



**JOIN US TO CONQUER KIDS' CANCERS**

## **St. Baldrick's Foundation-American Cancer Society Childhood Cancer Research RFA**

### **Pilot Accelerator Award Application Policies**

**American Cancer Society, Inc.  
Extramural Discovery Science**

**Web site: <http://www.cancer.org>  
Program Contact: [kimberly.clarke@cancer.org](mailto:kimberly.clarke@cancer.org)**

**The American Cancer Society's mission is to save lives, celebrate lives, and lead the fight for a world without cancer.**

**The St. Baldrick's Foundation (SBF) mission is to support the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and give survivors long and healthy lives.**

**ST. BALDRICK'S FOUNDATION-AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY  
CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH RFA**

**PILOT ACCELERATOR AWARD POLICIES**

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## 1. OVERVIEW OF PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

The St. Baldrick's Foundation (SBF) and the American Cancer Society (ACS) have partnered to advance innovative translational pediatric cancer research conducted within the context of a clinical trial.

The **American Cancer Society** (ACS) is a global grassroots force of 2 million volunteers saving lives in every community. As the largest voluntary health organization, the ACS's efforts have contributed to a 25% decline in the cancer death rate in the United States since 1991, driven by less smoking, better treatments, and earlier detection. We're finding cures as the nation's largest private, not-for-profit investor in cancer research, ensuring people facing cancer have the help they need and continuing the fight for access to quality health care, lifesaving screenings, and more.

The **St. Baldrick's Foundation** (SBF) started with a friendly dare: would you shave your head to raise money for childhood cancer research? This bold act of baldness has gained major momentum, since its start in 2000. Today, we have more than 1,000 head-shaving events taking place around the world, and raise funds in other ways as well, all for the sole purpose of supporting childhood cancer research. Since the Foundation's first grants as an independent charity in 2005, we have invested more than \$279 million in childhood cancer research grants worldwide.

## 2. ACS RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The American Cancer Society has established six areas to prioritize the research we fund to help advance our mission. These include:

- **Etiology** – Supports research into the causes of cancer and the incidence, initiation, and biology of early onset cancers. To accelerate progress in understanding the causes of cancer, this priority area supports research to identify early, inherited, somatic, molecular, behavioral, environmental, and societal causes and risk factors impacting cancer incidence, progression, and mortality.
- **Obesity/Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL)** – Supports research on metabolism, inflammation, nutrition, and physical activity to better understand each factor's role in cancer risk, initiation, treatment, progression, and survivorship. Studies can span the research continuum (i.e., from molecular to population-based).
- **Screening and Diagnosis** – Supports research on cancer screening and early detection, diagnostics, and prognostics. We encourage studies focused on high mortality cancers and major cancer types lacking screening tests. Studies can span the research continuum (i.e., from molecular to population-based).
- **Treatment** – Supports research to develop new cancer treatments, targets, and systems to monitor and treat resistant disease, to enhance opportunities in immunotherapy and precision medicine, and to improve models and test interventions for prevention, tumor dormancy, recurrence, resistance, and metastasis. Studies could also seek to establish predictive preclinical models to streamline clinical testing of combination or multi-modal therapies by funding research on tumor microenvironment, heterogeneity, microbiome, and immune escape or improve timely access to treatment, increase participation rates of diverse populations in clinical trials, and advance our understanding of barriers to receipt of timely and high-quality treatment.
- **Survivorship** – Supports research to improve the survivorship journey and quality of life for survivors and their caregivers including emotional, financial, spiritual, and supportive services or care delivery and communication research and to address access barriers to

high quality cancer care and health equity across the cancer continuum (e.g., screening and early detection, diagnosis, treatment, or palliative care, and survivorship).

- **Health Equity across the Cancer Control Continuum** – The American Cancer Society believes that everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to prevent, find, treat, and survive cancer. Societal issues such as poverty, education, social injustices, unequal distribution of resources and power underpin profound inequities. These macro-environmental conditions where people are born, grow, live, work and age along with the available systems supporting health are known as the social determinants of health (SDOH). The SDOH are interrelated and extend across the life span to impact health. This area of research addresses the interplay between SDOH and access to high quality care and services across the cancer continuum and solutions to achieve optimal outcomes for all.

**Applicants are expected to explain how their proposed research integrates into at least one of the above research priorities, advances the mission of the ACS, and aligns with the intent of the SBF-ACS RFA.**

### **3. RESEARCH AWARDS TO BE FUNDED BY THIS PARTNERSHIP**

This Request for Applications (RFA) is intended to provide support for novel research  tied to clinical trials  in childhood cancer. Pilot Accelerator Awards are designed for exploratory research to develop research methodologies, establish feasibility or pilot test high risk/high reward research. It is expected that the preliminary data generated will have the potential for rapid clinical benefit and will open new and highly innovative areas for investigation.

