
THE University of Vermont CANCER CENTER

UVMCC GRANT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Description

In working toward submission of a Cancer Center Support Grant for NCI designation, the UVM Cancer Center is establishing a grant incentive program to provide enhanced support for individuals obtaining R01-equivalent awards and grants from the National Cancer Institute. These are areas which are closely monitored by the NCI and form an element of review and scoring when undergoing evaluation for NCI designation. The following two programs are being implemented by the UVM Cancer Center beginning July 1, 2024.

Grant Incentive Program #1: R01 program – Eligible investigators with an R01-equivalent, cancer relevant, peer-reviewed grant will be eligible for \$10,000 to be utilized to support research activities. Awards will be distributed at the start of each fiscal year. Funds may not be used for PI salary support.

Who is eligible?

- Cancer Center member with grants awarded through UVM
- As of July 1 of each year, has a cancer relevant, R01-equivalent, peer-reviewed grant, not in No Cost Extension
 - Potentially eligible members will be notified by email; members may inquire about potential eligibility if no notification is received from UVMCC
 - University must have received Notice of Award (pending grants not eligible)
 - You will be notified by the Cancer Center by August 1 if you have an eligible award. If you have not received notification by August 1 and you feel that you have an eligible award, please email Executive Director of Administration Kate Webster.
- Awards will be issued annually, funds permitting
- MPIs on grants may split the incentive award
- MPIs on multiple grants may combine their efforts to receive one award
- PI must not have any of their own salary support cost-shared by Department or Larner College of Medicine on any funded extramural grants (cost share for salary above NIH cap is allowed)
- R01 equivalent subcontracts where the UVM investigator is MPI of the overall award will qualify.
- The R01 must be determined to be ≥50% cancer relevant (see explanations, below)

Grant Incentive Program #2: NCI program – Investigators who obtain a new award from the NCI will be eligible for \$5,000 to be utilized to support research activities. Funds may not be used for PI salary support. Competitive renewals will count as new awards. Annual renewals, NCE and subcontracts excluded (unless investigator is listed as multiple PI (MPI) for the overall award).

Who is eligible?

- Cancer Center member with grants awarded through UVM
- Any independent NCI grant is eligible (subcontracts excluded unless investigator is listed as multiple PI for the award)
 - The NCI program award will be split between MPIs on multi-PI grants if more than one of the MPI is based at UVM
- This is a one-time award distributed at the time Notice of Award is received.

Grant Incentive Programs #1 and #2:

How do I utilize these funds?

- You will receive information as to how to access these funds
- Funds may be utilized for lab personnel support, supplies, publication costs, travel to scientific meetings
- Funds for the R01 program must be utilized by June 30 of the fiscal year in which they are awarded (ie, there is no rollover of unutilized funds)
- Funds in the NCI program must be utilized within 1 year (12 months) of the award distribution date

What if I have more than one eligible award?

- The R01 and NCI programs are independent and participation in one program will not affect eligibility for the other program
- If you have two R01 equivalent awards, the first award will generate \$10,000 to your account; additional eligible awards will each generate \$5,000 to your account.

Address questions to Randall Holcombe, UVMCC Director, at Randall.holcombe@med.uvm.edu

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What is cancer-focused or cancer-relevant research?

- Research focused on cancer patients, their families or how care is delivered to them
- Clinical trials for cancer patients
- Cancer prevention and screening research
- Fundamental research with a cancer disease-specific focus (e.g. breast cancer, melanoma)
- Fundamental research related to processes that may impact cancer development or progression (e.g. DNA damage, cell signaling, regulators of cell division)
- Fundamental research focused on contributors to cancer development (e.g. viruses, immune system)

Tips to know if a grant is cancer-focused or cancer-relevant

- NCI is the granting agency
- Cancer is mentioned in the title of the grant
- Cancer (carcinogenesis, tumor, metastasis) is mentioned in the abstract and/or keywords
- The grant focuses on a cancer population
- One of the Specific Aims directly references cancer or cancer outcomes or processes

Helpful Scenarios for Fundamental & Behavioral Research

1. R01 from NHLBI focused on REDOX mechanisms involved in the development of fibrosis
 - a. This could be cancer relevant as fibrosis is an important process involved in the development of cancer and response to treatment
 - i. Abstract states that the research has relevance to idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis; no mention of cancer, tumor, carcinogenesis etc. in keywords = NOT CANCER RELEVANT. The grant is focused on a different disease process.
 - ii. Abstract states that the research has relevance to idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and lung cancer development and lung cancer is listed as a key word = CANCER RELEVANT. Will likely be determined to be ~50% cancer relevant but will depend on review of specific aims.
2. R01 from NCI on REDOX mechanisms involved in the development of fibrosis = 100% CANCER RELEVANT
3. R35 from NIGMS focused on DNA damage
 - a. No disease process is listed in the abstract or keywords = CANCER RELEVANT
 - b. Cancer or cancer susceptibility syndrome listed in abstract = CANCER RELEVANT
 - c. Hereditary renal abnormalities listed in abstract = NOT CANCER RELEVANT
4. Tobacco cessation grant examining low nicotine cigarettes
 - a. Target population adolescents and young adults = CANCER RELEVANT
 - i. Tobacco research is accepted as cancer relevant unless specifically focused on a different condition.
 - b. Target population pregnant women with outcome measures focused on fetal malformations = NOT CANCER RELEVANT
 - c. Target population pregnant women with outcome measures focused on fetal malformations and on long term addiction to tobacco products. Will likely be ~50% cancer relevant but will depend on review of specific aims.

UVMCC Director is final arbiter of degree of cancer relevance of an individual grant.

What counts as peer-reviewed research?

Peer reviewed research as defined by the NCI are awards from the NIH and agencies found at <https://cancercenters.cancer.gov/documents/PRFundingOrgs508.pdf> including:

1. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
2. Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF)
3. American Association of Cancer Research (AACR)
4. American Cancer Society (ACS), (national office only)
5. American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR)
6. American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR)
7. California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM)
8. Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
9. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
10. Central Office of the Veterans Administration (VA), (excluding local/regional and "block" grants)
11. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
12. The Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute (FAMRI)
13. Florida Biomedical Research Program (FBRP)
14. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
15. Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI)
16. Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS)
17. Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA)
18. Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF)
19. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
20. National Science Foundation (NSF)
21. New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center/New York State Stem Cell Science Program (NYSTEM)
22. Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)
23. Prevent Cancer Foundation (PCF)
24. Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF)
25. St. Baldrick's Foundation
26. Stand Up to Cancer (SU2C)
27. Susan G. Komen for the Cure
28. The California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP)
29. The California Tobacco Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP)
30. U.S. Army (DOD) special research programs (e.g. breast, ovarian, prostate cancer)

Agencies not listed that have a peer-review process (eg. Komen Foundation, V Foundation, Damon-Runyon) do not qualify as peer-reviewed by NCI criteria. Pharmaceutical contracts supporting clinical trials do not qualify as peer-reviewed, even if approved through FDA.

What counts as an R01-equivalent grant?

- R01, DP1, DP2, DP5, R00, R37, R56, RF1, RL1, U01, R35 (NIGMS & NHGRI)
- Independent research sub-project in a larger multi-project grant including P01, COBRE (P20), P50, U54 (shared resources or other infrastructure support do not count as R01 equivalent). Other special awards may apply.
- Usually \$125,000/yr for ≥3 years
- Note: Excluded are K awards, R25, R21, R03, grants in NCE, subcontracts (unless the UVM investigator is MPI and award meets annual \$\$ and duration criteria and is derived from one of the R01-equivalent categories).