



Cancer Prevention Initiative (CPI) Research Grants 2023-24 Program Guidelines

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Cancer Prevention Initiative (CPI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose *Mission* is to accelerate the discovery and development of new medicines that prevent cancer. Our *Strategy* is to support research on prevention of inherited cancers as a path towards elimination of all cancers.

At CPI, we believe that prevention is better than treatment. The goal of CPI's research grant program is to identify and provide seed funding for innovative projects that have the potential to make substantial contributions to the development of therapeutic interventions for the prevention of inherited cancers.

CPI brings together diverse groups of scientists, physicians, entrepreneurs and business leaders, and advocates thereby creating a community with a shared passion for preventing cancer. For more information about CPI and our mission to prevent inherited cancer visit www.cancerpreventioninitiative.org.

KEY DATES

LOI submission deadline: October 15th, 2023, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)

Notification of LOI decision by January 31st, 2024

Full Application submission deadline: March 15th, 2024

Target project start date: June 1st, 2024

FUNDING PRIORITIES

We accept proposals that could lead to the prevention of any inherited cancer. We will consider research projects that can contribute to broader understanding in various areas related to premalignant stages, transformation, early detection, and the development of assays/models and preventive therapies.

Studies that propose to study established cancers and cancer treatments will not be considered for funding.

Priority will be given to proposals focused on the following categories:

1. The basic biology of cancer initiation

This broad category includes discovery research that will increase our knowledge and understanding of early, pre-cancer stages - research that will identify and characterize molecular biological and cellular changes that occur during early stages of inherited cancer following the initial genetic lesion and as well as mechanisms restraining precancer stages.

We hope that successful completion of research in this category will generate knowledge that helps to identify novel biomarkers for early detection and risk assessment and novel targets that can be exploited for the development of preventive agents.

Research could include, but is not limited to, study of oncogenic targets and signaling pathways; genetic/epigenetic, proteomic, and metabolomic changes related to transformation; the immune microenvironment of pre- and early-cancer; contributions of the microbiome to transformation. We will prioritize studies that can fill knowledge gaps that have hindered early detection and the development of preventive measures. Projects may also include those that propose the development of preclinical assays and models to understand mechanisms of transformation.

2. Early detection

Development of technologies that could enable early detection of cancer at preneoplastic or premalignant stages. Development of tests to distinguish malignant vs benign preneoplastic lesions. May include projects that could help stratify the risk for cancer in individuals with genetic predispositions. Projects could include, but are not limited to, research that could lead to the discovery and validation of biomarkers and the development of diagnostic tests.

3. Early intervention

Development of interventions to intercept early tumorigenic events to reduce cancer risk. May include projects that propose to develop predictive preclinical assays for effective and efficient screening; further the scientific insights into the mechanisms of cancer prevention by the agents examined; characterize the effects of known or potential preventive agents on their molecular targets and on any biological events associated with cancer development; functionally validate targets that can be potentially exploited for the development of cancer preventive therapies.

Chemoprevention: Develop and test new pharmacologic agents or re-purpose existing agents for early interception of cancer.

Immunoprevention: Develop strategies to harness the anti-cancer activities of the immune system and to suppress the cancer-promoting functions of the immune system to eliminate cancer cells early.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES & REVIEW PROCESS

All applications must be submitted electronically through Proposal Central at <http://proposalcentral.com>.

All interested researchers must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI).

The LOIs will be reviewed by a panel of select members of CPI's Scientific Advisory Board and other experts in relevant fields. The LOIs will be assessed for how well they address one or more of CPI's funding priorities and for innovation, significance, feasibility, potential for clinical translation, etc. Select projects that we wish to evaluate further in detail will be invited to submit a Full Application.

The LOI review is a highly selective process where the projects are assessed for their scientific merit. The projects that are selected are strongly considered for funding. Therefore, we encourage you to ensure that you clearly state how well the project meets the review criteria in your LOI.

Funding determination will be made at the end of the Full Application review.
Financial support for proposals is at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

LOI APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

LOI application should be submitted electronically through ProposalCentral at <https://proposalcentral.altum.com/>. Applicant should be registered at ProposalCentral to initiate an application. Refer to “[LOI Detailed Instructions](#).”

LOI must include:

- Descriptive title of the proposed research project
- Applicant/Principal Investigator (PI) information
- Information of other key personnel involved in the project (beyond the PI) and collaborators
- Participating institution(s)
- Biosketches of all key personnel in NIH biosketch format. The template can be found below or downloaded through ProposalCentral once a project is initiated.
- Budget: Include the total budget. A detailed budget is not required at the LOI phase of the application. The budget can be up to \$150,000 per year, up to a period of three (3) years. Awards are limited to a maximum total of \$450,000.
- Proposed start and end dates: Default start date is June 1, 2024. The duration of the project can be up to three (3) years.
- Abstract: A scientific abstract is required. A general audience summary is optional at the LOI phase. Abstracts are limited to 3,000 characters.
- LOI Narrative: Follow the formatting guidelines listed in the downloadable LOI Template.