### **4. APPLICATION DEADLINE**

Electronic applications must be submitted at the proposalCENTRAL website by end of day (11:59 PM EST) on Monday April 3, 2023. Access is available using links provided in the American Cancer Society web site [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) (see Instructions). No supplemental materials will be accepted after the deadline unless requested by staff for administrative purposes or when requested by the reviewers.

### **5. ELIGIBILITY**

#### **A. Eligible Investigators**

Investigators must be independent, have a doctorate degree (MD, PhD, DVM, or equivalent), and have a full-time faculty position or equivalent at a college, university, medical school, or other fiscally responsible, not-for-profit research organization within the United States. There are no citizenship restrictions.

#### **Independence**

The following descriptions of independence should be used as a guide when evaluating whether the applicant's position is independent. In general, independent faculty positions have many of these qualities.

Administrative independence is typically demonstrated by a full-time faculty appointment (normally equivalent to Assistant Professor); a tenure-track position (not required, but common); allocated office and/or laboratory space; a start-up package (for early-stage investigators); and institutional commitment defined and verified in a letter from a department chair or equivalent.

Evidence of scientific independence could include prior grant funding and senior-author publications. This award will be made only for project-related work that is wholly directed by the applicant.

Specific evidence of an applicant's independence may include:

- **Degree:** PhD, MD, or terminal degree in the field of specialty
- **Title/Appointment:** Assistant Professor (or higher); Research Assistant Professor; or comparable position (i.e., Assistant Member). Individuals with the rank of Instructor may apply if that rank confers principal investigator status at their institution.
- **Training Experience:** In most disciplines, applicants will have completed a period of postdoctoral or other research training.
- **Space:** Committed independent research facilities
- **Publications:** Corresponding or senior authorship for publications in the investigator's main area of research interest.
- **Institutional support:** Institutional commitment to support the applicant's salary and research program. At least partially through hard-money, or money for start-up (early-stage investigators) or equipment.

#### **B. Eligible Institutions and Institutional Responsibilities**

Applications may be submitted by not-for-profit research institutions located within the United States, its territories, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. A not-for-profit institution is one that can provide both:

- A current letter from the Internal Revenue Service conferring 501(c)(3) status
- Documentation of an active cancer research program

Unsolicited grant applications will not be accepted, nor will grants be made, to support of research conducted at

- For-profit institutions
- Federal government agencies, including the National Laboratories
- Organizations supported entirely by the federal government or organizations, such as Foundations operated by, and for the benefit of, Veteran Affairs Medical Centers, whose primary beneficiaries are federal government entities. However, applications may be submitted by qualified academic institutions on behalf of Veteran Affairs Medical Centers, if a Dean's Committee Memorandum of Affiliation is in effect between the 2 institutions.

The American Cancer Society does not assume responsibility for the conduct of the activities that the grant supports, or for the acts of the grant recipient, because both are under the direction and control of the grantee institution and subject to its medical and scientific policies.

Every grantee institution must safeguard the rights and welfare of individuals who participate as subjects in research activities by reviewing proposed activities through an institutional review board (IRB), as specified by the National Institutes of Health Office for Human Research Protections of the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Furthermore, applicants, applicant institutions, and grantee institutions must adhere to DHHS guidelines as well as ACS guidelines regarding conflicts of interest, recombinant DNA, scientific misconduct, and all other applicable ACS policies and procedures.

To signify agreement with all ACS policies and procedures, an application for a grant must bear the e-signature of the principal investigator. Spaces are provided for e-signatures for the departmental chair (or equivalent) and institutional official to accommodate institution-specific requirements for proposal submissions, but neither are required for submission to ACS. Note:

the PI must enable other users' access to the application on proposalCENTRAL to permit their e-signatures.

Once a grant is awarded, an institutional official signature's is required signifying institutional agreement with all ACS policies and procedures. The institution is responsible for verifying that all documentation related to the grant is correct, including all representations made by any named researcher (e.g., position or title). Further, the institution is responsible for verifying that the grantee is either a US citizen or permanent resident with a Resident Alien Card ("Green Card") where applicable. If the award does not require US citizenship or permanent residency, the institution is responsible for documenting the grantee's legal eligibility to work in the US for the duration of the award. For Postdoctoral Fellowships, if the terminal degree is granted after submission of the application, the institution must verify that the degree has been awarded prior to grant activation.

It is the responsibility of the institution to immediately report to ACS any finding that any information presented to ACS in connection with the application and/or grant is false. It is also the responsibility of the institution to immediately report to ACS any action including recertification, loss of certification, breach of contract, misconduct, or change in employment status for a named researcher with the institution. This includes administrative leave, which may occur during the term of any award pertinent to the work described in the grant application.

Failure to abide by the terms above, or by any other ACS policy or procedure, may result in suspension or cancellation of the grant, at the sole discretion of ACS.

