

HARVARD CANCER CONSORTIUM SPORE IN BREAST CANCER

Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) | An NCI funded program | Grant 1P50CA168504-11

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: Career Enhancement Program in Breast Cancer

Purpose: To develop early career investigators committed to breast cancer research.

Eligibility:

- Early career stage faculty members (Instructor or Assistant Professor) within 5 years of initial faculty appointment who has not previously competed successfully as a Principal Investigator for a substantial government or foundation independent research award such as an R01 or R01-equivalent.
- Investigators from HCC and other selected institutions (Boston Medical Center, University of Massachusetts, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology) are eligible to apply.
- Advanced post-doctoral or clinical fellows who provide a letter from an eligible institution stating that the candidate will be joining its faculty within the year are eligible to apply.
- Investigators supported by NCI (e.g., K award) or other career development awards ARE NOT eligible to apply.
- Clinical, population science, lab-based researchers and computational biologists, data scientists/cancer bioinformatics scientists are all eligible to apply.

Range of Awards: One or two awards up to \$75,000 in direct costs will be awarded per award. In addition, indirect costs should be included at your Institution's DHHS approved rate.

Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Monday, April 27th, 2026

Award Timeline: August 1st 2026 – to July 31st 2027

****Note:** Funding for this grant is for a 12-month period, project aims must be achievable in this short time and awarded funds spent in full (No carryforward allowed).

Selection Criteria: a review committee (which includes patient advocates) will make the award based on these criteria:

- Innovation of scientific questions in breast cancer
- Ability to generate critical preliminary data
- Potential for future clinical impact
- Translational scientific merit of research proposal
- Enthusiasm of the applicant to participate in the SPORE
- Interest in the use of SPORE resources
- Programmatic needs of the SPORE

Application Materials: e-mail the following materials in a **single PDF file** to kate_bak@dfci.harvard.edu

1) **Letter of institutional support** from the applicant's department chair or division chief providing evidence of institutional support, a guarantee of protected time, research space, and office space, career advancement plan, and confirmation that the candidate will be joining the department faculty within the year.

2) **NIH format Biosketch** for PI and Key Personnel (5-page maximum).

3) A list of **Other Support** for PI only.

4) Detailed **Budget and Justification**: categorizing expenditures using PHS 398 forms.

5) A signed **Statement of Intent** (for individuals external to DFCI) from the applicant's grants office.

6) **Proposal** concept describing the applicant's interest in a career in breast cancer research, the benefits of becoming involved in the SPORE, and how the proposed project fits in the context of the candidate's career development.

- Submissions should include lay and scientific abstracts (250 words each).
- A proposal (3 pages maximum, including figures and tables). There is no page limit on references cited.
- Proposals should follow a standard format that includes specific aims, background/significance, preliminary studies, approach, statistical plan, plans for SPORE involvement, and statement on innovation and impact (note: preliminary data is not required but a record of earlier accomplishments demonstrating the feasibility of the approach is important).
- Applicants are encouraged to consult with a biostatistician and/or patient advocate, if applicable.

NO SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION WILL BE ACCEPTED. ADHERENCE TO THE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS IS MANDATORY FOR INCLUSION IN THE REVIEW. Please send any questions to kate_bak@dfci.harvard.edu