New American Cancer Society Research Grants

Summer 2025 Awards

Grants awarded and/or renewed during the summer of 2025 can be found below, organized by grant mechanism. All of the applications for the below awards were received as part of the Fall 2024 application cycle. Additional information about all of the current research grants funded by the American Cancer Society can be found using our Extramural Research Grants Database which can be accessed at cancer.org/research/currently-funded-cancer-research.html.

Clinician Scientist Development Grants (CSDGs) and ACS-ASTRO CSDGs

Note: All CSDGs awarded in this cycle were ASTRO-CSDG grants.

Grace Blitzer, M.D.
University of Wisconsin-Madison
ASTRO CSDG
"ASTRO: Pilot trial investigating the role of circulating tumor DNA as a risk stratification tool to guide of adjuvant therapy in endometrial cancer"

Lydia Wilson, Ph.D.
Thomas Jefferson University
ASTRO CSDG
"ASTRO: Novel Functional Imaging to Predict Surgical Side Effects for Lung Cancer Patients"

Additional information about the CSDG grant mechanism can be found here. Additional information about the ACS-ASTRO CSDG RFA can be found here.

Discovery Boost Grants (DBGs)

Beau Abar, Ph.D.
University of Rochester
"Advancing Cervical Cancer Screening Through Emergency Department-based Self-Sampling"

Christian Badr, Ph.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
"Adaptive translational reprogramming in glioblastoma"

Monika Davare, Ph.D.
Oregon Health & Science University
"Elucidating Molecular Mechanisms and Inhibitor Sensitivity of PDGFRA-Mutant Pediatric Glioma"

Mariella Filbin, M.D., Ph.D.
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
"Investigating the Neuronal Regulation of Radioresistance in Diffuse Midline Gliomas"

Benjamin Gewurz, M.D., Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
"A Novel Tonsil Organoid to Model Key Aspects of Epstein-Barr Virus Lymphomagenesis"

Elda Grabocka, Ph.D.

Thomas Jefferson University
"Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and the link to pancreatic cancer"

Edward Hinchcliffe, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
"Identifying mitotic Histone H3.3 phospho-Serine 31 readers in diffuse midline glioma cells"

Arthur Hong, M.D.
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
"Investigation Safety-Net Financial Account Data for Cancer Health Services Research"

Andrew Hsieh, M.D.
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center
"Delineating the functional topology of untranslated regions in cancer"

Tim Luetkens, M.D.
University of Maryland, Baltimore
"Targeting trogocytosis-mediated cancer immune escape following CAR T cell therapy"

Murugesan Palaniappan, Ph.D.
Baylor College of Medicine
"Developing Allosteric Small-Molecule Inhibitors of CDK6/Cyclin D to Overcome Resistance in Breast Cancer"

Xiaoyu Zhang, Ph.D.
Northwestern University – Evanston Campus
"A Universal Approach to Drive the Immune Recognition of Cancer Cells"

Weixing Zhao, Ph.D.
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
"Significance of the Novel HELZ-BRCA2 Complex in R-loop Resolution, DNA Repair, and Its Application for ER+ Breast Cancer Treatment"

Additional information about the Discovery Boost Grant mechanism can be found here.

ACS IMPACT – Prostate Cancer Clinical Trials Expansion Grants (PCEGs)

Brian Halbert, M.D.
Ochsner Clinic Foundation
"Development of a Remote Advanced Prostate Cancer Clinic for Louisiana's Underserved River Parishes"

Changchuan Jiang, M.D., M.P.H.
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
"Increasing Access to Clinical Trials for Prostate Cancer at UT Southwestern Regional Centers and Parkland Hospital"

Adam Murphy, M.D.
Northwestern University – Chicago Campus
"Expanding Community Clinical Trials Network with Trusted Tools in Prostate Cancer"

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M. Patrick Stagg, M.D.
Our Lady of the Lake Hospital
"Improving Mortality From Prostate Cancer Together Baton Rouge"

Additional information about the PCEG mechanism can be found here. This RFA was part of the larger, ongoing ACS IMPACT initiative.

