



**Massey Cancer Center  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant (ACS-IRG)**

***Deadline: October 18, 2019***

Massey Cancer Center announces the availability of American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grants for junior faculty to conduct cancer-related research projects.

**Investigator Eligibility**

- Only junior-level faculty members are eligible for the ACS IRG. Junior investigators are faculty within 6 years of their first independent faculty appointment or equivalent (e.g., Assistant Professor, Research Assistant Professor). An individual who is currently an Instructor, but will be appointed as an Assistant Professor by the award date is also eligible (a letter from the Department Chair is required). Investigators who have already received a peer-reviewed national research grant are not eligible to apply. NIH Career Development (K) awards do not count as peer-reviewed national research grants for this purpose. Investigators who have received prior support from the ACS Institutional Research Grant are not eligible.
- Citizens, non-citizen nationals, and permanent residents of the United States and its possessions or territories are eligible. Recipients are not required to be U.S. citizens. However, they must hold a visa that will allow him or her to remain in the U.S. long enough to complete the IRG pilot project.
- Non-faculty (e.g., residents, fellows) are not eligible.
- Applicant does not have to be a tenure track faculty member.
- Must be an Independent Investigator.

**Research Project Criteria**

- The ACS IRG funds innovative cancer research projects that have the potential for future peer-reviewed funding.
- Research projects currently funded through a national research grant will not be accepted.
- A letter must be provided from a mentor who will provide guidance for the proposed research.

**NEW: Special Interest Award in Cancer Health Equity Research**

- ACS IRG will fund one Special Interest Award per year to support projects by newly independent investigators in area of cancer health equity and disparities research.
- Grant applications are encouraged in psychosocial and behavioral research and in health policy and health services research focused on achieving health equity and eliminating health disparities.
- Include “**Special Interest Application**” in your title if you want to be considered under this award. Same application and submission guidelines apply to these applications as other ACS IRG applications.

**Funding Limits**

**ACS IRG awards range from \$5,000 - \$30,000.**

**Allowable expenses include:**

- Research supplies and animal maintenance
- Technical assistance

**Non-allowable expenditures include:**

- Secretarial/administrative salaries
- Investigator/faculty salary support/student

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Domestic travel, when necessary to carry out the proposed research program</li> <li>▪ Publication costs, including reprints</li> <li>▪ Costs of computer time</li> <li>▪ Special fees (pathology, photography, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral assistants if their role is to promote and sustain the project presented by the junior faculty member</li> <li>▪ Equipment costing less than \$2,000. Special justification is necessary for items exceeding this amount, and permission must be obtained from the Society's Extramural Grants Department for the purchase of such equipment.</li> <li>▪ Registration fees at scientific meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Student Tuition &amp; Fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Foreign travel; however, special consideration will be given for attendance at scientific meetings held in Canada</li> <li>- Books and periodicals</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers</li> <li>▪ Per-diem charges for hospital beds</li> <li>▪ Non-medical services to patients</li> <li>▪ Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings/laboratories</li> <li>▪ Office and laboratory furniture</li> <li>▪ Office equipment and supplies</li> <li>▪ Rental of office or laboratory space</li> <li>▪ Recruiting and relocation expenses</li> <li>▪ Membership dues</li> </ul>
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**\*Questions regarding your proposed budget can be addressed to Georgia Straton, MCC Administrative Coordinator, at (804) 628 – 1594 or [stratongs@vcu.edu](mailto:stratongs@vcu.edu).**

### **Award Period**

The award period for the ACS IRG grant will be one year from *November 1, 2019 – October 31, 2020*.  
If awardee receives external funding, ACS funding must be relinquished by external funding award date.

### **Submission & Budget Guidelines**

**Application Overview:** Applications must be submitted using the **Massey Cancer Center ACS IRG Application Packet**.

This form and other required forms are found on the Massey Cancer Center website at

<https://www.massey.vcu.edu/research/funding/acs-institutional-research-grants/>

**ALL Applications for this Institutional Research Grant must include the items below, IN ORDER as listed:**

1. **Biosketches for Key Personnel** – must be submitted using the PHS-398 forms (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>)
2. **Title and Abstracts** – lay and technical language abstracts should summarize in 1 page or less the cancer relevance and significance of the proposed studies, the specific aims and expected outcomes, and how the work will contribute to the development of a full research proposal for submission to a national funding organization.
3. **Project Description for Research Strategy**
  - a. Specific Aims – *Limit 1 Page*
  - b. Research Strategy – *Limit 6 Pages*
    - i. Significance
      1. Identify the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
      2. Identify how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
      3. Identify how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.
    - ii. Innovation
      1. Describe how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
      2. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
      3. Describe any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

iii. Approach

1. Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted.
2. Describe and address the potential problems.
3. Describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work if the project is in the early stages of development.
4. Address any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to other research associates and identify the precautions to be taken.
5. Describe the preliminary studies, data, and or experience pertinent to this application.
6. Identify the potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims. Include a description of future directions for your research, as well as a project timeline.

c. Literature Citations

d. \*Response to Reviewers' Comments from Previous Submissions (if applicable) – Limit 1 Page

4. **Proposed Budget** – must be submitted using the PHS 398 Form Page 4

(<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>)

5. **Faculty Research Promotion Form**

6. **Please provide a letter of support from the mentor explaining their role and involvement in the mentoring process.**

**\*Format:** 12 pt. Times New Roman, or 11 pt. Arial (minimum font size for all elements) – 10 pt. Times New Roman or 9 pt. Arial (figures, legends and tables)

**\*Resubmissions:** All Investigators who resubmit a previous application must include a description of revisions made based on the feedback received (maximum 1 page).

**\*Do not submit these documents to the VCU Office of Sponsored Programs Administration. The entire application package should be sent directly to the Cancer Center following the instructions below.**

**Submission Deadline**

**\*The deadline for submitting a completed ACS IRG application is October 18, 2019.**

Please email your complete application to [mccsubmission@vcu.edu](mailto:mccsubmission@vcu.edu), and add “ACS-IRG Application” in the subject line. Questions can be addressed to Georgia Straton, MCC Administrative Coordinator at (804) 628 – 1594 or [stratongs@vcu.edu](mailto:stratongs@vcu.edu).

**Proposed Research Summary Checklist**

✓	Item	Page Limits
	1. Biosketches for ALL Key Personnel	4 pages / person
	2. Abstract (lay and technical language)	1 page / abstract
	3. Project Description for Research Strategy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Specific Aims – Limit 1 Page</li> <li>b. Research Strategy – Limit 6 Pages               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Significance</li> <li>ii. Innovation</li> <li>iii. Approach</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	7 pages
	c. Literature Citations	N/A
	d. Response to Reviewers' Comments from Previous Submissions (if applicable)	1 page
	4. Proposed Budget	N/A
	5. Faculty Research Promotion Form	N/A
	6. Support Letter from Mentor	N/A