The LOI Narrative is limited to two (2) pages and must include all the following sections (A-D):

- A. Research Question: Hypothesis and Objective**
 - B. Background and Significance**
 - 1. Background
 - 2. What CPI Funding Priority will this proposal address?
 - 3. Describe how the completion of the proposed research project could provide a definitive resolution of the hypothesis and/or advances the field of cancer prevention.
 - C. Feasibility:** Briefly describe the scientific basis for the proposed research and the feasibility for achieving a successful outcome.
 - D. Specific Aims & Timeline:** Describe the research aims and timetable for completion, including intermediate milestones.
- References: Include only the most relevant references. References are limited to one (1) page.

Formatting guidelines:

- Use the templates provided for the LOI Narrative and Biosketches. They can be downloaded once a project is initiated on ProposalCentral.
- The Biosketches, LOI Narrative, and References must be uploaded in PDF format. Please use the naming convention indicated for each document type:

- LOI Narrative: Last name of the lead investigator followed by _LOI-Narrative.
- References: Last name of the lead investigator followed by _References.
- Biosketches: Last name of the individual followed by _Biosketch.

Once submitted, a confirmation of receipt will be emailed to you within 1 (business) day. Contact us at Grants@CancerPreventionInitiative.org if you do not receive a confirmation email.

FULL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

If your project was chosen for further evaluation and potential funding based on your LOI application, we will invite you to submit a Full Application via email with a link to the CPI Research Grant Full Application on ProposalCentral. The applicant who submits the Full Application must be the same applicant who submitted the LOI.

Refer to [Full Application Detailed Instructions](#) for detailed instructions. Downloadable through ProposalCentral.

Full Application must include:

- Title of the proposed research project and Project Budget - populated from your approved LOI Application.
- Applicant/Principal Investigator (PI) information - populated from your ProposalCentral profile.
- Names of other key personnel involved in the project (beyond the Applicant/PI) and collaborators and participating institution(s).
- Biosketches of all key personnel in [NIH biosketch format](#). Downloadable through ProposalCentral.
- Budget Period Detail: Enter the budget details for each period with descriptions for each expense. The budget can be up to \$150,000 per year and up to a period of three (3) years. Awards are limited to a maximum total of \$450,000.
- Budget Summary: The Budget amounts entered in the Budget Period Detail section will be summarized here. Justify all personnel expenses and explain the percent effort for all personnel.
- Abstracts: A general audience summary and a scientific abstract are required. These will be public documents and should not contain any proprietary information. If your project is funded, the general audience summary may be shared on our website. Abstracts are limited to 3,000 characters.
- Other Support: List other research support information including funder, title, award number, status, amount of support, project dates, and summary of the major goals of the project. Specifically identify any overlap with the proposed research.
- Organizational Assurances
- Project Narrative and Scientific Plan: Follow the formatting guidelines listed in the ["Full Application Narrative and Scientific Plan Template."](#) Downloadable through ProposalCentral.

The Project Narrative must include all the following sections (A-D):

A. Research Question: Hypothesis and Objective (brief, no more than one page)

B. Background and Significance (1-1.5 pages)

1. Background

2. What CPI Funding Priority will this proposal address?

3. Describe how the completion of the proposed research project could provide a definitive resolution of the hypothesis and/or advance the field of cancer prevention

C. Feasibility: Briefly describe the scientific basis for the proposed research and the feasibility for achieving a successful outcome (half a page)

D. Scientific Plan: Describe the scientific plan for the proposed research (1.5-2.5 pages)

1. Specific Aims
2. Experimental Design and Methods
3. Potential Pitfalls and Alternative Strategies
4. Timeline and Milestones: Describe the research timetable for completion, including intermediate milestones

References: Include only the most relevant references (no more than 2 pages)

- Letters of Commitment from all Collaborators
- Letter(s) of Institutional Support
- Signed Cover Sheet: Navigate to Section 14 “Print Application Attachments” to download and print the Cover Sheet through the “Print Signature Pages” link. This page must be signed by the PI and their institution’s “Signing Official” and “Financial Officer.” Upload the fully signed document as the “Signed Cover Sheet” attachment type.

Formatting guidelines:

- Use provided templates for the Project Narrative and Scientific Plan and the Biosketches. Downloadable through ProposalCentral.
- The Biosketches, Budget Justification, Project Narrative and Scientific Plan, References, Letters of Commitment from Collaborators, and the Signed Cover Sheet are required to be uploaded in PDF format.

Once submitted, a confirmation of receipt will be emailed to you within 1 (business) day. Contact us at Grants@CancerPreventionInitiative.org if you do not receive a confirmation email.

For grant inquiries, contact the CPI team via email at Grants@CancerPreventionInitiative.org.

For assistance using ProposalCentral, contact ProposalCentral customer support via email at pcsupport@altum.com or by calling toll-free (800) 875-2562 (U.S. and Canada) or 1-(703) 964-5840 (international direct dial). ProposalCentral support hours are from 8:30AM to 5:30PM EST.