

# Cancer Research Awards



## Request for Proposals Cancer Research Awards

Georgia Cancer Coalition – [www.georgiacancer.org](http://www.georgiacancer.org)

- Release Date: August 16, 2010
  - Receipt Date: September 27, 2010
  - Award Date: November 2010
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### 1.0 Background

The Breast, Prostate, and Ovarian Cancer Research Awards were established during the 2000 session of the Georgia General Assembly. In 2009, legislation was passed to remove the restriction to breast, prostate, or ovarian cancer and make these awards available for *all* types of cancer-related research. Georgians may contribute to the Cancer Research Fund on their state income tax returns. Since its inception, Georgians have contributed over \$2.75 million to the Fund. Contributions are tax-deductible and may also be made directly to the Georgia Cancer Coalition, a Georgia non-profit corporation. For this funding cycle, approximately \$285,000 is available for new awards. All funds will be distributed through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process that is peer-reviewed.

### 2.0 Overview

Almost every family in Georgia has been touched by cancer in some way. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Georgia. This year, approximately 39,000 Georgians will be diagnosed with some form of cancer and nearly 15,000 will die from the disease.

The Georgia Cancer Coalition was established in 2001 to make Georgia a leader in cancer prevention, treatment, education and research. The Georgia Cancer Coalition engages the state's doctors, hospitals, governmental agencies, public health departments, community health and survivor groups, universities, businesses, philanthropic and non-profit organizations around a common mission of reducing the number of cancer-related deaths in Georgia.

The goals of the Georgia Cancer Coalition are:

1. Prevent cancer and detect existing cancers earlier
2. Provide quality care for all Georgians with cancer
3. Establish ongoing, collaborative processes for addressing cancer data and metric issues in Georgia
4. Georgia will become a destination site for cancer patients, biotechnology, and biomedical companies in the southeastern United States
5. Generate a combination of state, federal, and private funds to support the fight against cancer

The Georgia Cancer Coalition's research agenda revolves around advancing scientific discoveries into the causes, detection, treatment and cures of cancer. In addition, the Georgia Cancer Coalition seeks to create a climate where scientific discoveries can be translated rapidly to the community in order to improve care and to attract investments for cancer research from foundations, industry, and government agencies for cancer research. To the extent possible, the Georgia Cancer Coalition research agenda matches the research priorities of the National Cancer Institute (which can be found at <http://www.cancer.gov/researchprograms/priorities/>).

### 3.0 Purpose

The purpose of the Cancer Research Awards is to stimulate research of scientific importance by Georgia investigators. The fund promotes the development of novel or conceptually creative ideas that are scientifically sound and may advance progress toward detecting, treating or curing cancer. Georgia investigators (researchers, clinicians, fellows) are encouraged to develop a sound, innovative research plan based on the goals of the Georgia Cancer Coalition, and wherever possible, to incorporate the research priorities of the National Cancer Institute.

### 4.0 Proposal Contents

Preliminary data are not required and proposed projects may be geared toward determining project feasibility, proof of principle, and/or acquisition and analysis of data. The research project should include strategies for dissemination of findings and sharing of data and materials generated through this award. Priority will be given to new-to-the-field investigators who utilize research results to develop and secure national peer-reviewed funding. Special consideration will be given to the following areas: proposals that link engineering to the biomedical sciences; proposals in the area of cancer prevention research (not including screening or treatment services); proposals that address survivorship services (e.g., psychosocial interventions, physical rehabilitation/therapy, navigation services, palliative care). Similarly, priority will be given to established investigators who have an innovative idea of a translational nature, which requires seed funding to achieve proof-of-principle leading to an application for peer-reviewed funding. A plan for seeking additional funding from the National Cancer Institute, American Cancer Society, Veterans Administration, Department of Defense or other peer-reviewed source is required for all applications. Minority and women investigators are encouraged. Collaboration also is encouraged with other researchers, academic institutions, or cancer-related private or nonprofit organizations.

## 5.0 Eligibility

Applications may be submitted by any Georgia non-profit organization or university. Grants are awarded to organizations and not to individual investigators; however, the principal investigator must reside in Georgia. Grants are transferable only with the written consent of the Georgia Cancer Coalition. If the principal investigator leaves the state, the sponsoring organization must notify the Georgia Cancer Coalition. No grants will be made for studies that have scientific or budgetary overlap with grants supported by other agencies. All applicants will be required to comply with local and federal requirements for protection of human subjects, animal welfare, recombinant DNA and inclusion of children and minorities.

## 6.0 Funds Available

Funds generated from the Georgia state income tax returns totaling \$285,000 will be distributed for cancer research awards. Awards of approximately \$50,000 are expected to be made. *No indirect costs may be requested.* Grants will not be renewed in subsequent years as these grants are intended to provide one year of pilot phase funding.

Grants will be paid in two installments: 50% at the time of the award and 50% with the submission and *satisfactory* review of a 6-month progress report. *The GCC reserves the right to withhold the second installment if it is determined that satisfactory progress has not been made and appropriate resolution of the situation can not be made.* A closing progress report (twelve months after the project begins) is also required.

## 7.0 Institutional Responsibilities

A successful applicant institution is expected to provide the salary and facilities for the principal investigator. Matching funds provided by the institution must equal or exceed the amount of the grant request and may include salaries and infrastructure.

Upon acceptance of a grant award, the applicant organization assumes legal and financial responsibility for awarded funds and the conduct of supported activities. It is the responsibility of the applicant institution and principal investigator to assure the accuracy and validity of all fiscal, scientific, and administrative information pertaining to the awarded grant.

