

**Prostate Cancer Foundation
2020 PCF Challenge Awards
For Metastatic, Lethal Prostate Cancer
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

The Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) is pleased to announce a Request for Team Science Applications for PCF Challenge Awards for investigations of metastatic, lethal prostate cancer. These awards will be funded depending on the level of innovation in applications received. High risk, currently unfunded projects are most desired.

We especially encourage applications on prostate cancer disparity research that will help to define the origins of differential outcome for prostate cancer patients in men of African descent, including those focusing on biology or health care access policy. Applications that include collaborations with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) are especially encouraged.

We also seek applications conducting research in VA hospitals where research directly affects veterans with advanced prostate cancer.

The Movember Foundation will fund approximately three (3) Movember Foundation-PCF Challenge Awards from U.S.-based teams with money it has raised in the U.S. Other funding sources will support additional PCF Challenge Awards at institutions from within or outside the U.S.

PCF Challenge Awards:

- Composed of a team of at least three (3) investigators from non-profit academic research centers, including one young investigator (see PCF Challenge Award Team requirements below).
- Support large-scale research projects concerning metastatic, lethal prostate cancer over a duration of two years.
- Provide up to a total of \$1 million per team.
- Cover only direct research costs and travel to the Annual PCF Scientific Retreat.
- Clinical trial costs are not allowed; however, correlative research to support high impact clinical trials for advanced prostate cancer is encouraged. IRB submission and preferably approval is desired at time of application.

Research proposals in the following topic areas are preferred:

- Immunotherapy for the treatment of metastatic, lethal prostate cancer.
- Targeted radionuclide therapy for advanced prostate cancer.
- New systemic precision treatments for metastatic, lethal prostate cancer including those targeting the currently 'undruggable'.
- First-in-field research on new targets for systemic treatment of metastatic, lethal prostate cancer.
- Mechanisms of resistance to current and investigational drugs targeting the androgen receptor and androgen axis, immune system, chemotherapy, and other targeted agents.
- Correlative research around either clinical trials of novel agents or strategies or standard of care.
- Developing or validating biomarkers that guide therapy in patients or further our understanding of the mechanisms by which therapies work.
- Tumor microenvironment signaling related to cancer progression including the immune component.
- New data science technologies for analysis of genomic information to advance precision medicine.
- Research proposals that identify or intervene in biological determinants, health care access policies, or other causes of prostate cancer incidence and mortality disparity are highly encouraged.

The PCF Challenge Award Team:

- Should be composed of at least 3 investigators capable of providing unique scientific expertise to the solution of this significant problem in prostate cancer research.
- May be assembled from one institution, or several institutions.
- Must embed at least one young investigator as an integral contributor to the team. The young investigator may hold the title of Postdoctoral Fellow, Instructor, Research Associate, Assistant Professor, or equivalent and should be within six-years following completion of a professional degree (MD, DO, PhD, MD-PhD, DSc, ScD, DDM, DDS, DMD, MBBS, or equivalent) or subsequent mentored academic or clinical training program. He or she should not have been granted commitments for more than \$200,000 in direct research funding from all sources including institutional funds at the time of this application.
- Applicants who are under-represented in biomedical research are highly encouraged to apply.

Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital Applicants and Projects:

In order to improve the health and wellness of our treasured US military veterans, applicants with VA appointments are highly encouraged to apply. Projects that involve a Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center in their research proposal planning will be appreciated. These may include but are not limited to (1) creation of defined cohorts of prostate cancer patients annotated with the VA electronic medical record for the purpose of population science research; (2) blood, tissue or other body fluid specimens collection from VA prostate cancer patients for translational or clinical trial correlate research; (3) development of new biotechnologies for the diagnosis or treatment of prostate cancer patients within the VA healthcare system; (4) activation of novel IRB- and FDA-approved phase 1 and 2 clinical investigations; (5) unique genomic investigations of tumor or germline specimens from VA prostate cancer patients with the goal of understanding the unique mutations that might have occurred due to battlefield exposure to specific toxic materials; (6) precision medicine clinical trials matching pathogenic germline or tumor alterations to experimental or FDA-approved medications.

PCF Challenge Award Application Guidelines

Eligibility: Investigators representing non-profit academic research centers are eligible to apply for PCF Challenge Awards. Investigators from for-profit companies and government-sponsored institutions, i.e., NIH, are ineligible.

- **Application Form:** To be completed online by the Principal Investigator under his or her name at <https://pcf.smartsimple.com>. Names and contact information for all team members listed in the Research Proposal must be added to the online application. Collaborators who are not team members but will collaborate on the project, wrote letters of recommendation or otherwise contributed to the application must also be listed on the online application.
- **Research Proposal:** The following sections are required for application to the PCF Challenge Award. With the exception of the Abstract (fill-in field), the Research Proposal and all supporting documents listed below should be uploaded as separate PDF files. Please note that item 6 should be submitted only if your project involves a clinical trial and item 7 is optional.
 1. **A scientific abstract** concisely describing the background, rationale, specific aims, experimental approach and anticipated outcomes and impact of the project is required (fill-in form field).
 2. **Statement of Originality (1-page limit):** This statement delineates why the work is first-in-field, original, and currently unfunded. PCF seeks new and never-before tested ideas, not derivatives of ongoing investigations or incremental research.
 3. **Research Proposal:** The narrative text and any preliminary data supporting a 2-year research proposal, limited to **10 pages**, plus a list of references cited (references not to be counted toward the 10-page limit). For investigations that involve clinical trials, inclusion of a statistician and a clear statistical plan to justify the size of the study population is mandatory.
 4. **NIH Biosketch:** Please submit a NIH Biographical Sketch for each investigator (5-page max), including a list of relevant publications and currently funded research projects (include award or grant type, project title, funding source, amount, and beginning and end dates of funding). NIH Biosketches for all investigators on the team award proposal should be combined and uploaded as a single PDF document.
 5. **Budget page(s):** Please include an annual budget breakout grid and budget justification for the proposal. PCF will cover only direct costs (no overhead). The budget can be prepared using NIH Budget forms like PHS 398; however, use of these forms is not mandatory. All PCF Challenge Award PIs and Co-PIs must use funds from the PCF Challenge Award to cover travel and registration expenses to attend the Annual PCF Scientific Retreat. Attendance by at least one member of the team each year is required for the duration of the award in 2019 and 2020. The Retreat will be held in Carlsbad, CA.
 6. **Clinical trial protocol and a timeline for activation of the clinical investigation:** If applicable.
 7. **Supplemental Information (Optional):** Supplemental information in support of the application such as previous highly relevant publications or accepted manuscripts, letters of collaboration and letters of support can be uploaded as a single PDF document.
- **If applicable, at the time of the award, an IRB-approved protocol ready for activation is required for all human-related studies, including specimen acquisition. In addition, documentation of the availability of the experimental agent to be studied is required.**

Funding decisions will be made following peer and programmatic review. Reporting results and the budget process will be discussed at the time of announcement of the awards. Please note that the Challenge Award activation date will be determined later this year.

Visit <https://pcf.smartsimple.com> on or after Wednesday, February 5, 2020, to complete the online application form and attach the PDFs.

Please direct questions to applications@pcf.org.

Howard R. Soule, PhD
Executive Vice President
Chief Science Officer
Prostate Cancer Foundation

**The deadline for application submission is
Friday, April 17, 2020, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)
*** In fairness to all there will be no exceptions to this deadline. *****