



Lung Cancer Foundation of America-Bristol-Myers Squibb/
International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer
Young Investigator Research Awards in Translational Immuno-oncology

2017 REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Lung Cancer Foundation of America (LCFA), and the **International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC)** with financial support from **Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS)** seek applications for the LCFA-BMS/IASLC Young Investigator Research Awards in Translational Immuno-oncology.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the LCFA-BMS/IASLC Young Investigator Research Awards is to support research in translational immuno-oncology by early career investigators that aim to improve the care of individuals with lung cancers and to reduce the burden of these diseases.

Examples though not exclusive, include studies designed to determine predictive features guiding the selection of patients for different immuno-oncology therapies; their application in combination with standard therapies, such as standard curative-intent strategies in early stage disease; ways to improve their effectiveness or even cure patients with metastatic lung cancer. Likewise, studies designed to facilitate care by minimizing treatment side effects are encouraged.

BACKGROUND

LCFA's mission is the dramatic improvement in survivorship of lung cancer patients through the funding of transformative science, with the ultimate goal of curing the disease.

To accomplish this, LCFA will work to raise *both the funds and the national profile of lung cancer* in order to substantially increase support of innovative and groundbreaking research efforts.

IASLC is the largest, multidisciplinary, international organization dedicated to conquering thoracic cancers worldwide. It has worked since 1974 to promote research in all aspects of lung cancer and thoracic malignancies, as well as to encourage worldwide cancer prevention efforts. IASLC supports research fellowships to promote the study of lung cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. It publishes the *Journal of Thoracic Oncology*, an important resource for medical specialists and scientists who focus on the detection, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer, as a textbook and a variety of other educational materials. IASLC hosts the World Conference on Lung Cancer, and partners

with other international cancer organizations to host various annual workshops and conferences around the world.

With the introduction of these new grants, LCFA and IASLC will have partnered to award more than **\$1.8 million** in innovative and groundbreaking lung cancer research grants.

RESEARCH FOCUS AND OVERVIEW

Successful applications for this Request for Applications Announcement (RFA) require a research approach that seeks to make an immediate and relevant impact on cancer patient care or to interpret the results of a clinical trial from a molecular basis as appropriate to help inform decisions in future clinical trials.

- The Award will be reviewed by IASLC and LCFA in accordance with their agreed upon review process.
- The result of all funded research must be open and shared.
- The Award will be a two year grant upon successful reporting of first year progress.
- Successful grantee will be required to submit findings at an IASLC meeting.
- Successful grantee must agree to travel to Los Angeles to be introduced to the LCFA Board of Directors and/or major donors. Expenses for this trip will be covered by LCFA and will be outside the Award.

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION

An attached PDF file which must include:

- Planned Specific Aims (1 page).
- Rationale for the project (1 page) and background, significance and innovation (1 page).
- Brief statement of the overall experimental approach (3 pages).
- Brief statement describing the clinical context in which the biomarker or research project will be used and the quantitative/performance that your biomarker should achieve to show clinical utility (1 page).
- NIH Biosketch of the Applicant(s) (separate attached PDF file)
- Budget including personnel, supplies, publication costs, travel, clinical trial costs, animal costs.

ELIGIBILITY

Education and Experience

At the time of application, an applicant must hold a doctoral degree, (including PhD, MD, DO, PharmD, ScD or equivalent) have less than 7-years of postdoctoral experience, and be actively engaged in research evaluating the use of the immune system to improve the lives of patients with cancer.

AWARD INFORMATION

Award Structure and Allocation

The Award amount will be \$100,000 per year for up to each of two years. The second year of support is based on demonstrating satisfactory progress as well as the availability of funding from LCFA/IASLC.

No more than 25% of the requested budget may be used for an Awardee's salary and/or fringe benefits and no award budget may go to fund the purchase of permanent equipment. No indirect costs are provided. Any unused funds at the end of the study period will be returned to LCFA and/or IASLC.

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN EVALUATING APPLICATIONS

Projects must be feasible, have strong scientific merit, innovative and relevant to the mission of LCFA and IASLC.

