

Emerging Leader Awards | Guidelines

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research funds groundbreaking research integrating discoveries in biology with innovative technology to deliver breakthroughs to patients.

The Mark Foundation Emerging Leader Awards provide grant support to early career investigators conducting high-impact, high-risk cancer research. This award is intended to support projects for which other sources of funding are not readily available or for a separate innovative endeavor that will enhance the Principal Investigator's current research portfolio.

ELIGIBILITY

- Principal Investigator must hold an MD, PhD, or equivalent
- Principal Investigator must be three to eight years from the start of their independent research appointment by December 31, 2018 (i.e., PI must have been appointed in 2015 or earlier, but no earlier than 2010).
- Institutional nomination is not required.
- More than one application per institution may be submitted.
- The Mark Foundation expects that candidates will have a demonstrated ability to obtain independent funding for their lab (e.g., one or two grants such as NIH/R01, NSF/CAREER, or equivalent multi-year awards).
- Applicants need not be U.S. citizens but must be employed by a U.S. non-profit academic institution. Citizens from countries other than the U.S. must have the appropriate visa or permanent resident status for such employment.
- Applicants must be available to travel to New York City for final-round in-person interviews on Friday, October 26, 2018.
- The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability or any other legally protected characteristics.

TERMS OF AWARD

- \$250,000 per year for three (3) years totaling \$750,000
- Indirect costs not to exceed 10% of total grant amount
- In Year 3, at The Mark Foundation's discretion, awardees may be invited to apply for up to two (2) years of additional funding depending on project progress. All such requests will be reviewed by The Mark Foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee.
- Award start date may be as early as December 15, 2018 but no later than March 15, 2019.

LETTER OF INTENT

- Letters of Intent are due Monday, June 4 no later than 5 PM Eastern Time and must be submitted through The Mark Foundation's online portal, Blackbaud Grantmaking[™]. No paper submissions will be accepted.
- Letter of Intent must include:
 - Principal Investigator Name, Institution, Project Title, Project Summary/Abstract (≤ 350 words)
 - Principal Investigator's NIH Biographical Sketch
 - Other Support: Briefly list all current grant funding secured for your lab and pending grant submissions (e.g., NIH/R01, NSF/CAREER Award, or equivalent multi-year awards)
 - Key Words: Submit three to five keywords that are most relevant to the project

APPLICATION

- Full applications will be accepted by invitation only after review and selection of a submitted Letter of Intent (LOI).

- Applications are due Wednesday, July 18 and must be submitted through The Mark Foundation's online portal, Blackbaud Grantmaking[™]. No paper submissions will be accepted.
- Project descriptions must cover the following topics, further detailed in the sample application, below:
 - What is the broad scientific question or challenge that will be addressed and why is this important?
 - If the planned research differs from your past or current work, explain your rationale for the new direction.
 - Discuss the reasons and the likelihood that your project will make novel contributions to cancer research.
 - Provide a description of the broad research questions to be addressed and the general experimental approaches to be taken as well as the rationale for these approaches.
- The application will require a descriptive budget justification, including a short paragraph on how the award will be used to extend the applicant's research in new directions. A detailed budget or specific spending plan will not be required.
- Award Finalists will be required to submit the following additional information:
 - Biohazard Statement
 - If the proposed research involves the use of human subjects, applicant must provide an explanation of IRB Approval & Human Subject Assurance Number
 - If the proposed research uses vertebrate animals, applicant must provide IACUC & Animal Welfare Assurance Number and documentation
- Award Finalists will be invited to an in-person Q&A session, conducted by The Mark Foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee.

SUBMISSION

- All Letters of Intent and Grant Applications must be submitted through The Mark Foundation's online portal, Blackbaud Grantmaking[™], no later than 5 PM Eastern Time on the respective due date. No paper submissions will be accepted.
- [Follow this link to create your online account](#) at Blackbaud Grantmaking[™].

RESTRICTIONS

- The Mark Foundation will not consider projects that focus on the following:
 - Psychosocial aspects of cancer
 - Social support programs for cancer patients
 - Projects not centered on evidence-based laboratory, data and medical science
 - Clinical trials focused solely on demonstrating the safety and/or efficacy of a therapeutic modality that do not address a critical scientific question. Funding of a clinical trial or an aspect of a clinical trial that aims to substantially advance the understanding of cancer biology or validate new hypotheses may be considered.

KEY DATES

- Process Open: Friday, April 13
- Letter of Intent Due: Monday, June 4
- Applications Due: Wednesday, July 18
- Finalists Notified: Week of September 24
- Finalists Interviewed: Friday, October 26
- Awardees Notified: Week of October 29

CONTACTS

- Questions? grants@themarkfoundation.org | 646-866-5950
- The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research online: [Web](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Emerging Leader Awards | Sample Application

All Letters of Intent and Grant Applications must be submitted through The Mark Foundation's online portal, Blackbaud Grantmaking[™], no later than 5 PM Eastern Time on the respective due date. No paper submissions will be accepted.

Principal Investigator (PI)

- Name (First, Last, Degree/s)
- Academic Appointment
- Department & Institute
- Address (City/State/Zip Code/Country)
- Phone Number
- E-Mail Address

Authorized Institutional Representative

- Name (First, Last, Degree/s)
- Department & Institute
- Address (City/State/Zip Code/Country)
- Phone Number
- E-Mail Address
- Institution's Federal Tax ID#

1. Project Title
2. Project Summary/Abstract (≤ 350 words)
3. Project Narrative (≤ 100 words)
4. Project Description (≤ 2500 words [approximately five pages]; maximum four figure uploads)
 - a. What is the broad scientific question or challenge in cancer research that will be addressed and why is this important? Describe in broad terms the research vision, strategies and potential outcomes over the next three years. Describe how your goals build on your existing program and past contributions or the current state-of-the-science. Please include only preliminary data that are critical for assessing the feasibility of the proposed research.
 - b. If the planned research differs from your past or current work, explain your rationale for the new direction, such as the development of new strategies or platforms and/or the posing of new hypotheses, and describe how your laboratory is well positioned to undertake this project successfully.
 - c. Discuss the reasons and the likelihood that your project will make novel and important contributions to cancer research as well as its potential to change paradigms for the prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment or long-term care of cancer patients.
 - d. Because the research strategy is expected to evolve over time, rather than a detailed experimental plan, please provide a description of the broad research questions to be addressed and the general experimental approaches to be taken as well as the rationale for these approaches.
5. Facilities & Other Resources
6. Literature Cited (maximum of 40 references in *Nature* format)
7. Budget Justification: Provide a short paragraph on how this award will be used to extend your research in new directions. Please do not provide a detailed budget or specific spending plan.
8. Principal Investigator's NIH Biographical Sketch
9. Other Support: Briefly list all current grant funding secured for your lab and pending grant submissions (e.g., NIH/R01, NSF/CAREER Award, or equivalent multi-year awards).
10. Keywords: Submit three to five keywords that are most relevant to this project.
11. (Optional) Letters of support from key collaborators
12. (Optional) Provide no more than one (1) paper, pre-print or submitted article which exemplifies the innovative nature of your current research program.