



2021 FELLOWSHIP GUIDELINES

The Prevent Cancer Foundation® is the *only* U.S.-based nonprofit organization solely dedicated to cancer prevention and early detection. Our mission is saving lives across all populations through cancer prevention and early detection. Our vision is to *Stop Cancer Before It Starts!*® The Foundation funds important research grants and fellowships at some of the most prestigious academic institutions and medical centers across the U.S. The goal of the Prevent Cancer Foundation's research program is to identify and fund innovative projects with the potential to make substantial contributions to cancer prevention or early detection. For more information, visit www.preventcancer.org.

Eligible proposals must be original and clearly describe pre-clinical, translational, clinical or population-based research projects in the field of cancer prevention or early detection:

- If successful, research projects reduce the frequency of epithelial neoplasms: e.g., brain, head and neck, lung, breast, prostate, uterus, cervix, ovary, esophagus, stomach, colon, pancreas, liver, skin (including melanoma), HPV-related cancers or hematologic malignancies.
- **Primary prevention:** reverse or inhibit the carcinogenic process through modifications to diet, tobacco use, physical activity or alcohol use or to environment including ultraviolet or occupational exposure.
 - Examples of methodology: behavioral, including the use of social media or texting, or pharmacologic (chemopreventive) or immunologic approaches.
- **Secondary prevention:** screening and early detection.
 - Examples of methodology: immunologic, molecular, genetic or imaging (including endoscopic) techniques. Approaches using innovative technologies, including social media, health trackers or artificial intelligence, to study topics such as how to overcome barriers to screening or to reduce disparities in screening.

Important Information for Applicants

- Proposals must fall within the scope of the Foundation's mission and funding priorities to be considered. The issue of relevance to cancer prevention or early detection must be convincingly addressed in the proposal.
- The goal of the Foundation's research program is to provide funding for *innovative projects* expected to lead to future funding from other peer-reviewed sources.
- All proposals must demonstrate substantial near-term potential for impact on cancer prevention or early detection. Pre-clinical research with clear applicability to cancer prevention/early detection is acceptable, provided a translational relationship is evident within 5 years.
- Applicants need not be United States citizens. However, research must be conducted primarily in the United States.

Fellowship applications must include information about the **training environment, course work and opportunities for mentorship and professional growth of the applicant**. This is an essential component of the review.

The following will not be considered:

- Basic science (in vitro) studies, even if meritorious, are outside the scope of this funding mechanism and will not be reviewed.
- Proposals from fellowship applicants or their mentors who have been funded by the **tobacco or vaping industries** will not be considered.
- Studies related to therapy for established or advanced cancer are not appropriate.
- An incomplete proposal, such as one lacking a biostatistical analysis, will not be considered. We accept resubmissions only from applicants whom we have expressly invited to resubmit.

An eligible proposal must demonstrate substantial potential for impact on prevention/early detection of cancer.

Policy on Tobacco-Industry Funding and Conflicts of Interest

Scientific investigators or health professionals who are currently funded by the tobacco industry (defined as industries related to tobacco, e-cigarettes or other nicotine products), for any project, or who have been funded by the tobacco industry during the previous four years, or whose named mentors in the case of mentored fellowships are funded by the tobacco industry for any project (currently or during the previous four years) may not apply and will not be eligible for the Prevent Cancer Foundation research grants or fellowships. This policy has been in effect since January 1, 2007.

Scientific investigators, health professionals, or named mentors who accept funding from the tobacco industry for any project during the tenure of a Prevent Cancer Foundation research award must inform the Foundation of such funding, whereupon the Foundation grant or fellowship will immediately be terminated. Tobacco industry funding includes the receipt of funds from a company that is engaged in or has affiliates engaged in the manufacture of tobacco produced for human use; funds in the name of a tobacco brand, whether or not the brand name is used solely for tobacco products; funds from a body set up by the tobacco industry (e.g., a corporate foundation) or by one or more companies engaged in the manufacture of tobacco products.

The following do not constitute tobacco industry funding for the purposes of this policy:

- Legacies from tobacco industry investments (unless the name of a tobacco company or cigarette brand is associated with them)
- Funding from a trust or foundation established with assets related to the tobacco industry but no longer having any connection with the tobacco industry even though it may bear a name that (for historical reasons) is associated with the tobacco industry
- Funds from the Master Settlement Agreement of November 23, 1998

For purposes of the Prevent Cancer Foundation grants and fellowships, tobacco industry funding is defined as money provided or used for all or any of the costs of the research, including personnel, consumables, equipment, buildings, travel, meetings and conferences, and operating costs for laboratories and offices.

