



## LCFA/IASLC FOUNDATION LORI MONROE SCHOLARSHIP IN TRANSLATIONAL LUNG CANCER RESEARCH

### 2018 REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA)

#### FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

**Lung Cancer Foundation of America (LCFA)** and the **International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer Foundation (IASLCF)** seek applications for the Lori Monroe Scholarship in Lung Cancer Research Awards.

Applications addressing the following research areas will be given priority:

- 1) Facilitating the collaboration, information-sharing and interaction between basic researchers and clinical investigators with the goal of expediting and translating results of scientific investigation into clinical practice to reduce the burden of lung cancer; or
- 2) Exploring innovative models of lung cancer care delivery; or
- 3) Exploring the etiologies of lung cancer in the never smoker population.

#### OBJECTIVES

The objective of this award is to support research that improves the care of individuals with lung cancers and to reduce the burden of these diseases.

Examples include studies: (1) designed to define the molecular bases of lung cancer risk assessment; (2) to improve molecular diagnostic studies designed to detect the lung cancer early and guide curative-intent therapy; (3) predictive features guiding the use of targeted or immune oncology therapy to reduce recurrence after standard curative-intent strategies in early stage disease; (4) or to improve the outcomes or cure patients with metastatic lung cancer. Studies designed to facilitate care by minimizing treatment side effects or illuminating the causes of nonsmoking related lung cancer are encouraged, as well.

#### BACKGROUND

**LCFA's** mission is the dramatic improvement in survivorship of lung cancer patients through the funding of transformative science, with the ultimate goal of curing lung cancer.

To accomplish this, LCFA works to raise *funds for lung cancer research as well as the national profile of lung cancer* in order to substantially increase the support of innovative and groundbreaking research efforts.

**IASLC** has worked since 1974 to promote research in all aspects of lung cancer and thoracic malignancies, as well as to encourage worldwide cancer prevention efforts. IASLC supports research fellowships to promote the study of lung cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. It publishes the *Journal of Thoracic Oncology*, an important resource for medical specialists and scientists who focus on the detection, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer.

IASLC hosts the World Conference on Lung Cancer and partners with other international cancer organizations to host various annual workshops and conferences around the world.

Since 2014, the **IASLC Foundation** has worked to support the mission of the IASLC and fund lung cancer research fellowships, Young Investigator Awards and grants.

With the introduction of these new grants, LCFA and IASLC will have partnered to award more than **\$1.8 million** in innovative and groundbreaking lung cancer research grants.

## RESEARCH FOCUS AND OVERVIEW

Successful applications for this Request for Applications (RFA) announcement require a research approach that seeks to make an immediate and relevant impact on lung cancer patient care or interpret the results of a clinical trial from a molecular basis as appropriate to help inform decisions in future clinical trials.

- The award will be reviewed by IASLCF and LCFA in accordance with their agreed upon review process.
- The result of all funded research must be open and shared.
- The award will be a two-year grant upon successful reporting of first year progress.
- Successful grantee will be required to submit findings at an IASLC meeting.
- The award recipients must agree to travel to Los Angeles to be introduced to the LCFA Board of Directors and major donors, and are expected to present their search results at the end of the grant period at the IASLC World Conference. Expenses for this trip will be paid by LCFA and will be outside the grant award.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION

An attached PDF file (application) which must include:

- Planned Specific Aims (1 page).
- Rationale for the project (1 page) together with background, significance and innovation of proposal (1 page).
- Brief statement of the overall experimental approach (3 pages).
- Brief statement describing the clinical context in which the biomarker or research project will be used and the quantitative/performance that your biomarker should achieve to show clinical utility (1 page).
- NIH Biosketch of the Applicant(s) (separate attached PDF file)
- Budget, including personnel, supplies, publication costs, travel, clinical trial costs, animal costs.

## ELIGIBILITY

### Education and Experience

At the time of application, an applicant must hold a doctoral degree and full-time faculty appointment with an academic institution, including research institutions that are not formally associated with a university, and have completed a training fellowship. The award will target junior and midlevel investigators, defined as less than 7 years from first tenure-track appointment, at the assistant or associate professor level.

## AWARD INFORMATION

### **Award Structure and Allocation**

The maximum funding for the award will be in the amount of \$200,000. The award amount will be \$100,000 per year for up to two years. The second year of support is based on demonstrating satisfactory progress as determined by LCFA/IASLCF as well as the availability of funding from LCFA/IASLCF.

No more than 25% of the requested budget may be used for an awardee's salary and/or fringe benefits and no award budget may be used to fund the purchase of permanent equipment. No indirect costs are provided. Any unused award funds at the conclusion of the study period will be returned to the study sponsor.

### **FACTORS CONSIDERED IN EVALUATING APPLICATIONS**

Projects must be feasible, have strong scientific merit, innovative and relevant to the mission of LCFA and IASLC.

