

HARVARD CANCER CONSORTIUM SPORE IN BREAST CANCER

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

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS:
Developmental Research Program in Breast Cancer**

Purpose: To advance high quality, novel, early-phase research, to foster new ideas in breast cancer research and to move research projects from a pilot stage to a level where external funding for more mature research is possible.

Eligibility:

- HCC faculty members (Instructor, Assistant, Associate or full Professor) at HCC and other selected institutions (Boston Medical Center, University of Massachusetts, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology).
- Investigators supported by NCI career development awards (K series) are also eligible to apply.
- Clinical, population science, lab-based researchers, computational biologists, data scientists/cancer bioinformatics scientists are all eligible to apply.
- High-risk/high-yield projects with potential to generate preliminary data for new larger external grant applications are especially encouraged.

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 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. **NIH format Biosketch** for PI and Key Personnel (5-page maximum).
2. A list of **Other Support** for PI only.
3. **Detailed Budget and Justification:** categorizing expenditures using PHS 398 forms.
4. A signed **Statement of Intent** (for individuals external to DFCI) from the applicant's grants office.
5. **Proposal concept** describing the applicant's interest in a career in breast cancer research and the benefits of becoming/being involved in the SPORE.
 - ☐ 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