The fellowship applicant must sign the Prevent Cancer Foundation Statement of Compliance with Tobacco Policy that he/she (and his/her mentor if applicable) does not accept tobacco-industry funding, as outlined above. The proposal will be considered incomplete if the signed statement is not included.

Applicants to the fellowship program must disclose any additional financial relationships that may impact the integrity of science and results.

PROPOSAL POLICIES

Award Amount

Fellowships will be awarded for two years at \$50,000 per year, for a total of \$100,000. See **POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS** for information about required interim and final progress reports. The goal of the Foundation's research program is to identify and fund *innovative projects* with the potential to make substantial contributions to cancer prevention or early detection and to lead to future funding from other peer-reviewed sources. Therefore, Fellowships are non-renewable.

Awards are derived from funds raised by the Prevent Cancer Foundation. The amount of funding for the program and the number of grants awarded may vary from year to year. The Foundation is under no obligation to award a certain number of grants in any given year. Financial support for proposals which are eligible for funding is at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Fellowship Eligibility

Proposals must fall within the scope of the Foundation's mission and funding priorities to be considered; specifically review the criteria outlined in the **Important Information for Applicants** section (above).

- **Fellowship support should be requested by the potential Fellow (who is considered the applicant for the project) and not by the Mentor.**
- **Letter of support from the Mentor is required.** The letter should describe the support that the Mentor will provide in all aspects of the Fellowship, including supervision of coursework, the career development plan for the next **3 years and the benefits that the training environment** will offer to the Fellowship applicant. Letters of support from fellowship mentors are **required** to address the independent contributions of the fellowship applicant.
- The Fellow should have only **one** primary Mentor. However, listing other key personnel (i.e., co-investigators or co-directors) in the budget is acceptable. Any personnel changes that occur during the course of the fellowship must be reported to the Foundation for approval.

Educational Environment and Course Requirements

The Prevent Cancer Foundation provides funds to create an environment in which young investigators who wish to pursue a career in cancer prevention/early detection will be optimally trained. Fellowship applicants should outline how their educational environment will contribute to their career development as a cancer prevention/early detection researcher. Refer to "Overview of Research Proposal" for additional guidance. A discussion of the educational environment should be addressed in the "Statement of Significance" section of the research plan.

To ensure adequate exposure in the discipline, the Foundation's minimal requirement is that its fellows take **one to two courses per year (for a grade)** in an area in which the candidate has not received prior training. Course fees may be included in the budget. However, preference is given to applicants whose course fees are covered by their institutions.

The plan of course work in the fellowship should be customized for the proposed fellow to advance competencies expected of a prevention researcher potentially including but not restricted to such topics as: Biostatistics; Epidemiology; Health Behavior/Health Education; Health Services Research; Nutritional Science; Behavioral Sciences; and Environment and Occupational Health. The names of these courses, their location and a timeline for completing them must be included in the fellowship proposal. A discussion of how the applicant will meet the educational course requirement should be addressed in the "Evaluation" section of the research plan.

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL

All page lengths refer to single-sided pages. Proposals with any section exceeding any page limit will not be reviewed.

As with grant awards, Prevent Cancer Foundation fellowship awards are highly competitive. For fellowship proposals, it is critical that there is clear development of a proposed study based on the applicant's original ideas, with benefit of a mentor's input.

Online Fields

- **Lay Summary:** A statement of no more than **2000** characters explaining the subject of your research proposal, geared towards the lay public. State how the work is significant to cancer prevention/early detection. This summary will be provided to help the general public and the Foundation's donors understand the nature of your work. It also demonstrates that the researcher has a clear grasp of the project's significance to cancer prevention/early detection.
- **Technical Abstract:** A scientific abstract of no more than **2000** characters suitable for a technical audience.
- **Cancer Prevention Statement (300 characters):** In lay-friendly language, briefly describe the relevance of this proposal to cancer prevention/early detection.
- **Career Plans (2000 character limit):** Share your career plans for the next three years to make clear that, if you are awarded, you can fulfill the two-year award.

