

Prostate Cancer Foundation 2026 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 469 PCF Young Investigator Awards in 16 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.

The mission of PCF is to fund research addressing unmet medical needs in the diagnosis and treatment of potentially lethal prostate cancer.

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 have at least 1 mentor. **PCF Award recipients are required to submit progress reports on time to receive additional payments.** Young Investigator awardees are required to attend the Annual PCF Scientific Retreat and Young Investigator Forum, typically held in October, throughout the duration of their award; PCF will separately cover most costs for this travel requirement.

PCF seeks applications from the global biomedical research community. 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 potentially lethal prostate cancer. Applicants may be working in basic, translational, computational, or clinical research in an academic or community research organization and need not be trained specifically in prostate cancer research to be highly competitive. However, successful applicants should be working in a research environment capable of supporting transformational prostate cancer research.

Research proposals submitted in consideration for this award should, if successful, provide high impact to the field. "Small-step" or incremental proposals, and projects that do not address lethal or potentially-lethal prostate cancer such as diagnostics and treatments for low-risk localized disease, 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.

PCF Young Investigator Award Eligibility:

- Applicant must have a professional degree (MD, DO, PhD, MD-PhD, DSc, ScD, DDM, DDS, DMD, MBBS, or equivalent) and be within six years of completion of their terminal degree or subsequent mentored academic or clinical training program including postdoctoral or clinical fellowships.
- Applicant must be under the supervision of a mentor(s). At least one mentor at the applicant's institution is required.

Application Guidelines

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. **Lay Abstract (500 words maximum):** Concisely describe the background & rationale, major project goals and outcomes and impact of the project if successful (fill-in form field). This abstract may be used for fundraising efforts and will be posted on PCF.org for awarded applications. Please follow the required formatting and tips in the Smart Simple application portal.

3. **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.
4. **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 (up to 3 mentors are allowed), letters must be combined into a single PDF document for upload.
5. **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 community-based research applications, letters of support demonstrating relationships and support from patients, patient support groups or advocates can be appended in this section.
6. **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 under the mentor's supervision; 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.
7. **The applicant's NIH biosketch** is required (5 pages maximum). PCF does not provide an NIH template.
8. **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.

All research activities (including subcontracted activities) involving vertebrate animals and human subjects including specimen acquisition that will be conducted using PCF funding must be approved by the appropriate institutional and governmental oversight committees. **At the time of the award, the approved (IRB, IACUC, FDA, etc.) protocols ready for activation must be submitted. In addition, documentation of the availability of the experimental agent to be studied is required.** Compliance with current institutional and governmental guidelines and laws for research involving recombinant DNA, human stem cells, human fetal tissues, controlled substances, as well as conflict of interest and scientific misconduct is also required.

Visit <https://pcf.smartsimple.com> on or after **Monday, January 12, 2026**, to 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

The Application submission deadline is Monday, February 23, 2026, 3:00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

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