



**Prostate Cancer Foundation**  
**2025 PCF TACTICAL Awards (Therapy ACceleration To Intercept CAncer Lethality)**  
**Targeting Mechanisms of Lethal Prostate Cancer**  
**REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT / FULL APPLICATIONS**

**IMPORTANT:** Applying for a PCF TACTICAL Award (Therapy ACceleration To Intercept CAncer Lethality) involves a 3-stage process. PCF requires a Letter of Intent (LOI), followed by full application submission upon our invitation. Following peer review, top applicants will undergo a Zoom-based interview. See page 2 for details.

The Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) is pleased to announce a Request for LOIs for PCF TACTICAL Awards from qualified teams of academic scientists that will specifically address the development of 21st Century therapies for lethal forms of 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. TACTICAL Awards provide \$5 - \$10 Million U.S.D. per award over 3–5 years.

**PCF TACTICAL Awards:**

- Support large-scale research projects concerning metastatic, lethal prostate cancer over a duration of 3-5 years.
- Institutional indirect costs of up to 10% will be allowed and should be included as part of the total research budget.
- Clinical trial 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.

**PCF TACTICAL Team:**

- Teams must be composed of at least five (5) investigators, including two young investigators (see requirements below), capable of providing unique scientific expertise to the solution of this significant problem in prostate cancer research.
- Teams that name a young investigator as part of senior leadership will be favored.
- Team members must represent a minimum of four (4) non-profit academic research institutions.
- Cross-disciplinary teams that are diverse and inclusive will be favored.
- Must embed at least two young investigators as integral contributors to the team. The young investigators may hold the title of Postdoctoral Fellow, Instructor, Research Associate, Assistant Professor, or equivalent and must 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, such as a postdoctoral or clinical fellowship. They should each not have been granted commitments for more than \$2,000,000 in direct research funding from all sources including institutional funds at the time of this application.
- Investigators from for-profit companies and government-sponsored institutions are ineligible.

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

- Theranostics.
- Drugging currently undruggable oncology targets: preventing progression to lethal disease.
- Improved biotechnologies for precision medicine.
- First-in-field immunotherapies for prostate cancer.
- Artificial intelligence/machine learning to better inform patient outcomes.
- Host microbiome and tumor metabolism.

**Intellectual Property Policy:** *If your application is chosen for funding, the Intellectual Property Policy below must be endorsed by signature of each participating institution.*

All potentially patentable inventions or other intellectual properties that result from this award (hereinafter called the "Properties") must be reported to the Foundation at the earliest possible time by you, the grantee institution. You agree to notify the Foundation immediately of any decision to apply for or decision not to apply for or to continue to pursue letters of patent or other legal protection for the Properties. If you decide not to apply for or continue to pursue letters of patent or other legal protection for the Properties, you will discuss and cooperate with the Foundation in reasonable proposals for the Foundation to fund efforts to apply for or to continue to pursue letters of patent or other legal protections of the Properties.

The Foundation agrees to keep all information provided by the Grantee institution confidential and to not release any information relating to such inventions, intellectual property or applications for protection to any third party. Title to all Properties will remain consistent with your internal institutional policies and procedures. If you commence discussions or negotiations related to transferring the Properties or licensing the Properties (each a "Transfer") to a third party (a "Transferee"), you will provide the Foundation with the name, contact information and affiliations of the person or persons who are negotiating the Transfer on behalf of the proposed Transferee so that the Foundation can discuss participation of the Foundation, or its designee, in the financing and ownership of any entity formed for or division which will be responsible for the further development, testing and/or commercialization of the Properties.

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

**A Letter of Intent is 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, 3-page proposal, 2-pages maximum for references, and organization details. The default text size is 9 pt. Arial font. **The LOI form should be completed when opened in Adobe; completing the form using another program may result in blank fields.**
- 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) 2025 TACTICAL Award LOI**. Do not append additional supporting materials to your LOI form. We prefer that the form fields remain active after combining with the biosketch.
- 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): 2025 TACTICAL Award 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.

**The LOI submission deadline is Monday, May 19, 2025. \*\*\* In fairness to all there will be no exceptions to this deadline. \*\*\***

A team of advisors will review LOIs to determine the strength of each submitted proposal and alignment with the PCF mission. You will receive notification by email from [lettersofintent@pcf.org](mailto:lettersofintent@pcf.org) by **Wednesday, May 28, 2025**, indicating if you have been selected to advance to the next stage of application. Approved applicants will then 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 TACTICAL 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 requires a clinical trial and item 7 is optional.
  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 how the work is first-in-field and original, and is currently unfunded. PCF seeks new and never-before tested ideas, and will not fund ongoing investigations or incremental research.

PCF TACTICAL Full Application Guidelines (continued)

3. **Research Proposal:** The narrative text and any preliminary data supporting a 3-5-year research proposal, limited to **15 pages**, plus a list of references cited (references not to be counted toward the 15-page limit). Inclusion of a statistician and a clear statistical plan to justify the size of the study is mandatory.
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. Institutional indirect costs of up to 10% will be allowed and should be included as part of the total research budget. The budget can be prepared using NIH Budget forms like PHS 398; however, use of these forms is not mandatory. All PCF TACTICAL Award PIs and Co-PIs who attend the Annual PCF Scientific Retreat must use funds from the PCF TACTICAL Award to cover travel and registration expenses. Attendance by at least one member of the team each year is required for the duration of the award.
6. **Clinical trial protocols, and a timeline for activation of clinical investigations**, if applicable.
7. **Supplemental Information:** 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.

All research activities (including subcontracted activities) involving vertebrate animals and human subjects including specimen acquisition that will be conducted using PCF funding must be approved by the appropriate institutional and governmental oversight committees. **At the time of the award, the approved (IRB, IACUC, FDA, etc.) protocols ready for activation must be submitted before the application will be funded. In addition, documentation of the availability of the experimental agent to be studied is required.** Compliance with current institutional and governmental guidelines and laws for research involving recombinant DNA, human stem cells, human fetal tissues, controlled substances, as well as conflict of interest and scientific misconduct is also required.

Visit <https://pcf.smartsimple.com> on or after May 28, 2025, to complete the online full application form and attach the PDFs.

**The deadline for full application submissions is Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)**

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

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

Following peer and programmatic review, selected applicants will undergo a Zoom-based interview with the scientific advisory board.

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

**Key Dates:**

- May 19, 2025: LOI due (by email)
- May 28, 2025: Applicants notified of whether they have been selected to advance to full application stage
- July 9, 2025, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time: Full Proposals due (online)

**\*\*\* In fairness to all there will be no exceptions to any deadlines. \*\*\***

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

Howard R. Soule, PhD  
Executive Vice President  
Chief Science Officer  
Lori and Michael Milken Chair  
Prostate Cancer Foundation