Research Plan (Download a copy of the research plan online at [proposalCENTRAL](#))

- **Statement of Significance (1 page):** A description of the expected educational benefit of this project. State how this project will help you meet long-term career goals regarding cancer prevention/early detection research or education. Be sure to describe how your educational environment enhances your prevention/early detection research. Explain how your class choices will round out your skills and knowledge of cancer prevention/early detection.
- **Specific Aims (1 page):** A statement of the goals, objectives and relevance to the Foundation's funding priorities. *Proposals which are not directly related to cancer prevention/early detection will not be considered.*
- **Background (2 pages):** A statement of the problem or need that will be addressed by the proposed project.
- **Methods (5 pages):** A statement of the methodology to be used in achieving the specific aims, including an adequate biostatistical analysis.
- **Timetable (1 page):** A timetable for implementing the proposed project. Reviewers will weigh heavily the feasibility of completing the project within the two-year time frame.
- **Evaluation (2 pages):** A detailed evaluation plan that addresses the specific project activities outlined within your methodology. Also address how specific educational objectives will be achieved and list the courses the fellow will complete in order to fulfill the educational requirement of the Prevent Cancer Foundation's fellowship program.
- **Biographical Sketch (Up to 5 pages per person):** Biographical sketches should be completed for the Fellow, Mentor and all key personnel listed in the budget. The 'Role on Project' needs to match the role listed in the budget.

- **Fellowship Budgets (1 page/year) and Budget Justification (1 page/year): Indirect costs will not be covered.**

Personnel – The names of **all** personnel involved in the project, whether or not salaries are requested. Both fellow and mentor must be listed, as well as all other key personnel. Fringe benefits may be requested if benefits are treated by the applicant’s institution as a direct cost to all sponsors. The percentage of salary requested cannot exceed the percent effort for each person. Justify personnel expenses by briefly explaining the services each person will perform or knowledge he or she brings to the project.

Consultant Costs – The names and institutional affiliations of any and all consultants, including statisticians, who have agreed to serve on the project and are not listed under personnel. Under budget justification, describe consultant services to be performed, the number of days, rate of compensation, and other associated costs.

Course fees may be included in the budget. However, preference is given to applicants whose course fees are covered by their institutions.

Indirect Costs – will not be covered.

Use of Funds – The Prevent Cancer Foundation funds must be used for the specific purpose for which they are awarded unless written permission for changing the purpose is granted from the Foundation. The Foundation will not make grants for construction of buildings or purchase of land.

- **Appendix:** List of literature cited should be included as part of the appendix. It does not count towards page limits. Articles should be referenced but not included in the appendix.

The appendix should include the mentor’s letter of support; the letter of support from the fellowship mentor is **required** to address the independent contributions of the fellowship applicant as well as the projected career path of the proposed fellow over the next three years.

The appendix should include any additional letters of support or collaboration.

- **Additional letters of support** or collaboration (beyond the required mentor’s letter) are **strongly encouraged**, especially if the success of the proposed project is critically dependent on access to another individual’s professional assistance, supplies, or equipment.
- **Certification for Human Subjects:** If activities involving human subjects are planned at any time during the proposed project period, you must submit a letter of approval from your Institutional Review Board (IRB). Letters of approval are not required at the time of proposal. If you receive a notification of award from the Prevent Cancer Foundation, you must verify IRB approval within 60 days after the award notification. The letter must be dated no earlier than one year before the proposal is submitted. **If verification of IRB approval is not received within 60 days after the award notification, the proposal will be considered incomplete, and an award will not be made.**
- **Certification for Vertebrate Animals:** If activities involving vertebrate animals are planned at any time during the proposed project period, you must submit a letter of approval by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Letters of approval are not required at the time of proposal. If you receive a notification of award from the Foundation, you must verify IACUC approval within 60 days after the award notification. The letter must be dated no earlier than one year before the proposal is submitted. **If verification of IACUC approval is not received within 60 days after the award notification, the proposal will be considered incomplete and an award will not be made.**

FELLOWSHIP REVIEW CRITERIA

Fellowship proposals are evaluated by an independent external Scientific Review Panel following a peer-review process similar to that of the National Institutes of Health. However, the Prevent Cancer Foundation is a 501(c)(3) foundation, which is supported by the general public.

Proposals not meeting the Foundation's funding guidelines will not be considered by the panel.

Administrative and Eligibility Review

- All proposals are reviewed for their completeness and compliance with the guidelines. Any incomplete proposal or a proposal that is non-compliant with stated guidelines will be disqualified.
- The Scientific Review Panel and co-chairs will determine if a proposal does not qualify as prevention/early detection or the science is too basic. They will also determine whether proposals fall within the scope of the Foundation's mission and its funding priorities in order to be considered for scientific review.