Leukemia Exploration and Prevention (LEAP) Awards

Note: The only LEAP award funded in this cycle was a Team award.

LEAP-Team Award: Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research
"Intrinsic and extrinsic mechanisms driving clonal fitness and leukemic transformation in familial platelet disorder"
Principal Investigator: Wenbin Xiao, M.D.

The LEAP award mechanism is a partnership between ACS and the RUNX1 Research Program to enable the discovery of cancer interception or prevention therapies for RUNX1 familial platelet disorder (RUNX1-FPD). Additional information about the LEAP mechanism can be found here.

Mission Boost Grants (MBGs)

Note: There were three MBG Stage I and one MBG Stage II grants awarded during this cycle.

Qing Li, M.D, Ph.D.
University of Michigan
Mission Boost Stage I Grant
"Identification of endoplasmic reticulum associated degradation inhibitors for treatment of multiple myeloma"

Zejuan Li, M.D., Ph.D.
The Methodist Hospital Research Institute
Mission Boost Stage I Grant
"A blood epigenetic marker for immunotherapy in non-small-cell lung cancer"

Jun Yan, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Louisville
Mission Boost Stage II Grant
"Combining irreversible electroporation with trained immunity to enhance anti-PD-1 therapy in patients with locally advanced pancreatic cancer"

Yana Zavros, Ph.D.
University of Georgia
Mission Boost Stage I Grant
"Reprogramming the Tumor Microenvironment to Increase the Efficacy of Therapy in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma"

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Additional information about the Mission Boost Grant mechanism can be found here.

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Gabriela Arias Alpizar, Ph.D.
Boston Children's Hospital
"Exploring the hematopoietic niche to control hematopoietic stem cell egress using nanotechnology"

Dominik Awad, Ph.D.
University of Michigan
"Targeting Mycobiome Metabolism To Reprogram The Pancreatic Tumor Microenvironment"

Jahaun Azadmanesh, Ph.D.
California Institute of Technology
"Starving Persistent Pancreatic Cancers by Inhibiting Nutrient Transport"

Swathy Babu, Ph.D.
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
"Investigating the Oncogenic Function of Aberrant RNAs in Melanoma"

John Bachman, Ph.D.
The Jackson Laboratory
"Elucidating novel biomarkers and therapeutics for immune checkpoint inhibitor-associated myocarditis and myositis"

Magdalena Bachmann, Ph.D.
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
"Lipid-dependent regulation of oncogenic signaling in aggressive lymphomas"

Shruti Banerjee, Ph.D.
Columbia University
"Investigating the role of Arid1a gene dosage on metastatic progression and epigenetic reprograming in lung adenocarcinoma"

Samuel Bloom, Ph.D.
Salk Institute for Biological Studies
"Investigating novel intra- and extra-cellular regulators of telomere-mediated proliferative boundaries"

Yasemin Ceyhan Ozdemir, Ph.D.
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center
"Role of neutrophils in NRF2-mediated tumor growth and metastasis"

Wannasiri Chiraphapphaiboon, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
"Targeting tousled-like kinase 2 in spliceosome mutant myelodysplastic syndromes"

Eunhan Cho, Ph.D.
Louisiana State University A&M College

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"IMPACT: The use of Moderate-Intensity Aerobic Exercise to improve Immune Cellular and Soluble Factors in Colorectal Cancer Survivors"

Jackson Fatherree, Ph.D.
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center
"Exploring the role of REST in promoting anti-tumor immunity and chemoresistance in SCLC"

Yu-Wen Huang, Ph.D.
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
"Modeling and Advancing Therapies for Mutant p53-Driven Hepatocellular Carcinoma"

Mohamed Ishan, Ph.D.
Emory University
"Studying the Dynamics of Chromosomal Instability in Glioma within the Neural Microenvironment"

Esin Isik, Ph.D.
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
"Investigating the intersection of LINE-1 retrotransposition and DNA replication"