## 8.0 Research Priorities

Proposals must focus on cancer-related research and support the mission and goals of the Georgia Cancer Coalition. Research projects that focus on NCI priorities and/or reducing disparities are highly encouraged: (<http://www.cancer.gov/researchprograms/priorities/>).

## 9.0 Researchers' Responsibilities and Acknowledgement of Support

All grant recipients will be required to acknowledge support from the Georgia Cancer Coalition in presentations and publications which result from the funded research. The Georgia Cancer Coalition

shall be provided with a copy of all publications and notified of all presentations and poster sessions. Researchers are expected to participate in Coalition-sponsored/supported meetings and symposia.

### 10.0 Review Criteria and Considerations

Successful proposals will support the mission and goals of the Georgia Cancer Coalition and be judged as innovative and of high scientific merit by the reviewers. Applications will be reviewed for:

- A. Innovation: Novelty or originality of approach, method, technology, experimental design (including presentation, organization, analysis or application of data), conceptual framework, or the insight provided into complex systems. The ability of the applicant to eventually secure peer-reviewed funding will also be assessed.
- B. Investigators: Appropriateness of the training, background, and expertise of the principal investigator and key personnel to achieving the specific aims and overall goals of the proposed project. Adequacy of the principal investigator's ability to lead and coordinate the activities and develop and implement the research plan is required for the project's success. Adequacy of the level of effort of key personnel.
- C. Environment: Adequacy of the environment and resources available, including space, equipment, services, infrastructure, and facilities. Degree to which the proposed research plan, experiments, and organization takes advantage of unique features of the community if applicable. Degree of institutional commitment, including any needed expansion of facilities, improvement of infrastructure, and relief from other duties where necessary. Environment for training or educational activities, especially for under-represented minorities.

### 11.0 Review Process

Proposals will be measured against the goals of this initiative which include (A) enhancing clinical oncology research within the state, (B) increasing the number of Georgia professionals participating in academic medicine in the field of oncology; and, (C) bringing new peer-reviewed funding opportunities to state investigators. Reviewers will be asked to rate the overall application in order to judge the likelihood that the proposed programs will have a substantial impact on the pursuit of these goals. Each proposal will receive a staff and peer review. Clarifying questions of applicants may be made during this review period.

### 12.0 Application

#### **Abstract:**

You are required to provide both a technical abstract and a lay abstract using clear, simple language that is understandable to the general public.

#### **Proposal Narrative:**

The body of the application should include the following:

- Specific Aims

- Significance
- Preliminary Studies (if appropriate, though not required)
- Experimental Design and Methods
- Literature Cited
- Projected Funding Plan Post Award (should include plans for peer reviewed funding)
- Publication Plan

\* Clear, simple and understandable to the public

*The combination of ALL of the above parts (abstracts, proposal narrative, funding and publication plans) should not exceed **10 pages**. Applications are to be submitted as a PDF file.*

Supporting documents should include the following:

- Grant Request Budget (template provided as Excel file; convert to PDF for submission)
  - The budget form will also be used to submit expenditure reports at six and twelve months.
- Budget Narrative
- Sources of Matching Support (1:1 required, direct and in-kind support are acceptable)
- CV of Principal Investigator
- Biographical Sketches of Related Personnel

Please do not submit letters of support.

### 13.0 How to Apply

The Georgia Cancer Coalition utilizes an online application submission process through proposalCENTRAL. To apply, please click on the following link (<https://proposalcentral.altum.com>).

#### **Getting Started with Electronic Submission:**

- Applicants must submit proposals electronically through proposalCENTRAL, an electronic grant submission system provided by Altum, Inc.
- Access proposalCENTRAL at <https://proposalcentral.altum.com>.
- If you are a new user in proposalCENTRAL click the link “Click here to Register” and complete the registration process. NOTE: The institution is the applicant, not the investigator being put forward as a Cancer Research Award candidate. Therefore, the appropriate institutional representative should register with proposalCENTRAL. That same representative can set up permissions allowing others to participate in proposal submission. Applications coming from CRA candidates WILL NOT be accepted.
- If you are already registered in proposalCENTRAL access the site and login with your User ID or E-mail address. If you have forgotten your password, click on the “Forgot Password?” link. Supply your E-mail address or your User ID in the space provided; your password will be sent to you by e-mail.

- After you log in, complete your Professional Profile (2nd tab from the left) before starting an application.
- To start an application, select the Grant Opportunities tab (gray tab furthest to the right). A list of applications will display. Find the “Georgia Cancer Coalition” and the “Cancer Research Awards Program”. Click the “Apply Now” link (second to last column) to create your application.
- **We do not require hard copies of the application. Also, you may submit your signed signature pages electronically by printing the pages, getting the required signatures, then scanning and uploading as a PDF file.**

If you have problems with submitting applications using this system, please contact proposalCENTRAL:

Phone (toll-free): 1-800-875-2562  
Phone (direct dial): 1-703-964-5840  
E-mail: [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com)

Direct program inquiries to the following:

Dr. Amy Moore, Manager of Research Programs  
Georgia Cancer Coalition  
Phone: 404-584-0654  
Email: [amoore@georgiacancer.org](mailto:amoore@georgiacancer.org)

The online system will open at **8:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Monday, August 16, 2010**. The deadline for receipt of full proposals is **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, September 27, 2010**.

#### 14.0 Contract Term and Award

The contract term will begin upon execution of the contract and will continue for one year unless extended as provided in the contract.

#### 15.0 RFP Amendments/Cancellation

The Georgia Cancer Coalition reserves the right to amend this RFP prior to the date of application submission. Any addenda to the RFP will be posted in the same manner as this RFP. The Coalition also reserves the right to cancel this RFP at any time for whatever reason.