Tina L. Bachas Oncology Nursing Research Award

Request for Applications

Massey Cancer Center (MCC) is pleased to announce the annual Tina L. Bachas Oncology Nursing Research Award. This award is named after Tina L. Bachas who served as MCC’s first director of oncology nursing. Ms. Bachas and her husband have committed their support in honor of Dr. Walter Lawrence, Jr., with whom Ms. Bachas worked with throughout her tenure at MCC.

Funding Opportunity Purpose

The intent of this award is to support nurses in a broad spectrum of oncology research endeavors. Research projects may range from basic laboratory-based research to clinical research to evidence-based quality-improvement projects. The projects must be led by a registered nurse and focus on some aspect of cancer.

Key Dates

- **Posted Date:** October 30, 2020
- **Application Due Date:** January 8, 2021 by 11:59 pm
- **Earliest Start Date:** March 1, 2021

Anticipated Number of Awards

It is anticipated that one award will be made.

Award Budget and Project Period

Projects will be funded at up to $25,000 and are limited to a one-year period.

Eligibility

The principal investigator (PI) must be a registered nurse and be employed by Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) or VCU Health. Non-faculty applicants (staff) must include a letter of support from the head of their department.

Application Components

**Formatting:** Use a standard 8 ½ x 11-inch page with at least ½-inch margins on all sides. Fonts (Arial is recommended) must be 11 points or larger with a type density of no more than 15 characters (spaces included) per inch and line spacing of no more than 6 lines per inch.

The application components, in the following order, should be submitted as a single PDF file.

- **Cover Page (use provided template):** The provided cover page template, including PI and co-investigator contact information, project title, and lay abstract, should be completed.
**Response to Previous Critique:** If the project was previously submitted, but not awarded, provide a one-page overview of how the proposal has been revised to address the reviewers' critiques.

**Research Plan (5-page limit excluding references):** The research plan should be divided into 3 sections: (1) Specific Aims, (2) Research Strategy, and (3) Future Plans.

The Specific Aims section should list the broad, long-term objectives of the proposed project (e.g., to test a hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, develop new technology). The individual specific aims should be stated along with a summary of the expected outcomes and the expected impact the results will have on the relevant area of oncology.

The Research Strategy should address the significance, innovation, and approach for each specific aim individually or for all of the specific aims collectively. The significance discussion should explain the importance of the problem, describe the strengths and weaknesses of prior research in the area, and explain how the proposed project will advance scientific knowledge, technical capability, or clinical practice. The innovation discussion should explain how the research challenges or shifts current research or clinical practice paradigms; 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; and explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions. The approach discussion should describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims. The experimental design and methods should be discussed. As appropriate, potential problems and alternative strategies to overcome them should be addressed.

The Future Plans section should briefly discuss as appropriate plans for publication, applying for extramural support, and implementation of findings.

A Reference List section should be included at the end of the Research Plan, but the references are not included in the 5-page limit for the Research Plan.

**Budget (PHS 398 Form Page 4):** Provide a budget and budget justification in accordance with the allowable and non-allowable expenses as indicated below. Budgets should reflect the actual needs of the project and may be less than $25,000. Requested budget expenses should be fully justified.

**Biographical Sketch (PHS 398 format):** Include biographical sketches for all key personnel (PI and co-investigators).

**Other Support (PHS 398 format):** Include other support for all key personnel (PI and co-investigators).

Letters of Support: Include required (department head support letter for staff serving as project PI) or optional (e.g., collaborators, shared resource support, reagent or animal model sharing) letters of support.

*PHS 398 forms and samples can be found at [http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html](http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html).

**Allowable and Unallowable Expenses**

**Allowable expenses:**
- Research and laboratory supplies
- Shared resource charges
- Technical or laboratory staff salaries (including fringe benefits)
• Stipends (including fringe benefits where applicable)
• Animal costs
• Patient care costs and stipends
• Research-related contractual agreements
• Software (prior approval required)
• Domestic travel when necessary to carry out the proposed research
• Printing costs of educational or survey material
• Publication costs

Non-allowable expenses:
• Faculty salaries
• Equipment (including computers)
• Equipment maintenance and service contracts
• Secretarial and administrative salaries
• Graduate and undergraduate student tuition and student fees
• Textbooks, coursebooks, and periodicals (including subscription fees)
• Membership dues
• Rental of office or laboratory space
• Recruiting and relocation expenses
• Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings or laboratories
• Routine printing costs
• Food costs associated with meetings or conferences held by the investigative team
• Conference registration fees and travel costs

Review Criteria

Applications will undergo NIH-style peer review and will be scored using the following criteria.

• Cancer relevance
• Significance
• Investigator(s)
• Innovation
• Approach
• Environment

Award Conditions

• Awardees are responsible for obtaining any required regulatory approvals from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), Institutional Review Board (IRB), Laboratory Safety Committee (LSC), Radiation Safety Committee, other regulatory body as required.
• An award is made for a one-year period as designated in the issued notice-of-award letter. Unexpended funds may not be used beyond the award period unless a no-costs extension (NCE) has been requested at least 30 days prior to the project end-date and the NCE is approved. If an NCE is approved, a revised notice-of-award letter will be issued, which will specify the additional project period and any further restrictions or requirements. Expenses incurred outside of the approved project period are the responsibility of the PI.
• Awarded funds are to be used in accordance with the budget submitted in the application. Awardees must obtain prior approval for any changes in the budget.
• The award will be administered through MCC.
• The pilot award funding index will not be released until the awardee provides an alternate index (2-ledger or 6-ledger index) to which over-expenditures on the funding index can be charged.
• A progress report is required 30 days after the end of the project period.
• Awardees agree to providing periodic updates (eg, resulting publications, extramural awards, patents) for up to 5 years following the completion of the project.
• Awardees agree to meet with the donor to discuss the research project.
• If requested by MCC leadership, the PI of the award is expected to assist in the review of future grant applications.
• It is expected that data generated from basic and clinical research projects supported by this award will lead to the submission of grant applications to national funding agencies or foundations.
• All publications and presentations that arise from work conducted under this award must acknowledge the support of the “Tina L. Bachas Oncology Nursing Research Award.”

Submission Instructions
The complete application as a single PDF file should be emailed to mccsubmission@vcu.edu with “Tina L. Bachas Oncology Nursing Research Award” in the subject line. All submissions will be acknowledged within 48 hours of receipt. If acknowledgment is not received within that time frame, please email BOTH Olivia Patterson at opatterson@vcu.edu and Lisa Mallory at malloryld@vcu.edu to confirm receipt of the application.

Application Questions
Please direct any questions to Olivia Patterson at opatterson@vcu.edu or 804-628-3400.