

**Prostate Cancer Foundation  
2023 PCF Challenge Awards  
For Metastatic, Lethal Prostate Cancer  
REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT / FULL APPLICATIONS**

**IMPORTANT: This year, applying for a Challenge Award involves a 2-stage process. PCF requires a Letter of Intent (LOI), followed by full application submission upon our invitation. See page 2 for details.**

The Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) is pleased to announce a Request for Team Science Applications for PCF Challenge Awards for investigations of metastatic, lethal prostate cancer. These awards will be funded depending on the level of innovation in applications received. PCF seeks high-risk, currently unfunded projects from academic institutions around the world.

We especially encourage applications on prostate cancer disparity research that will help to define the origins of differential outcome for prostate cancer patients in men of under-represented populations, including those focusing on biology or health care access policy. We also seek applications conducting research in VA hospitals where research directly affects veterans with advanced prostate cancer.

**PCF Challenge Awards:**

- Composed of a team of at least three (3) investigators from non-profit academic research centers, including one young investigator (see PCF Challenge Award Team requirements below).
- Support large-scale research projects concerning metastatic, lethal prostate cancer over a duration of two years.
- Provide up to a total of \$1 million per team.
- Cover only direct research costs and travel to the Annual PCF Scientific Retreat.
- **Clinical trial direct costs are not allowed**; however, correlative research to support high impact clinical trials for advanced prostate cancer is encouraged. IRB submission and preferably approval is desired at time of application.
- All studies involving patients must include plans for including diverse participant populations with appropriate representation of ethnic and racial minority groups. Comprehensive statistical plans and power calculations are required.

**Research proposals in the following topic areas are preferred:**

- Immunotherapy for the treatment of metastatic, lethal prostate cancer.
- Targeted radionuclide therapy for advanced prostate cancer.
- New systemic precision treatments for metastatic, lethal prostate cancer including those targeting the currently 'undruggable'.
- First-in-field research on new targets for systemic treatment of metastatic, lethal prostate cancer.
- Mechanisms of resistance to current and investigational drugs targeting the androgen receptor and androgen axis, immune system, chemotherapy, and other targeted agents.
- Correlative research around either clinical trials of novel agents or strategies or standard of care.
- Determinants of survivorship that will improve the lives of patients with metastatic prostate cancer.
- Developing or validating biomarkers that guide therapy in patients or further our understanding of the mechanisms by which therapies work.
- Tumor microenvironment signaling related to cancer progression including the immune component.
- New data science technologies for analysis of genomic information to advance precision medicine.
- Research to define causes and solutions for racial and ethnic prostate cancer health disparities.

**The PCF Challenge Award Team:**

- Should be composed of at least 3 investigators capable of providing unique scientific expertise to the solution of this significant problem in prostate cancer research.
- May be assembled from one institution, or several institutions.
- Must embed at least one young investigator as an integral contributor to the team. The young investigator may hold the title of Postdoctoral Fellow, Instructor, Research Associate, Assistant Professor, or equivalent and should be within six-years following completion of a professional degree (MD, DO, PhD, MD-PhD, DSc, ScD, DDM, DDS, DMD, MBBS, or equivalent) or subsequent mentored academic or clinical training program. He or she should not have been granted commitments for more than \$300,000 in direct research funding from all sources including institutional funds at the time of this application.
- Applicants who are under-represented in biomedical research are highly encouraged to apply.

**Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital Applicants and Projects:**

In order to improve the health and wellness of our treasured US military veterans, applicants with Veterans Administration (VA) appointments are highly encouraged to apply. Projects that involve a VA Medical Center in their research proposal planning will be appreciated. These may include but are not limited to (1) creation of defined cohorts of prostate cancer patients annotated with the VA electronic medical record for the purpose of population science research; (2) blood, tissue or other body fluid specimens collection from VA prostate cancer patients for translational or clinical trial correlate research; (3) development of new biotechnologies for the diagnosis or treatment of prostate cancer patients within the VA healthcare system; (4) unique genomic investigations of tumor or germline specimens from VA prostate cancer patients with the goal of understanding the unique mutations that might have occurred due to battlefield exposure to specific toxic materials.

**Eligibility:**

Investigators representing non-profit academic research centers are eligible to apply for PCF Challenge Awards. Investigators from for-profit companies and government-sponsored institutions, with the exception of the VA, are ineligible.