Scientific Review Criteria

A **grade** will be given by the Scientific Review Panel according to the following criteria:

- Clarity of specific aims and significance to cancer prevention/early detection
- Quality of the institutional research professional development environment
- Methodology
- Relevance of supporting data
- Competence of applicant/fellow and supporting personnel
- Appropriateness of project size to resources and timeline
- Budget

Grades will be based on:

- Quality of the research professional development environment
- Scientific merit of the training project
- Potential for future impact on the field, given the innovative nature of the project
- Qualifications of the candidate
- Qualifications of the mentor
- Estimated potential of the fellowship candidate to establish a career in cancer prevention/early detection
- Achievability of the project's specific aims within the two-year time frame

Reviewer comments* will be shared with applicants; grades are **not** shared.

* If your proposal passes both the administrative and eligibility reviews and is given a full technical review, you will receive written feedback. If your proposal does not pass the administrative review or is deemed ineligible for review, you will not receive written feedback from the reviewers.

POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

All grant and fellowship awardees must adhere to the following requirements.

Yearly Reporting

- An interim progress report, personal statement and signed financial statement are **due one month prior to the end of year one**. The second year of funding is contingent upon a satisfactory year-one progress report. (See reporting requirements bulleted below.)
- A final progress report, personal statement and signed cumulative financial report are **due three months after the end of year two (see timeline on page. 6)**. The final report must include a full cumulative accounting of project expenditures. The eighth and final quarterly payment of an award will *not be made* until the Prevent Cancer Foundation has received all required year-two reports.

Requirements for Interim and Final Reports

- **Progress Report (3-6 pages)**
Summarize the main focus of your research and clearly state your findings. Specify how the research results met the objectives established in your proposal. This report should include but is not limited to answering the following questions: Did you meet all of the goals you set out to achieve? If not, why not? What is the impact of your research on the current understanding of cancer prevention/early detection? What further research remains to be done?
- **Personal Statement (1-3 pages in lay-friendly language)**
How has the funding provided by the Prevent Cancer Foundation helped your overall professional growth (e.g., journal submissions, career opportunities, new research focus)? Has this award led to other funding opportunities? Have you had the opportunity to report your findings at professional meetings? If fellowship, what courses have you taken and how has this helped you in your professional pursuits?
 - **In lay-friendly language** – What impact or potential impact do your findings have on the field of cancer prevention and/or early detection?
- **Financial Statement**
Give a breakdown by category (i.e., personnel, supplies, etc.) of how the Foundation's funds were utilized. This document should be filed and signed by the University's Office of Research Administration or other comparable source. Template is attached at the end of this document.

Publication of Award

The awarded grant/fellowship must be publicized by the awardee institution, either in its own publications (student newspaper, alumni newsletter, institutional magazine, etc.) or in a local newspaper, with attribution to the Prevent Cancer Foundation. Please forward copies of these news articles to the Foundation's Programs Division upon publication. Awardees should also send a reprint of all research published as a result of their Prevent Cancer Foundation award.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

All publications, presentations, project materials, etc., must acknowledge the Foundation's support of the project by displaying the statement, "This project is supported by the Prevent Cancer Foundation." The awardee must also send reprints of all research published as a result of his/her Foundation award.

Authorization

Funding of a proposal authorizes the Prevent Cancer Foundation to use the applicant's name and proposal in soliciting contributions to fund its cancer research and educational programs. The awarded proposals may be featured on the Prevent Cancer Foundation website, blog, annual report and other publications.

- Awardees should expect to answer additional questions regarding their work periodically throughout the two-year period to support future funding of the cancer research and educational programs.

Photo Submission and Photo Release

The awardee must provide a hi-res photo (300 dpi, at least 1 MB) for use on the Foundation website, blog and publications. If the awardee does not have a hi-res photo, the awardee must provide contact information for a staff person in the university press office. See acceptance agreement for details. Please sign and return a photo release form along with the signed Acceptance Agreement. The awarded proposals will be featured on the Prevent Cancer Foundation website, social media accounts, blogs and other publications such as newsletters and annual reports.

No-Cost Extensions

In the event that a project cannot be completed within the two-year timeline granted by the Foundation, a request for one six-month, no-cost extension must be submitted to the Programs Division at least two months prior to the project end date.

Final Payment Policy

The Prevent Cancer Foundation will hold the final payment of all awarded grants and fellowships until receipt of the final progress report, personal statement and cumulative, signed financial statement. If these reports are not received within 6 months of the project end date (including no-cost extension end date), the Foundation will withdraw the final payment; no payment will be made. This policy is in effect as of June 1, 2006.

Sunshine Act

Physicians who receive grant funding may be required to sign the Sunshine Act Physician Payment Information Form.

If you would like to receive the latest in cancer prevention and early detection, sign up [here](#).