

Ovarian Cancer Research Funding Opportunity FY 2026 Award Cycle

Background

The University of Colorado Cancer Center is pleased to announce an internal funding opportunity made possible by generous donations through our Advancement office to support innovative ovarian cancer research.

The purpose of this RFA is to stimulate impactful translational, clinical or basic science research projects that have the potential to advance understanding, treatment, or prevention of ovarian cancer.

Funding Opportunities

The University of Colorado Cancer Center seeks to support awards under any of the following funding opportunities. Project budgets exceeding the amounts outlined will be considered with ample justification. Applications will be evaluated using an NIH-style peer-review process. Applicants selected for funding consideration may be asked to present at upcoming Cancer Center events and awards are anticipated to start July 1, 2026.

1. Collaborative Pilot Grants: These grants are intended to stimulate collaborative research involving two or more co-PIs (one of whom must be a Cancer Center member¹) focused on ovarian cancer that has a high likelihood of leading to a multi-PI NIH or other national grant submission within 15-18 months of the award start. The award will be issued for a 24-month period, and the request may be up to \$100,000.

2. Team Science Awards: These grants are to support the development of ovarian cancer-focused team science grants such as large multi-PI R01 (>\$250K directs/yr), P, U or other multi-project team grants offered by a national-level sponsor. The proposal must involve three or more investigators (one of whom must be a Cancer Center member¹), each providing substantive contributions to the proposed research. Awards will be issued for a 24-month period, and the request may be up to \$100,000.

Please see the instructions starting on the following page for more information.

Application Process

Application: Proposal submissions are due by **5:00 pm MST, March 31, 2026**. No late proposals will be accepted. Please use the application submission form link below to apply:

[Ovarian Cancer Research Pilot Project Application Link](#)

Important Dates

02/06/2026	RFA release
03/31/2026	Proposal deadline – 5:00 pm (MT)
05/14/2026	Study Section Review Date
07/01/2026	Award start date

¹ Cancer Center membership is available to all faculty who have a demonstrated track record in cancer research. Application for membership is voluntary and is required to submit under this RFA. Applications are located at: <https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/colorado-cancer-center/research/membership-resources>

Proposal Requirements

Applications must include all sections outlined below. Non-conforming applications will not be reviewed. All narrative sections must maintain at least ½ inch margins; must be at least single-spaced; and must be in a font size not less than 11-point Arial.

Only one proposal per contact/lead PI will be accepted.

Title Page: Include the title of the project and the name and email address of the Principal Investigator(s) and other Key Personnel.

Summary: Include a summary of the project not to exceed one-half page or 30 lines of single-spaced type. It should consist of a brief description of the objectives, rationale, methods, and expected results.

Lay Audience Summary: In one page or less describe the objectives, the expected results, and the significance of your project **in non-scientific language. This summary may be used by the Office of Advancement and therefore should be informative and appropriate for a lay audience.**

Budget and Budget Justification: A detailed, categorical budget request and justification must be provided. No indirect costs will be funded. If support for personnel is requested, a thorough justification clearly describing their role and expected contribution(s) to the project should be included. Depending on the breadth and type of applications received, the review committee may elect to fund partial awards.

Collaborative Pilot Grants: Budgets in the range of \$75-100K are anticipated, though higher amounts with ample justification will be considered. Funds may not be used to support faculty salaries or purchase equipment. Distribution of the funds between the collaborating PIs should be commensurate with the scope of work to be performed by each PI's lab. In the budget justification, briefly but clearly describe the scope of work for each collaborator in addition to justifying the specific items included in the budget.

Team Science Grants: The budget is anticipated to be in the range of \$100K, though higher amounts with ample justification will be considered. Funds will be distributed incrementally based on progress on the project-defined milestones. The budget should be outlined relative to the project milestones; and the justification should clearly describe the specific costs (personnel effort, supplies, and other expenses) associated with each milestone. Co-PIs may receive up to 5% salary support; and funds may be used to support the effort needed by faculty-level biostatisticians, bioinformaticists, and other specialists contributing to the development of the team science proposal. However, effort supported should be aligned with milestones and should be discontinued as milestones are completed. Funds may not be used to purchase equipment.

Project Narrative: Provide a complete but concise description of the project including the following sections (adherence to stated page limits is required):

Collaborative Pilot Grants

- Specific Aims – **1 page maximum**
- Narrative – Significance, Innovation and Approach – **3 page maximum combined**
 - Significance
Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress that the proposed project addresses. Describe the scientific premise for the proposed project, including consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of your application. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in ovarian cancer. As appropriate, discuss how your proposal addresses issues and/or access for the medically underserved; and/or supports the training of the next generation of researchers.

- Innovation
Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions. Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- Approach
Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analysis to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Describe the experimental design and methods proposed and how they will achieve robust and unbiased results. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted. For trials that randomize groups or deliver interventions to groups, describe how your methods for analysis and sample size will yield statistically significant results. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims. Explain how relevant biological variables are factored into research designs and analyses for studies in vertebrate animals and humans.

Other information required to fully describe the proposed work may be included. **However, the Specific Aims and Project Narrative should be no more than a total of 4 typed pages, including figures, tables and other relevant data.** (Appendices will not be accepted).