**By accepting an award, the PI agrees to the Guidelines for Maintaining Research and Peer Review Integrity that can be found in the appendix of the ACS All Grant Policies.**

## **6. GRANT TERMS**

### **A. Budget and Award Period**

The award is up to \$100,000 per year for up to two years plus 20% indirect cost. The maximum allowable budget is \$240,000 for a two-year project period. The grant term starts January 1, 2024.

### **B. Grant Management and Payments**

New grantees will receive a packet of information with instructions for activating the award. The activation form as well as other important information about the grant can also be found at <https://proposalcentral.com/> (select the Award tab to see the Post Award Management site).

Grant payments will be made at the end of each month. The ACS makes all payments to the sponsoring institution via electronic funds transfer or via a mailed check depending on the preference selected on the grant activation form.

Acknowledgement of payment by the sponsoring institution is not required. Continued funding by ACS throughout the grant period is contingent upon the institution's compliance with all terms related to the grant; failure to comply with all the grant terms may result in a suspension or cancellation of the grant, to be determined by ACS at its sole discretion.

Personnel compensated in whole or in part with funds from the ACS are not employees of the Society. Consequently, institutions are responsible for issuing appropriate IRS tax filings for all individuals receiving compensation from ACS grants, and for withholding and paying all required federal, state, and local payroll taxes for such compensation. Any tax consequences

are the responsibility of the individual recipient and the sponsoring institution. We advise all grant and award recipients to consult a tax advisor regarding the status of their awards.

### **C. Annual and Final Progress Reports**

Annual and final reports represent a critical part of responsible stewardship of the donated dollars. We greatly appreciate your efforts to assist us in fulfilling this important commitment to our donors. To access the necessary forms for annual and final progress reports, please go to <https://proposalcentral.altum.com>.

1. Both non-technical and scientific progress reports are to be submitted each year within 60 days after the first and subsequent anniversaries of the start date of the grant.
2. Final reports are due within 60 days after the grant has terminated. The final report should cover the entire grant period. In the event a grant has been extended without additional funds, the final report is not due until the official termination date of the grant. If the grant is terminated early, a final report must still be completed within 60 days of the termination date.
3. Reports are to be submitted in a timely manner. If this is not possible, a written request to extend the reporting deadline must be made. Otherwise, noncompliance may result in the withholding of payment on all grants in effect at the recipient institution until reports are received.
4. Please note that up-to-date annual reports are required when requesting any grant modifications including transfers or no-cost extensions.

### **D. Financial Records and Reports**

A report of expenditures must be submitted within 90 days of the grant's expiration date shown in the award letter; annual financial reports are not required. Any change in terms, such as a no-cost extension, will alter a report's due date. The necessary forms can be found under the "Deliverables" tab at <https://proposalcentral.com/>.

Signatures of the PI and the institution's financial officer are required. Any unexpended funds must be returned to the Society.

Grantees must submit financial reports in a timely manner. If this is not possible, a grantee must make a written request to extend the reporting deadline. Noncompliance may result in the withholding of payment on all grants in effect at the recipient institution until reports are received.

Institutions must maintain separate accounts for each grant, with substantiating invoices available for audit by representatives of the ACS. The Society is not responsible for expenditures made prior to the start date of the grant, costs incurred after termination or cancellation of the grant, commitments against a grant not paid within 60 days following the expiration date, or any expenditures that exceed the total amount of the award.

See also the "Cancellations" section below.

### **E. Expenditures**

SBF ACS research grants are not designed to cover the total cost of the research proposed nor the investigator's entire compensation. The grantee's institution is expected to provide the required physical facilities and administrative services normally available at an institution.

The Society is flexible in response to the changing needs of a research program. The principal investigator may make minor alterations (changes <\$15,000/year) within the approved budget except where such expenditures conflict with the policies of the Society.

Major changes in expenditures (>\$15,000 per year) require written approval from your Scientific Director. However, for permanent equipment, the annual threshold requiring written approval is >\$5,000. Contact your Scientific Director for guidance.

The calculation of allowable indirect costs includes all budget items except permanent equipment. The SBF ACS's research grants **do not** provide funds (direct budget) for such items as:

- Secretarial/administrative salaries
- Student tuition and student fees, including graduate and undergraduate
- Foreign travel (special consideration may be given for attendance at scientific meetings held in Canada)
- Books and periodicals
- Membership dues
- Office or laboratory furniture
- Office equipment or supplies
- Rental of office or laboratory space
- Recruiting or relocation expenses

#### **F. Ownership of Equipment**

Equipment purchased under SBF ACS research grants or extensions thereof is for the use of the principal investigator and collaborators. Title of such equipment shall be vested in the institution at which the principal investigator is conducting the research. In the event the ACS authorizes the transfer of a grant to another institution, equipment necessary for continuation of the research project purchased with the grant funds may be transferred to the new institution. Title to such equipment shall be vested in the new institution.