**Letter of Intent (LOI) Guidelines:**

**A Letter of Intent is now required in advance of full application submission.**

- 1) Download the **Letter of Intent** PDF form at <https://pcf.org/open-rfas/>. Included in the form are fields for a proposal title, short statement of originality, abstract (3700 characters, ~ 500 words), team member details, 2-page proposal, organization details and VA information (if applicable). All fields require completion except the VA information field. The default text size is 9 pt. Arial font.
- 2) The Primary Investigator appends a PDF of their NIH biosketch to the back of their completed LOI form by combining PDFs. Rename the PDF as follows: ***Your Last Name\_First Name\_2023 Challenge LOI***. Do not append additional supporting materials to your LOI form or alter the form in any way.
- 3) Submit your completed LOI form by emailing it to [LettersOfIntent@pcf.org](mailto:LettersOfIntent@pcf.org) using the following subject line: ***(Your Full Name): 2023 Challenge LOI***. You will receive a confirmation email from [LettersOfIntent@pcf.org](mailto:LettersOfIntent@pcf.org) within 24 hours (Mon-Fri only). Please allow emails from this sender. Please do NOT email LOI forms to [applications@pcf.org](mailto:applications@pcf.org)

The LOI submission deadline is **Friday, March 10, 2023, 3:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)**. A team of internal and external advisors will review LOIs to determine the strength of each submitted proposal and alignment with the PCF mission. You will receive a status notification email from [applications@pcf.org](mailto:applications@pcf.org) by **Friday, March 17**. Applicants whose LOIs have been approved will be invited to submit a full application.

**Full Application Guidelines (Invitation Required):**

- **Application Form:** To be completed online by the Principal Investigator under their name at <https://pcf.smartsimple.com>. Names and contact information for all team members listed in the Research Proposal must be added to the online application. Collaborators who are not team members but will collaborate on the project, wrote letters of recommendation or otherwise contributed to the application must also be listed on the online application.
- **Research Proposal:** The following sections are required for application to the PCF Challenge Award. With the exception of the Abstract (fill-in field), the Research Proposal and all supporting documents listed below should be uploaded as separate PDF files. Please note that item 6 should be submitted only if your project involves a clinical trial correlative research and item 7 is optional. **PCF does not fund direct clinical trial costs.**
  1. **A scientific abstract** concisely describing the background, rationale, specific aims, experimental approach and anticipated outcomes and impact of the project is required (fill-in form field).
  2. **Statement of Originality (1-page limit):** This statement delineates why the work is first-in-field, original, and currently unfunded. PCF seeks new and never-before tested ideas, not derivatives of ongoing investigations or incremental research.
  3. **Research Proposal:** The narrative text and any preliminary data supporting a 2-year research proposal, limited to **10 pages**, plus a list of references cited (references not to be counted toward the 10-page limit). For investigations that involve clinical trials, inclusion of a statistician and a clear statistical plan to justify the size of the study population is mandatory.

## PCF Challenge Award Full Application Guidelines (continued)

4. **NIH Biosketch:** Please submit a NIH Biographical Sketch for each investigator (5-page max), including a list of relevant publications and currently funded research projects (include award or grant type, project title, funding source, amount, and beginning and end dates of funding). NIH Biosketches for all investigators (except collaborators) on the team award proposal should be combined and uploaded as a single PDF document.
  5. **Budget page(s):** Please include an annual budget breakout grid and budget justification for the proposal. PCF will cover only direct costs (no overhead). The budget can be prepared using NIH Budget forms like PHS 398; however, use of these forms is not mandatory. All PCF Challenge Award PIs and Co-PIs must use funds from the PCF Challenge Award to cover travel and registration expenses to attend the Annual PCF Scientific Retreat. Attendance by at least one member of the team each year is required for the duration of the award in 2022 and 2023. The Retreat will be held in Carlsbad, CA. **PCF does not fund direct clinical trial costs.**
  6. **Clinical trial protocol and a timeline for activation of the clinical investigation:** If applicable.
  7. **Supplemental Information (Optional):** Supplemental information in support of the application such as previous highly relevant publications or accepted manuscripts, letters of collaboration and letters of support can be uploaded as a single PDF document.
- If applicable, at the time of the award, an IRB-approved protocol ready for activation is required for all human-related studies, including specimen acquisition. In addition, documentation of the availability of the experimental agent to be studied is required.

**Full applications received from investigators who have not been invited will be automatically declined.**

**Funding decisions will be made following peer and programmatic review. Reporting results and the budget process will be discussed at the time of announcement of the awards. Please note that the Challenge Award activation date will be determined later this year.**

Visit <https://pcf.smartsimple.com> on or after **Monday, March 20, 2023**, to complete the online full application form and attach the PDFs.

**The deadline for full application submissions is Monday, May 15, 2023, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)**

**Key Dates:**

- **March 10, 2023:** Submission deadline for Letters of Intent (by email to [LettersOfIntent@pcf.org](mailto:LettersOfIntent@pcf.org))
- **March 17, 2023:** Applicants notified of their status via email
- **March 20, 2023:** Portal opens for full online application submission (<https://pcf.smartsimple.com>)
- **May 15, 2023:** Submission deadline for invited Full Applications (online at <https://pcf.smartsimple.com>)

**\*\*\* In fairness to all there will be no exceptions to this deadline. \*\*\***

Please direct questions to [applications@pcf.org](mailto:applications@pcf.org).

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