Luke Izzo, Ph.D.
Duke University School of Medicine
"KLF4 drives resistance to chemotherapy through a hillock-like state in lung squamous cell carcinoma"

Tashbib Khan, Ph.D.
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
"Targeting Glycogen Metabolism in PI3K/AKT pathway-driven cancers"

Miles Linde, Ph.D.
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center
"Mapping Immune Dependencies of Disseminated Tumor Cells within the Bone Marrow"

Khosbayar Lkhagvadorj, Ph.D.
University of Colorado Denver, AMC and DC
"The Role of Amphiregulin Signaling in Epithelial Progenitor Cell Function During Lung Adenocarcinoma Premalignancy"

Allison Maker, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
"Deciphering the structural basis of HER receptor signaling across the cell membrane"

Criseyda Martinez, Ph.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
"Targeting PTK6 in TNBC: Mechanistic Insights and Efficacy of a Novel PROTAC Degrader"

Christina Martins, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
"Targeting PD-1 glycosylation to enhance multilineage immune checkpoint blockade"

Matteo Mazzocca, Ph.D.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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"Dynamics of enhancer-oncogene interactions and oncogenic fusion transcription factors in Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma"

Spencer Miller, Ph.D.
Medical University of South Carolina
"Elucidating the Role of Xanthine Oxidoreductase in Regulating Muscle Dysfunction in Cancer Cachexia"

Ritam Neupane, Ph.D.
University of Michigan
"Alternative pathway of initiating protein synthesis in oncogenic human papillomaviruses"

Chun-Hao Pan, Ph.D.
Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research
"Therapeutically targeting a high-plasticity cell state in lung adenocarcinoma"

Trinh Phan, Ph.D.
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
"Deciphering histone demethylation in mutant p53-driven cancer initiation"

Daniel Plaugher, Ph.D.
University of Kentucky
"Enhancing TIL efficacy in NSCLC through epigenetic reprogramming and computational modeling"

Arailym Sarsembayeva, Ph.D.
Sanford Burnam Prebys Medical Discovery Institute
"Targeted Helios degradation for overcoming T cell exhaustion and Treg-mediated immunosuppression in cancer"

Fangjia Tong, Ph.D.
Northwestern University – Chicago Campus
"Targeting PLXNB2 in the CTC clusters of metastatic breast cancer"

Morgan Walcheck, Ph.D.
Boston Children's Hospital
"Regulation of the NLRP3-inflammasome through the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AHR) influences hematopoietic stem cell development"

Huixia Wang, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
"Harnessing GTPase protein dynamics for precision cancer therapies"

Tianli Xiao, Ph.D.
Yale University
"CARD8 inflammasome control of normal and malignant human hematopoietic stem cells"

Le Xiong, Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
"Elucidating the mechanistic roles of extrachromosomal circular DNA in colorectal cancers"

Shawn Yu, M.D., Ph.D.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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"Trispecific T-cell engagers for simultaneous, multivalent targeting of intracellular cancer-testis antigens"

Additional information about the Postdoctoral Fellowship mechanism can be found here.

ACS Professorships

New ACS Professors:

Smita Bhatia, M.D.
University of Alabama at Birmingham
"Strategies to Improve the Quantity and Quality of Survival after Cancer Diagnosis"

Carol Greider, Ph.D.
University of California, Santa Cruz
"Telomere length regulation and cancer"

Electra Paskett, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.
The Ohio State University
"Electra Paskett Professor Award"

William Sellers, M.D.
Broad Institute
"William R. Sellers ACS Professorship Application"

Renewed ACS Professors:

Dawn Hershman, M.D.
Columbia University
"Improving the Delivery of Cancer Care"

Yibin Kang, Ph.D.
Princeton University
"Stromal niche as regulators of breast cancer metastasis"
Dr. Kang's ACS Professorship is generously supported in part by the Tucci Family – Fogarty Trust.

