



Prostate Cancer Foundation 2022 Young Investigator Awards

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Award Description

The Prostate Cancer Foundation (www.pcf.org) champions investment in human capital to fast-forward solutions for prostate cancer with the ultimate goal of ending death and suffering from metastatic prostate cancer. We continue to focus significant efforts on developing gifted cohorts of young prostate cancer researchers. Since 2007, PCF has awarded 349 PCF Young Investigator Awards in 12 countries, making it one of the most prodigious, productive, competitive and prestigious early career awards in cancer research. We are pleased to announce a new round of funding for PCF Young Investigators. **We especially encourage young investigators working on prostate cancer health disparities to apply.**

PCF Young Investigator Awards will be three (3) years in duration and will provide \$75,000 per year. The award funds may be used innovatively and flexibly to advance the career and research efforts of the awardee. This for example, includes funding "protected time" or direct costs for laboratory science. This award does not support indirect costs such as institutional overhead. Every PCF Young Investigator is required to be under the direct supervision of 1-3 mentors. Young Investigator awardees are required to attend the Annual PCF Scientific Retreat and Young Investigator Day, typically held in October, throughout the duration of their award.

PCF seeks applications from the global biomedical research community. **Applicants traditionally under-represented in science and medicine are highly encouraged.** We seek applications from early-career basic scientists, medical oncologists, pathologists, urologists, radiologists, radiation oncologists, public health experts, bioinformaticians, bioengineers, or professionals from any other field that could contribute to the end of prostate cancer. Applicants may be working in basic, translational, computational or clinical research and need not be trained specifically in prostate cancer research to be highly competitive. However, successful applicants should be working in an academic research environment capable of supporting transformational prostate cancer research. Access to and real-time interaction with a clinical environment and translational prostate cancer physician-scientists is highly desired.

Research proposals submitted in consideration for this award should, if successful, provide high impact to the field. "Small-step" or incremental proposals are usually non-competitive. Highly innovative basic science programs will be carefully considered, but priority will be given to "bench to bedside" translational research proposals with the potential to deliver near term benefit to patients.

Research proposals addressing disparities in care experienced by patients with prostate cancer may focus on implementation research in various populations (e.g. urban vs rural, racial, geographic or financial) or in biological drivers of care and outcome disparities that could potentially be addressed through changes in policy, advocacy or education. Applicants are encouraged to solicit and integrate advice from patients, patient support groups or advocates. Letters of support demonstrating such relationships are recommended.

Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital Applicants and Projects

In order to improve the health and wellness of our treasured US military veterans, applicants with Veterans Administration (VA) appointments are highly encouraged to apply. Projects that involve a VA Medical Center in their research proposal planning will be appreciated. This may include but is 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 Young Investigator Award Application Guidelines

- Applicant 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.
- Applicant must hold the title of Postdoctoral Fellow, Instructor, Research Associate, Assistant Professor or equivalent.
- Applicant must be under the direct supervision of a mentor(s). At least one mentor at the applicant's institution is required.
- The Applicant should not have been granted commitments for more than \$300,000 in direct research funding from all sources including institutional funds at the time of this application. VA Career Development Awardees are excluded from this limit.
- VA Career Development Awardees are eligible to apply for this award provided they have completed at least 3 years of the Career Development Award by the time of application submission to PCF.
- **Research Proposal:** The following sections are required for application to the PCF Young Investigator Award. Applications must be submitted online at: <https://pcf.smartsimple.com>. With the exception of the Abstract, the Research Proposal and all supporting documents listed below should be uploaded as separate PDF files.
 - 1) **A scientific abstract (500 words maximum)** concisely describing the background, rationale, specific aims, experimental approach and anticipated outcomes and impact of the project is required (fill-in form field).
 - 2) **A three-year research proposal** no greater than five (5) pages, plus a list of references cited is required. PCF welcomes preliminary data in the five pages of text but does not have a strict data requirement. The proposal should include a half-page description of how this research may benefit patients with advanced prostate cancer. The five-page limit applies only to the proposal and not to references.
 - 3) **A letter of support from the applicant's mentor(s)** indicating the applicant's strengths and potential to become an independent investigator at the end of the PCF Young Investigator Award is required. Letters of support from mentors must include a statement that the mentor has read and approved the applicant's research proposal. For applicants with more than one mentor, letters must be combined into a single PDF document for upload.
 - 4) **A letter of support from the applicant's Departmental Chairperson or Cancer Center Director (Associate Chief of Staff/Research for VA applicants)** indicating the applicant's strengths and potential to become an independent investigator at the end of the PCF Young Investigator Award is required. In addition, this letter must assure that matching in-kind support will be provided in the form of dedicated space, institutional overhead, institutional core research facilities, etc. For disparities applications, letters of support demonstrating relationships and support from patients, patient support groups or advocates can be appended in this section.
 - 5) **A 1-2 page mentorship plan from the mentor** detailing the commitment of the mentor to launch an independent career for the Young Investigator in prostate cancer research is required. This plan must be signed by the mentor and should detail the following: 1) ongoing prostate cancer research in the mentor's lab; 2) details of the training plan for the applicant; 3) the mentor's record and success in mentoring trainees; 4) the degree of engagement of the mentor with the Young Investigator's research to ensure a productive experience.
 - 6) **The applicant's NIH biosketch** is required (5 pages maximum).
 - 7) **An NIH biosketch for each mentor** is required (5 pages maximum). For applicants with more than one mentor, biosketches must be combined into a single PDF document for upload.

Visit <https://pcf.smartsimple.com> on or after Friday, February 4, 2022, complete the online application form and attach the PDFs. You may not revise your application after submission; however, you may submit a second application, which will supersede the first one, as applications are time-stamped.

Please direct questions to: applications@pcf.org
Howard R. Soule, PhD
Executive Vice President
Chief Science Officer
Lori and Michael Milken Chair
Prostate Cancer Foundation

THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THESE APPLICATIONS IS

Monday, April 25, 2022; 3:00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

IN FAIRNESS TO ALL, THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS DEADLINE.