The application should be structured to provide the following:

- A clear rationale should be given for the experimental design and technical methodologies selected.
- The hypothesis/hypotheses must be strong and testable, and relate to potential clinical applications such as patient monitoring for preventive or therapeutic interventions, development of new therapeutic strategies or testing new biomarkers for the identification of patient subsets for specific prevention or treatment approaches.
- Preliminary data, including relevant animal models or analyses of patient specimens that support the hypothesis/hypotheses, however, do not need to have been personally generated.
- Adequate clinical resources. The laboratory assays must use specimens from patients receiving defined treatments in medium to large clinical trials such as from phase II or phase III clinical trials.
- A description of the methodological approach sufficient for an informed reviewer to judge feasibility.
- Applications must include a statistical section describing the study design and plans for analysis of data designed to test the hypotheses.
- The application must convey the level of commitment of the institution to the applicant and the proposed research activities. Applicants must be independent, self-directed researchers for whom their institution must provide independent space and independent resources.
- Include NIH-style budget and justifications

LCFA/IASLC is not likely to fund the following types of projects:

1. Studies undertaken entirely in murine models or cell line xenografts (must use patient biospecimens or PDX's from local patients)

PEER REVIEW RESULTS OF FULL APPLICATIONS

Applications are due at the IASLC Office: pia.hirsch@iaslc.org by the close of business November 30, 2017 MDT. Applicants will be informed of the peer review process in January 2018 for grant funding to also start in January, 2018.

Applicants will receive a letter from LCFA/IASLC advising of the final outcome.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Following are the Terms and Conditions that apply to the LCFA/IASLC Award:

Tobacco Funded Research

LCFA/IASLC will not provide research or other funding to investigators who have received funding from the tobacco industry or their agencies.

Authorized Award Holders

LCFA/IASLC grants research awards only to individuals and not institutions. No award may be held or transferred to another individual.

Change of Budget

Requests for changes in budget require prior approval by LCFA/IASLC. *All requests must be in writing.* When requesting a change in budget, the awardee must indicate: the amount, from what budget-line and to what budget-line the monies are being transferred. In the case of supply or equipment budget, all items must be itemized.

Financial Report

At the conclusion of the Award period, LCFA/IASLC requires a complete financial disbursement report covering the entire award period. LCFA/IASLC issues the disbursement report to the person receiving the award funds. The disbursement report must reflect the award expenditures as approved by LCFA/IASLC. Any funds used for unauthorized expenditures or unexpended funds must be returned to LCFA/IASLC, with the disbursement report, within 45 days after the award has terminated. A complete financial disbursement report must be received within 45 days after the close of the first year of the Award before consideration will be given for renewal of the grant award for the second year.

Human Subject

The LCFA/IASLC Award requires that studies funded by this grant involve samples from human subjects with whom the investigator has direct personal contact (the “handshake rule”)

Whenever human subjects are a part of a LCFA/IASLC research funded project, the following documents must be received by the time of award notification:

- A copy of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval and approved patient consent forms. LCFA/IASLC encourages applicants to submit their projects to the appropriate human subjects Institutional Review Board at the time of application.
- Research involving human adult stem cells or use of human fetal tissue requires one copy of the appropriate institutional committee approval.
- IRB approval and approved patient consent forms to LCFA/IASLC at the time of Award notification. There are no exceptions.

Institutional Commitment

Applicant’s institution must agree to not less than 50% of “protected time” for the applicant to dedicate to research.

Malpractice Liability

LCFA/IASLC will not assume responsibility for and the institution will indemnify and hold LCFA/IASLC harmless from any lawsuit, claim, judgment, damages, awards, or malpractice arising from research or investigations related to an Award.

Progress Reports

Annual progress reports may be requested and must be completed to assist LCFA/IASLC in shaping future policies with respect to its award program. An annual progress report must be received within 45 days after the end of the first year of the Award before consideration will be given for renewal of the grant Award for the second year. A final report must be received within 90 days after the conclusion of the second year of the Award.

Publications

All publications and/or presentations at scientific conferences, meetings, and media interviews based on research conducted from this Award must include a citation of the supporting entities as follows: “with grant support from the following: Lung Cancer Foundation of America and International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer.” Reprints of abstracts, manuscripts, or other articles that reflect research done after Award acceptance must be submitted to LCFA/IASLC.

Renewals

Renewal of the LCFA/IASLC Award is based on a demonstration of satisfactory progress and, availability of funding, and is in the sole discretion of LCFA and IASLC. Awardees are required to complete a LCFA/IASLC Renewal Application form for each year the Award is subject to renewal.

Travel Expenditures

The maximum amount of funds expendable for travel is \$1,000 per year.

For more information or questions contact Pia Hirsch at pia.hirsch@iaslc.org