in the Contact Information column. Clicking the link opens an email to the program administrator. If a document is provided instead, it includes the grant maker contact information.

All applications for funding must be submitted online through ProposalCentral. Text should be Arial, Times New Roman, Palantino Linotype, Courier New, Georgia, or Helvetica 11-point font or higher. Margins should not be less than 0.5" on standard letter paper (8 1⁄2" x 11"), and you must verify the margins on the documents that you upload. Submissions must include the following components:

Full Proposal
• General Information
• Demographics
• Eligibility Statement from the Institution
• NIH Biosketch
• Mentoring Plan (one page in length)
• Lay Summary
• Specific Aims (one page in length)

• Narrative (six pages maximum):
     o Background and Significance
     o Preliminary Data (if applicable)
     o Experimental Approach
     o References (not included in page-limit)

• Success Factors (half page in length)
• Timeline
• Future Plans (half page in length)
• Budget
• Letter(s) of Support, including the Mentor letter

Additional Considerations:
- The application must include the NIH biosketch (five pages maximum length) of the primary investigator and any key personnel involved in the project.
- Funding will only be awarded to one PI, not to a team.
- The application must include at least one letter of support from the principal investigator's program director/advisor affirming the following statements:
  - The applicant will be officially affiliated with or employed by the institution during the grant period.
  - There is adequate institutional space and equipment to accomplish the proposed project.
  - The program director/advisor confirms his/her commitment to and provision of institutional space and equipment for the grantee.

6. **Timeline**
   - Full proposal submission deadline: May 31st **Application Submissions Extended to July 15, 2023**
   - Notification of award: September 2023
   - Project start: December 1, 2023

7. **Evaluation of Applications**
   All applications will be evaluated using a review process consisting of an administrative review round, and a full review by a panel of experts, which will include LCRF's Scientific Advisory Board. external experts and patient advocates (see figure below). Applications passing the administrative review will be evaluated in the full review for sound scientific rationale, study design, feasibility, mentoring plan, and

creativity/innovation.[2] When scoring applications, reviewers are asked to provide a numerical overall impact score for the proposal. Similar to an NIH R21 award, reviewers will be asked to provide an impact score reflecting their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on understanding lung cancer, career trajectory of applicant, and/or reducing disparities in lung cancer outcomes.

1 Administrative review

Selection criteria
- Application completeness
- Timelines and budget
- Feasibility
- Eligibility

Reviewers
- LCRF staff

2 Full review

Selection criteria
- Full scope of scientific merit
  ◦ Feasibility
  ◦ Rationale
  ◦ Creativity
  ◦ Study design
  ◦ Mentoring plan
  ◦ Potential impact

Reviewers
- Scientific Advisory Board
- Patient advocates
- Expert reviewers

Application review process.

8. Award Notification and Announcement
All applicants will be notified of their award status by the date specified in the Timeline section above. Due to the high volume of submissions, LCRF does not provide specific feedback on applications that are not selected to receive an award. Awards will be publicly announced via press release, the LCRF website, and additional outlets such as social media.

9. Post-award Reporting Requirements
During the funding period, all investigators are required to submit quarterly progress reports including the following:

Report Type	Due Date
Interim Report	At conclusion of year one of the grant term
Final Report (includes financial summary report)	Within sixty days of conclusion of the grant term

All reporting is required to be done in ProposalCentral, and additional reports may be assigned when project terms are amended (e.g. in the case of a no-cost extension or institutional transfer). Receipt of the second year of funding is contingent upon submission and approval of the interim progress report at the conclusion of the first year of the grant term.

10. Inquiries
For questions, please contact the LCRF office at grants@lcrf.org or via phone at +1 (212) 588-1580. OR
If you have any difficulties registering, logging in, or creating your application, contact ProposalCentral Customer Support at: 800-875-2562 (Toll-free U.S. and Canada), +1-703-964-5840 (Direct Dial International).