

Part 1. Overview Information

Funding Opportunity Title Early Career Advancement Award

Funding Opportunity # SCCC-ECAA-2024

Funding Opportunity Description The purpose of this funding opportunity is to enhance the diversity of the cancer research workforce at Sylvester by supporting eligible early career investigators from underrepresented populations in the biomedical, behavioral, clinical, and social sciences. The Early Career Advancement Award provides seed funds to junior investigators who have no current peer reviewed funding, with the goals of attracting them into cancer research and serving as a catalyst for the submission of national research grants. Research applications should focus on important clinical issues, population-based studies, basic cancer biology or translational cancer research.

Application Due Date May 1, 2023

Review Period May-June, 2023

Earliest Start Date July 1, 2023

Posted Date February 9, 2023

Part 2. Full Text of Announcement

Application Types Allowed New Applications

Anticipated # of Awards Up to 4

Award Budget Up to \$50,000 each

Budgetary Restrictions Direct costs only. Funds cannot be used for PI salary or capital equipment purchases.

Award Period 1-year with possible 1-year extension based on merit.

Eligible Applicants The principal investigator must be junior faculty (within six years of initial faculty appointment). The principal investigator need not be a cancer center member affiliated with a research program. Senior faculty & postdoctoral fellows are not eligible to apply. Underrepresented populations in the US Biomedical, Clinical, Behavioral and Social Sciences Research. Individuals with disabilities, underrepresented minorities and disadvantaged backgrounds are encourage apply.

Part 3. Application Requirements

It is critical that applicants follow the instructions in this section. Conformance to all requirements is required and strictly enforced. Applications that are out of compliance with these instructions may be delayed or not accepted for review.

Application Contents Application shall consist of:

1. **Application form:** Complete all required and applicable fields in the application.
2. **Biosketch:** All senior/key personnel and other significant contributors (OSC) must include biographical sketches (biosketches). The biosketch may not exceed five pages per person. This five-page limit includes the table at the top of the first page. Attach this information as a PDF file. Use the current NIH sample format to prepare this attachment, see the <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>.

3. **Other Support Form:** Use the NIH Other Support Format Page. Include any funding that has expired in the last 12 months. Other support includes all resources made available to a researcher in support of and/or related to all their research endeavors, regardless of whether they have monetary value and regardless of whether they are based at the institution the researcher identifies for the current grant.
4. **Budget:** Include salary for lab and/or research personnel (including fringe), materials and supplies, other and travel costs necessary. Contact the Sylvester Pre-Award team for assistance.
5. **Budget Justification:** Each item listed on budget must be clearly justified in the budget justification.
6. **Faculty Statement:** Limited to 250 words, applicant description of advocating for diversity, equity & inclusion at UM/SCCC.
7. **Scientific Abstract:** Limited to 30 lines of text
8. **Specific Aims.** One page maximum. Please attach specific aims addressing the objectives for this project.
9. **Research Strategy:** Three pages maximum. The Research Strategy should include a description of the rationale for your research and your planned experiments.
10. **Bibliography & References Cited:** No page limit.
11. **Catchment Area Statement:** Limited to 250 words. Description of application impact on the SCCC catchment area.

Formatting

Use paper size no larger than standard letter paper size (8 ½" x 11") and provide at least one-half inch margins (½") - top, bottom, left, and right - for all pages. No applicant-supplied information can appear in the margins. Adherence to font size, type density, line spacing and text color requirements is necessary to ensure readability and fairness. Although font requirements apply to the entire application, they are most important and most heavily scrutinized in components with line/page limits. Text in your application must follow these minimum requirements:

- Font used must be Arial 11-point or larger. Smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams, and charts is acceptable, if it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%.
- Type density: Must be no more than fifteen characters per linear inch (including characters and spaces).
- Line spacing: Must be no more than six lines per vertical inch.

Catchment Area Relevance

Applicants should articulate how their proposed work relates to Sylvester's Catchment Area (South Florida: Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties), particularly major factors that characterize or influence the area's cancer burden. This can include an emphasis on:

- Locally prevalent cancers (e.g., Breast, Prostate, Lung, Colorectal)
- Cancers of unusual incidence or mortality (Cervical Cancer)
- Cancer risk factors and/or unique socio-environmental exposures (e.g., HIV, HPV, HTLV-1, HBC/HCV)
- Disparities in cancer risk factors, incidence, mortality, access to care, and insurance coverage (e.g., Cervical cancer among Black Women; Gastric Cancer among Hispanics)
- Socio-demographic groups (e.g., racial/ethnic minorities, older adults, sexual and gender minorities)

SCCC's SCAN360 (<https://www.scan360.com/>) is available as a resource to examine how different cancers are distributed across South Florida in relation to key behavioral, environmental, and social determinants, as well as identify variability in disease outcomes (incidence, stage of disease at diagnosis, morbidity, and mortality) between racial/ethnic groups. Applicants are encouraged, though not required, to engage Sylvester's Community Outreach and Engagement team or the Center's Community Advisory Committee, with help framing the proposed science as catchment relevant and/or identifying community partners, if needed, to inform study design and delivery. The Center's Community Advisory Committee can be

engaged, if so desired prior to submission to elicit community perspective on the proposed science and its relevance to the local cancer burden, prior to submission. This is not required and will not affect fundability in any way.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion SCCC remains committed to equity, cultural humility, anti-racism, and anti-discrimination. Applications may address how the research can enhance medically underserved communities. Research where minority populations are well represented, both as study groups and clinical team members, are highly encouraged. Investigators should access (<https://med.miami.edu/offices/diversity>) to expand their understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion at SCCC and the Miller School of Medicine. Those interested may access additional resources offered by the University of Miami at (<https://www.hr.miami.edu/working-at-the-u/diversity-and-inclusion/employee-resource-groups/index.html>).

Shared Resources Applicants are encouraged to utilize one or more Sylvester shared resources, information available at (<https://umiamihealth.org/en/sylvester-comprehensive-cancer-center/research/research-resources/shared-resources>).

Part 4. Review Process

Administrative Review: All applications will be reviewed for non-scientific considerations such as completeness and adherence to application requirements.

Scientific Review: Complete applications will be evaluated for (1) scientific and technical merit through the SCCC IFP peer review process. Review will include consideration of (1) scientific merit of the proposed project including originality, innovation, impact, experimental design and statistical analysis, (2) availability of resources to complete the research; (3) potential to attract external peer-reviewed funding, (4) potential to lead a multi-disciplinary and/or collaborative science, (5) catchment area relevance and use of SCCC Shared Resources. Funds will not be released without necessary research compliance approvals.

Part 5. Reporting Requirements

To track the success of each project, awardees will be required to report on their progress 6-months after funding, continuing every 6-months for a period of not less than 3-years following the award end date. Principal investigators are required to detail their progress towards submitting applications for extramural funding to support the continuation of the research. Submissions should be completed using the IFP Progress Report form, which may require information on:

1. A detailed summary of research performed during the reporting period.
2. A list of proposals, both pending and awarded.
3. A list of publications, both submitted and accepted, and presentations (posters and talks).
4. A list of inventions and patents obtained or applied for during the reporting period.

At the discretion of SCCC senior leadership, a final presentation may be required.

Part 6. Application Submission & Contact

Applications must be submitted via InfoReady at: <https://miami.infoready4.com/#sccc>. For questions regarding this funding opportunity or the Sylvester Intramural Funding Program (IFP) contact us as SylvesterIFP@med.miami.edu.