The application should be structured to provide the following:

- A clear rationale should be given for the experimental design and technical methodologies selected.
- The hypotheses must be strong and testable, and relate to potential clinical applications such as patient monitoring for preventive or therapeutic interventions, the development of new therapeutic strategies or testing of new biomarkers for the identification of patient subsets for specific prevention or treatment approaches.
- Preliminary data, including relevant animal models or analyses of patient specimens that support the hypotheses', however, the applicant need not to have personally generated these preliminary data.
- Adequate clinical resources. The laboratory assays must use specimens from patients receiving defined treatments in medium to large clinical trials such as from phase II or phase III clinical trials.
- A description of the methodological approach sufficient for an informed reviewer to judge feasibility.
- Applications must include a statistical section describing the study design and plans for analyses of data designed to test the hypotheses.
- The application must convey the level of commitment of the institution to the applicant and the proposed research activities. Applicants must be independent, self-directed researchers for whom their institution must provide independent space and independent resources.
- A NIH-style budget and justifications must also be included.

LCFA/IASLCF are not likely to fund studies undertaken entirely in murine models or cell line xenografts (must use patient bio specimens or PDX's from local patients).

### **PEER REVIEW RESULTS OF FULL APPLICATIONS**

Applications are due via the IASLCF's online portal:

<https://www.iaslc.org/fellowship/announcements> by close of business August 1, 2018 MDT.

Applicants will be informed of the peer review process by September 7, 2018 for grant funding to start in January 2019.

Applicants will receive a letter from LCFA/IASLCF with the final outcome and comments from the study section.

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The following are the Terms and Conditions that apply to the LCFA/IASLCF award:

### **Tobacco Funded Research**

LCFA/IASLCF will not provide research or other funding to investigators who have received funding from the tobacco industry or their agencies.

### **Authorized Award Holders**

LCFA/IASLCF grants research awards only to individuals and not institutions. No award may be held or transferred to another individual.

### **Change of Budget**

Requests for changes in budget require prior approval by LCFA/IASLCF. *All requests must be in writing.* When requesting a change in budget, the Awardee must indicate: the amount, from what budget-line and to what budget-line the monies are being transferred. In the case of supply or equipment budget, all items must be itemized.

### **Financial Report**

At the conclusion of the award period, LCFA/IASLCF require a complete financial disbursement report covering the entire award period. LCFA/IASLCF issues the disbursement report to the person receiving the award funds. The disbursement report must reflect the award expenditures as approved by LCFA/IASLCF. Any funds used for unauthorized expenditures or unexpended funds must be returned to LCFA/IASLCF, with the disbursement report, within 45 days after the award has terminated. A complete financial disbursement report must be received within 45 days after the close of the first year of the award before consideration will be given for renewal of the grant award for the second year.

### **Human Subject**

The LCFA/IASLCF award requires that studies funded by this grant involve samples from human subjects with whom the investigator has direct personal contact (the "handshake rule")

Whenever human subjects are a part of a LCFA/IASLCF research funded project, the following documents must be received by the time of award notification:

- A copy of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval and approved patient consent forms. LCFA/IASLCF encourages applicants to submit their projects to the appropriate human subjects Institutional Review Board at the time of application.
- Research involving human adult stem cells or use of human fetal tissue requires one copy of the appropriate institutional committee approval.
- IRB approval and approved patient consent forms to LCFA/IASLCF at the time of award notification. There are no exceptions.

**Institutional Commitment**

Applicants' institution must agree to not less than 50% of "protected time" for the applicant to dedicate to research.

**Intellectual Property**

The LCFA/IASLCF will have no intellectual property rights or other rights in or to data collected or scientific discoveries made through the Research Project funded by the fellowship/award. The LCFA/IASLCF encourages its recipients and their sponsoring institutions to report to the IASLCF any inventions, discoveries, or intellectual properties that result from the support of the research. Such findings are protected by United States and international copyright, trademark, patent, trade secret and other intellectual property or proprietary rights laws.

LCFA/IASLCF ask that you acknowledge our support in your publication and dissemination of your research findings.

**Indemnification**

LCFA/IASLCF will not assume responsibility for and the institution will indemnify and hold LCFA/IASLCF harmless from any lawsuit, claim, judgment, damages, awards, or malpractice arising from research or investigations related to an award.

**Progress Reports**

Annual progress reports may be requested and must be completed to assist LCFA/IASLCF in shaping future policies with respect to its award program. An annual progress report must be received within 45 days after the end of the first year of the award before consideration will be given for renewal of the grant award for the second year. A final report must be received within 90 days after the conclusion of the second year of the grant award.

**Publications**

All publications and/or presentations at scientific conferences, meetings, and media interviews based on research conducted from this award must include a citation as follows: "with grant support from LCFA and IASLC Foundation." Reprints of abstracts, manuscripts, or other articles that reflect research done after award acceptance must be submitted to LCFA/IASLCF.

**Renewals**

Renewal of the LCFA/IASLCF award is based on a demonstration of satisfactory progress and, availability of funding, and is at the discretion of LCFA and IASLCF. Awardees are required to complete a LCFA/IASLCF Renewal Application form for each year the award is subject to renewal.

**Travel Expenditures**

The maximum amount of funds expendable for travel is \$1,000 per year.

For more information or questions contact AnnMarie Estrada at [AnnMarie.Estrada@iaslc.org](mailto:AnnMarie.Estrada@iaslc.org).