

RFA: Funding for HNC SPORE Developmental Research Projects

The Colorado Head and Neck Cancer (HNC) SPORE will fund 1-3 applications for Developmental Research Projects in Head and Neck Cancer Research. One application from UCDavis will be selected for funding through the UCDCCC matching fund.

To be considered for Developmental Research Project (DRP) funding:

- DRP projects should be relevant to HNC research and contribute to the prevention, diagnosis, or therapeutics of HNC, defined as head and neck squamous cell cancer (of mucosal origin), thyroid cancer and salivary gland cancer.
- DRP projects have the potential to become a new or replacement Colorado HNC SPORE project, or to develop into independent R01 level or equivalent (Department of Defense, American Cancer Society, Veteran Affair Merit Award) applications, or
- DRP projects represent a major technology breakthrough or create novel models/tools, interventions for prevention, early detection and/or therapeutics, populational science/disparity research, which have the potential to develop into R level (R01) or equivalent (as defined above) applications. Examples of research topics include but not limited to microbial-based theranotics, impact of cancer metabolism in immunotherapy, preventive and treatment cancer vaccine, DNA damage-targeted therapy in combination with immunotherapy, etc. Projects with translational endpoint, i.e., relevant to human patients, are strongly encouraged.
- At least one DRP application will be prioritized for funding that focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion in HNC research including, but is not limited to strategies to enhance access to HNC care and clinical trials, disparities research, or a focus on representative laboratory models and basic research applicable to this area of clinical needs.
- Projects must be feasible within the study period and are expected to generate enough preliminary data to support an R01 level application. Applicants must identify an existing NIH mechanism to which the PI intends to apply.

Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to apply. Multi-PIs with translational team of basic science and clinical science are desirable.

The application will be a maximum of six pages excluding cover page, translation research statement, biosketches (NIH commons form suggested but not required), budget, bibliography and letters of support. It should be formatted following NIH specifications (11 pt. Arial font, 0.5 margins etc).

Applications will consist of:

1. Completed cover page (see attached);
2. Translational Research Statement (see SPORE RFA, <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-23-284.html> ;
3. Specific Aims;
4. Research plan including Background, Significance/Innovation, Preliminary Studies, Scientific Rigor, Experimental Design and Methods;
5. Bibliography;
6. Description of inter-/intra-institutional collaborations (highlighting new collaborations/researchers to head and neck cancer research);
7. Description of how the project will lead to future R01 funding and how it fits within or extends the work of the SPORE;
8. Budget justification for up to \$50,000 direct costs including personnel, supplies, and other expenses (excluding project leader salary, equipment, tuition, and travel);
9. Biographical sketch and other supporting documentation for the principal investigator(s) in NIH format.

Applications can be submitted at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/76a560fdbdc64022bbc85d850f4503dd>

The deadline is 07/15/2026 by 5 pm. Questions, please contact Pamela.Garl@cuanschutz.edu

PLEASE INCLUDE THIS PAGE AS THE COVER SHEET WITH YOUR APPLICATION

CO HNC SPORE CA261605
Developmental Research Program Application

APPLICANT:	POSITION/TITLE:
EMAIL:	eRA Commons ID:
ACADEMIC UNIT	DATE OF FACULTY APPOINTMENT:

Title of proposal:	
Faculty collaborators	
If applicable, all associated IRB / IACUC protocol numbers and most recent approval date. Please note who the PI of the protocol is.	
Additional relevant information	