Mary-Claire King, Ph.D.
University of Washington
"ACS-Disney Fdn Professor for Breast Cancer Research"
*Dr. King is the ACS-Walt Disney Foundation Professor for Breast Cancer Research, with funding from the Walt Disney Foundation.

Davide Ruggero, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
"Mechanisms of translation control in cancer & its therapeutic implications"

Jennifer Temel, M.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
"Expanding the Delivery of High Quality Cancer Care"

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Additional information about ACS Professor Awards can be found here. The full directory of ACS Professors can be found here.

Research Scholar Grants (RSGs)

Sanjay Aneja, M.D.
Yale University
"Studying the Utility of Deep Learning Derived MRI Imaging Biomarkers for Localized Prostate Cancer"

Xiaoping Bao, Ph.D.
Purdue University
"In vivo neutrophil programming to remodel tumor microenvironment and treat prostate cancer"

Shruti Bhatt, Ph.D.
Emory University
"Identifying underlying mechanisms of drug-induced persistence in myeloid leukemia"

Adrienne Boire, M.D., Ph.D.
Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research
"Fibroblast-Directed Metabolic Reprogramming in Leptomeningeal Metastasis"

Danfeng Cai, Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
"Determining the roles of fusion oncoprotein condensates in tumorigenesis"

Jenna Canzoniero, Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
"Improving breast cancer early detection with ctDNA fragmentomics"

John Crickard, Ph.D.
Cornell University
"Connecting the dots: Defining the relationship between DNA damage signaling and DNA motor proteins"

Kathleen DelGiorno, Ph.D.
Vanderbilt University
"Modulating Eicosanoid Signaling for the Prevention and Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer"

Meredith Doherty, Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
"Advancing cancer health equity with unconditional cash: A case for implementation at scale"

Lilian Kabeche, Ph.D.
Yale University
"Redefining how ATR promotes faithful chromosome segregation in the context of cervical cancer"

Hyun Jin Kwun, Ph.D.
Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine
"Oncogenic mechanisms of MCPyV small tumor antigen in skin tumorigenesis"

Tracy Liu, Ph.D.

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West Virginia University
“Optimizing chemotherapy response in pancreatic cancer by targeting tumor-associated myeloid cells”

Peter Miller, M.D., Ph.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
“Distinct Degradation Pathways Drive Oncogenic Activation of PPM1D”

Kazushige Obata-Ninomiya, Ph.D.
Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason
“A novel tumor-associated Treg subset in the etiology and progression of colorectal cancer”

Aishwarya Prakash, Ph.D.
University of South Alabama
“Mutagenic Inhibition of DNA Repair by Cadmium”

Yuchen Qiu, Ph.D.
University of Oklahoma
“A Deep Learning Enhanced Fourier Ptychography Microscopic Scanner to Facilitate Adequacy Assessment in Rapid On-site Evaluation”

April Risinger, Ph.D.
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
“Identifying biomarkers for the targeted use of microtubule-based chemotherapeutics”

Chandrani Sarkar, Ph.D.
University of South Alabama
“Novel Approaches to Block Metastatic Progression in Colon Cancer”

Vipul Shukla, Ph.D.
Northwestern University – Chicago Campus
“Cracking alternative codes in cancer genomes”

Edward Stites, M.D.
Yale University
“Digitally Reducing Bias in Cancer Genomics”

Ryan Suk, Ph.D.
Emory University
“The Vaccines for Children Program and HPV Vaccination among Medicaid/CHIP Enrolled Children in Texas: Public Health Impact and Areas for Improvement”

Eneda Toska, Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
“Epigenetic mechanisms of therapy resistance and lineage plasticity in breast cancer”

Johannes Zakrzewski, M.D.
HMH Hospitals Corporation
“Immunotherapy and nanotechnology-enhanced molecular therapy of acute myeloid leukemia and multiple myeloma”

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Yi Zhang, Ph.D.
Case Western Reserve University
“Molecular Mechanisms and Functions of Oxygen-Sensing via tRNA-dependent Arginyltransferase 1 in Kidney Cancer”

Additional information about the Research Scholar Grant mechanism can be found here.