

Golfers Against Cancer (GAC) Funding Opportunity 2022 – 2023 Award Cycle

Background

The University of Colorado Cancer Center is interested in promoting the development of research projects by Cancer Center members that have a high likelihood of leading to NCI or other national peer-reviewed cancer research funding. The CU Cancer Center has the great fortune of working with groups willing to raise philanthropy to support this purpose. For fiscal year 2022-23, the Cancer Center anticipates having funds available to support two to three pilot projects of up to \$50,000 direct costs each. Funds for these projects will be provided by the Denver chapter of Golfers Against Cancer.

The Denver chapter of Golfers Against Cancer was formed in 2009 with the following mission:

- Help fund efforts to find a cure for cancer through local research at the University of Colorado Cancer Center in Aurora.
- Raise research money from individuals and corporations.
- Select projects through comprehensive proposals and on-site visits. The Denver GAC Grants Committee follows and reports on the progress of the research on a regular basis.
<http://www.denvergolfersagaincancer.org/projects.htm>

Funds raised by the Denver GAC at their [14th Annual Gala & Golf for Cancer Research](#) will be donated to support research at the University of Colorado Cancer Center. The Gala will be held **July 24th** at the Denver Marriott South at Park Meadows. The Golf Tournament, sponsored by AutoNation Subaru West, will be **July 25th** at The Ridge at Castle Pines. Please visit the [Denver Golfers Against Cancer](#) for more details about this and other events, including [The Hitmakers @ Herman's Hideaway](#) on May 12th.

Important Dates

04/26/2022	RFA release
05/24/2022	Mandatory <i>Intent to Apply</i> form submission deadline – 5:00 pm (MT)
06/30/2022	Proposal deadline – 5:00 pm (MT)
Sept	Review committee meeting
Sept	GAC Board meeting
10/01/2022	Award start date

Eligibility

Pilot projects will be competitively awarded to Cancer Center members¹ who submit innovative ideas that have a high likelihood of attaining NCI or other national funding. Collaborative efforts leading to multi-PI and/or multi-project grants are encouraged. Projects will be awarded for 1 year only.

Funds are not intended to support extensions on prior pilot project efforts or to extend funding already provided by the Cancer Center for the development of multi-project grant. Individuals who received Golfers, Saffer or Wings of Hope pilot grants awarded between 10/1/2019 and 1/1/2022 are not eligible for this round of Golfers pilot awards. Recipients are expected to submit competitive national grant proposals (R level) within 6 months

¹ Cancer Center membership is available to individuals holding research or tenure track faculty appointments at the instructor level or above, who have a demonstrated track record in cancer research and who meet all membership guidelines. 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>

following the completion of this scope of work. Failure to uphold this provision may limit future opportunities for pilot funding.

Review Criteria

Applications will be competitively reviewed and assigned an NIH-style overall priority score based on the scientific impact and significance; the qualifications, experience and productivity of the applicant(s); project feasibility given facilities, budget and timeline; and the likelihood of leading to successful NCI or other national-level funding.

Application Process

Intent to Apply: Individuals interested in applying for a GAC Pilot grant **must** complete an *Intent to Apply* form by **5:00 pm May 24, 2022**. Only those individuals who submit an *Intent to Apply* form will receive a link to submit a full proposal. The *Intent to Apply* form is located at:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/e7135b5f040240d7946b5e11b6a7529e>

Application: Individuals who submit an *Intent to Apply* form will receive a web link to submit a full proposal. Proposal submissions are due by **5:00 pm June 30, 2022**. No late proposals will be accepted.

Proposal Requirements

Proposals must include all sections outlined below. Non-conforming proposals 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.

Individuals interested in applying must hold research or tenure track faculty appointments at the instructor level or above and must be current or pending members of the CU Cancer Center. Pending members must meet all membership criteria. Membership applications and guidelines are found on-line at:

<https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/colorado-cancer-center/research/membership-resources> .

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. The summary should consist of a brief description of the objectives, rationale, methods, and expected results.

Lay Audience Summary: On a separate page, describe in one page or less, the objectives, the expected results, and the *significance* of your proposed research in non-scientific language. This summary may be used by the donors to determine final funding decisions and therefore should be informative and user-friendly.

Project Narrative: Provide a complete but concise description of the project using standard NIH sections:

- 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 one or more broad fields. As appropriate, discuss how your proposal addresses cancer issues that are relevant to the challenges faced by Coloradoans (see the [COE Fact Sheet](#) for catchment-relevant issues); issues addressing diversity, equity, inclusion, or access; 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, such as gender, 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).

References: References should be limited to two pages and are in addition to the Specific Aims and Narrative page limits.

Timeline: Using a GANTT chart or similar visual, outline the timeline for the major activities associated with your specific aims. Briefly describe the timeline providing sufficient information for reviewers to understand the milestones relevant to each of your Specific Aims and the timeframe in which you expect to meet each milestone.

Multiple PI leadership plan (if applicable; 1 page limit): Provide a multiple PI leadership plan if your proposal involves co-PIs. Describe the rationale for choosing a multi-PI approach; the governance and organizational structure of the leadership team; and the technical/scientific responsibilities of each PI as they relate to this pilot project.

Other Factors: Applicants may include a concise description of any other factors that should be considered in evaluation of the proposal, for example, specialized resources or equipment available to the study, collaborative arrangements (verified by letter of agreement), etc.

Budget: Provide a detailed, categorical budget for the project. The budget request can be up to \$50,000 direct costs for one year only. Faculty salary support is not allowed. Funds will not be provided to pay for standard of care clinical services or other expenses that are reimbursable through insurance. No indirect costs will be funded. We anticipate a start date of October 1st.

Budget Justification: Provide a detailed budget justification for all costs. Requests for travel funds or for items of capital equipment (i.e. equipment at or exceeding \$5,000 per item) will require detailed justification.

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; and are chaired by cancer center Associate Directors. 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

Award Process

Those applications selected for funding consideration will be expected to present a brief lay summary of the aims of the project and the potential impact to the Board for the Denver Chapter of the Golfers Against Cancer. Final funding decisions will be made following the Board meeting. The start date for the award is anticipated to be October 1st.

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 investigators 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

Awards are issued for 12 months only. The official start of the 12 months 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 only.

Progress reports will be due by **5:00 pm May 1st** regardless of the actual start date of your award.

Subsequent information on publications, the success of your national grant submission, subsequent grants, and any other research resource resulting from the pilot funding will be solicited for up to 3 years following the completion of your pilot grant.

Publications

All publications, abstracts, or similar communications resulting from an award must acknowledge this support by inclusion of the statement: *"Supported (in part) by pilot funding from the Denver Chapter of Golfers Against Cancer."*

Periodic Reports

An interim progress report will be due May 1, 2023. Instructions will be provided on where to submit your progress report.

A final 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 interim and final reports on-line.

Awards are for 12 months only. No cost extensions will be considered in 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. A request for these updates will be made each March/April following completion of your project.