



Lung Cancer Foundation of America-Bristol-Myers Squibb/International Association for the Study  
of Lung Cancer Foundation  
Young Investigator Research Awards in Translational Immuno-Oncology

**2019 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) together with financial support from **Bristol-Myers Squibb** (BMS) seek applications for the LCFA-BMS/IASLCF Young Investigator Research Awards (Awards) in Translational Immuno-oncology.

**OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the LCFA-BMS/IASLCF Young Investigator Research Awards is to support research in translational immuno-oncology undertaken by early career investigators that aim to improve the care and treatment of individuals with lung cancers. Examples though not exclusives, include studies (1) designed to determine predictive features guiding the selection of patients for different immuno-oncology therapies, (2) focused on the application of immuno-oncology therapies in combination with standard therapies, such as standard curative-intent strategies in early stage disease, and (3) looking at ways to improve the effectiveness of immuno-oncology or even cure patients with metastatic lung cancer. Likewise, studies designed to facilitate care by minimizing treatment side effects are encouraged.

**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 and respected resource for medical specialists and scientists who focus on the detection, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer. IASLC hosts the annual World Conference on Lung Cancer and partners with other international cancer organizations to host various annual workshops and conferences worldwide.

IASLCF is a global organization dedicated to breakthrough lung cancer research and the study of lung cancer. Founded in 2014, the IASLCF provides fellowships and grants to researchers all over the world. The objective is to advance the discovery of new ways to conquer lung cancer and other thoracic malignancies to help extend patient lifespans and give patients hope. Donations to the IASLCF support

the education of research fellows - who are the next generation of lung cancer physicians and scientists.

With the introduction of these new grants, LCFA and IASLCF will have partnered to award more than **\$3.2 million** in innovative and groundbreaking lung cancer research grants.

## RESEARCH FOCUS AND OVERVIEW

Successful application submitted in response to this RFA announcement require a research approach that seeks to make an immediate and relevant impact through immuno-oncology 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.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION

The applicant must upload completed application to the IASLC Foundation application portal.

Application 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 Bio sketch of the Applicant(s) (separate attached PDF file)  
[www.grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm](http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm)
- Budget, including personnel, supplies, publication costs, travel, clinical trial costs, animal costs.
- Three letters of reference (3 pages).

## ELIGIBILITY: Education and Experience

At the time of Application, the Applicant must hold a doctoral degree (MD, DO, PhD or equivalent) 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 or post-doctoral fellowship. The Award will target junior and mid-level investigators, defined as less than seven years from first appointment, at the assistant or associate professor level. Full professors (or equivalent) are not eligible. Exceptions to the seven-year criterion (but not academic rank) can be made for those who may have had interruptions in their career. To request an exemption, IASLCF should be contacted prior to submission of the application.

The candidate may not currently be or previously have been:

- Recipient of an LCFA award.
- *U.S. Only:* A Principal Investigator (PI) of a National Institutes of Health (NIH) peer reviewed research grant of at least \$125,000 in direct costs per year for a minimum of 3 years. (With the exception of mentored career development awards or awards where the PI is required to be mentored by another investigator).

- *U.S. Only:* A Principle Investigator or co-investigator on a NIH competing multi-component research or center grant or cooperative agreement within a P or U series grant (e.g., P01 Program Project Grant, U01 or U19 Research Program)
- *U.S. Only:* A Principal Investigator of a peer-reviewed research grant of at least \$125,000 in direct costs per year for a minimum of 3 years from any of the organizations listed in the Organizations with Peer Review Funding Systems at: <https://cancercenters.cancer.gov/PoliciesResources/PoliciesResources>

The following candidates are eligible:

- *U.S. Only:* Individuals who are currently supported by NIH Mentored Career Development (K) Awards.
- Recipients of ASCO Career Development Awards or mentored career development awards/grants from other organizations.

### **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 each of 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. 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 missions of LCFA and IASLCF.

The applications will be reviewed by IASLC and LCFA in accordance with their current agreed upon review process. 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.
- Budget and justifications must be included.
- Three professional references to provide recommendations and ensure the applicant is qualified to fulfill the duties of the proposed project.

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

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

Please use the online application portal to submit your application at: <https://www.iaslc.org/fellowship/announcements>. Applications are due by 12:00 a.m. April 15, 2019 MDT. Applicants will be informed of the peer review process by July 2019 for grant funding to start in January 2020.

Awardee's will be invited to the 2019 20th Annual IASLC WCLC in Barcelona, Spain. Award recipients will be recognized at an event TBD. The Award recipients will be required to submit findings at an IASLC meeting.

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The following are additional Terms and Conditions that apply to the LCFA-BMS/IASLCF Award:

### Tobacco Funded Research

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

### Authorized Award Holders

LCFA/IASLCF grants research awards to individuals only 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 requires 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 will be exceptions.

### Institutional Commitment

Applicants’ institution must agree to approximately 50% of full time professional effort for the applicant to dedicate to research. This is exclusive to the Fellow.

### Indemnification

LCFA/IASLCF will not assume responsibility for and the institution will indemnify and hold LCFA/IASLCF harmless from any lawsuits, claims, judgments, damages, costs, attorney’s fees, 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

The results of all funded research must be open and shared. 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 IASLCF.”** 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 the IASLCF staff at [foundation@iaslc.org](mailto:foundation@iaslc.org)*