#### **G. Publications and Other Research Communication**

Publications resulting from research or training activities supported by this award must contain the following acknowledgment: *"Supported by (insert name of grant and number) from the St. Baldrick's Foundation and the American Cancer Society."*

If there are multiple sources of support, the acknowledgment should read *"Supported in part by (insert name of grant and number) from the St. Baldrick's Foundation and the American Cancer Society,"* along with references to other funding sources.

The funders' support should also be acknowledged by the grantee and by the institution in all public communication of work resulting from this grant, including scientific abstracts (where permitted), posters at scientific meetings, internet-based communications, and press releases or other media communications.

Investigators should **notify their ACS Scientific Director when manuscripts have been accepted for publication**. This will allow ample time to consider and coordinate any additional public or ACS-wide notifications.

SBF and ACS grant a limited, revocable, non-transferable license to use the SBF and ACS logos (as shown at the end of this document) about the funded work. We encourage grantees and institutions to use the SBF and ACS logos on any scientific poster, PowerPoint



presentation, or any other visual presentation about the funded work where the SBF and ACS are noted as a funding source. In turn, the grantee and institution agree to provide when requested by the SBF and ACS any materials featuring their logos. Permission to use the logo is limited to the uses outlined above.



## H. Notification of Changes

**Change of Research Project or Team:** Applicants and grantees are not allowed to change the research project or team without prior approval from ACS. The PI must notify the ACS Scientific Director immediately if there are any changes in team members or other research personnel. Please note that a request to change the research proposal or team may not be accepted and may result in termination of the grant.

**Change in Timeline:** The PI must also tell the ACS Scientific Director about any major barriers that impact the study timeline.

**Change of Institutions:** To transfer, or change, institutions during a grant period, the PI should contact their ACS Scientific Director to initiate the process.

**Please Note:** Annual reports are required prior to approval of any grant modifications, including transfers and no-cost extensions. The ACS reserves the right to deny requests for project or team changes, extensions, transfers, or leave of absence.

## I. Grant Cancellations

If a grant is to be canceled prior to the original termination date, contact your Scientific Director, and submit the Request for Cancellation form found in the “Deliverables” section at <https://proposalcentral.com>. The ACS may cancel a grant at its sole discretion if the institution fails to comply with the terms and obligations related to the grant.

In the event a grant is canceled, the institution is only entitled to the prorated amount of the award accumulated between the start and termination dates. If a Postdoctoral Fellowship is cancelled prior to its end date, payments of the fellowship allowance will be prorated on a monthly basis. The Society assumes no responsibility for expenditures in excess of the prorated amount.

If an award is canceled after the initiation of the grant period, a final report will be due within 60 days of the termination date describing the work completed up to that point.

## J. Organizational Assurances

The PI and his or her institution must ensure that organizational assurances/certifications from all team member institutions are obtained. The assurances/certifications are made and verified by the signature of the institutional official signing the application.

These may include:

- **IRB and/or IACUC Approvals.** If applicable, these are required before grant activation.
- **Human Subjects or Vertebrate Animals.** All activities involving either human or vertebrate animals as subjects must be approved by an appropriate institutional committee before the grant will be funded.
- **HHS Compliance.** Compliance with current US Department of Health and Human Services research subjects' protection regulations.
- **ACS Guidelines.** These include conflict of interest, recombinant DNA, and scientific misconduct and are required.

**Note: Funds may not be used for human embryonic stem cell research.**

The PI's institution is responsible for the accuracy, validity, and conformity with the most current institutional guidelines for all administrative, fiscal, and scientific information in the application.

The institutional official signing the application further certifies that the Institution will be accountable both for the appropriate use of any funds awarded and for the performance of the grant-supported project or activities resulting from this application. The Lead Institution may be liable for the reimbursement of funds associated with any inappropriate or fraudulent conduct of the project activity.

For funded grants, it is the responsibility of the Institution to immediately report to ACS any action including recertification or loss of IRB approval that occurs during the term of the award that is related to the work described in the grant application.

#### **K. Renewals and Extensions of Awarded Grants**

- These grants are not renewable.
- The termination date of any grant may be extended for up to 6 months without additional funds upon written request to the associated ACS Scientific Director from the Principal Investigator. The Scientific Director must receive this request 30 days before the expiration date of the grant.

See General [ACS All Grant Policies](#) for Details Regarding:

- Collaborations with ACS Intramural Scientists
- Peer Review of Applications
- Notification of Application receipt and Review
- Grant Modifications
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Maintaining Integrity of Peer Review
- Research Misconduct, Confidentiality, and Conflicts of Interest
- Research Project Coding
- Tobacco Industry Funding Policy