- Timeline – on a separate page, using a GANTT chart or similar visual, outline the timeline for the major activities associated with your specific aims. Include your planned timeline, award type, and intended sponsor for submitting a collaborative national grant proposal.
- Multiple PI leadership plan – provide a multiple PI leadership plan as required for an NIH grant (limit 1 page).
- References – limit to two pages.

Team Science Awards

- Specific Aims – **1 page maximum**
- Narrative – Significance, Innovation and Approach – **3 page maximum combined**
 - Significance
Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress that the proposed project addresses. Describe the scientific premise for the proposed project, including consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of your application. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in ovarian cancer. As appropriate, discuss how your proposal addresses issues and/or access for the medically underserved; and/or supports the training of the next generation of researchers.
 - Innovation
Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions. Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
 - Approach
Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analysis to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Describe the experimental design and methods proposed and how they will achieve robust and unbiased results. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted. For trials that randomize groups or deliver interventions to groups, describe how your methods for analysis and sample size will yield statistically significant results. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for

success anticipated to achieve the aims. Explain how relevant biological variables are factored into research designs and analyses for studies in vertebrate animals and humans.

Other information required to fully describe the proposed work may be included. **However, the Specific Aims and Project Narrative should be no more than a total of 4 typed pages, including figures, tables and other relevant data.** (Appendices will not be accepted).

- Team Science Plan – **1 page** – describe the contribution of each co-PI to the project outlined.
- Analysis of Expertise, Resources and Environment – with respect to the intended national-level team science grant, discuss concisely the expertise, resources and environment that you will leverage. Discuss any weaknesses or gaps that you will need to address prior to pursuing a national grant submission. Be sure to consider whether the grant mechanism you intend to pursue requires an External Scientific Advisory Board. No page limits, but please be concise.
- Timeline – on a separate page, using a GANTT chart or similar visual, outline the timeline for the major activities associated with your specific aims. Refer to the budget instructions above and be sure the budget justification and timeline are aligned. Include your planned timeline, award type, and intended sponsor for submitting a national grant proposal.
- Multiple PI leadership plan – provide a multiple PI leadership plan as required for an NIH grant (limit 1 page) if your proposal involves co-PIs.
- References – limit to two pages.

Biographical Sketch: Include an NIH-style biographical sketch (new format please) for all key personnel listed on the title page.

Other Support: Provide a complete list of all current and pending research support for all key personnel. Be sure to include the funding Agency, project title, award amount (annual direct costs and total project direct costs), period of award and Principal Investigator. Overlap with the present application must be defined and justified. Unsigned NIH-style other support documents can be used.

Human Subjects, Vertebrate Animals, Radiation Safety, and Biosafety: As applicable to your proposed project, please have protocol numbers and most recent approval dates available at the time you submit your application.

Scientific Review

Applications are peer-reviewed using a typical NIH-style study section approach. Reviewers are comprised of cancer center members and other investigators with relevant scientific expertise. Each application is assigned 2 to 3 reviewers and will be judged by the following criteria:

- Scientific merit
- Qualifications, experience and productivity of the applicant
- Project feasibility given facilities, budget, and timeline
- Potential to lead to NCI or other national-level funding

Pre-Award Requirements

Institutional Approvals: Awardees must obtain research approval from appropriate institutional review bodies, such as COMIRB, IACUC, Biosafety, IBC, Children's Hospital Research Institute, CSU IRB or any other regulatory group relevant to their project. **FUNDS CANNOT BE RELEASED UNTIL ALL REQUIRED APPROVALS ARE OBTAINED.** It is the investigator's responsibility to provide all required approval memos to the UCCC Administrative Office to secure release of award funding. **Investigators who fail to obtain all regulatory approvals within three (3) months of the intended start date of the award will forfeit their award.**

Post-Award Requirements

Collaborative Pilot Grants and Team Science Awards are issued for 24 months based on the milestones. The official start of the award is dependent on the submission of any required regulatory approvals. Please note the limitation above regarding failure to obtain regulatory approvals within 3 months of the intended start date.

No Cost Extensions *may* be granted on a limited basis for extraordinary circumstances. If approved, only one NCE will be allowed.

Funds awarded through this mechanism are non-transferable. Should the Principal Investigator leave the institution before the award is fully spent, and no Co-PI is available to assume responsibility for the project, the remaining funds will institution and will revert to the administering office or program. Any transfer of project leadership to a Co-PI as a result of an institutional transfer, requires prior approval from the appropriate institutional, programmatic, administrative, and/or board authority.

Publications

All publications, abstracts, or similar communications resulting from an award must acknowledge this support by inclusion of the statement: *"Supported by pilot funding from the University of Colorado Cancer Center."*

Periodic Reports

A report summarizing the results of the studies, detailing your timeline for pursuing national-level funding, and listing any publications resulting from the work **will be due 2 months following the end date of your award.** Awardees will be provided with a link to submit their final reports on-line.

Collaborative Pilot Grants and Team Science Awards may be funded incrementally in which case periodic interim reports detailing progress on milestones will be required before additional funding will be released. The timeline for interim reports will be outlined in the award notice.

No cost extensions may be considered for extenuating circumstances **only**. Please contact Cancer Center Administration at CC_FundingOps@cuanschutz.edu if you have questions.

Updates on your success in achieving national funding, additional publications and other outcomes – i.e. patents, or other intellectual property - are required for up to four years following the completion of the project.