



**ZHU FAMILY
CENTER FOR GLOBAL
CANCER PREVENTION**

**HARVARD T.H. CHAN
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Prevention and Early Detection for Emerging Researchers (PEER) Request for Application

LOI Deadline: October 18, 2019

Application Deadline: December 6, 2019

Submission requirements: All applications should be submitted through the Harvard University Funding Portal (HUFPP). See below for more information on submission via HUFPP. All LOIs should be submitted via email to cgcp@hsph.harvard.edu

Contact for programmatic and administrative questions: Lydia Conley at lconley@hsph.harvard.edu

Contact for HUFPP questions: Heather Conrad at hconrad@hsph.harvard.edu
For more information visit the HUFPP website.

MOTIVATION FOR THE PEER AWARDS

Advanced stage at time of diagnosis and first treatment is a significant feature of cancer disparity both in the U.S. and abroad. Cancer stage is a specific, measurable, biological descriptor, and improvement is a pragmatic target strongly correlated with outcomes of cancer treatment. Downshifting stage will involve deeper biological insight into disease development and progression at both the individual and population level, an understanding of individual behavior in seeking healthcare, and improved diagnostics, both better performing and more available as well as efficient diagnostic systems.

Causes of cancer outcome inequity include elements of cultural, socioeconomic, biological, and health system functionality. In particular, lack of accurate, affordable and accessible diagnostics is a significant impediment to earlier cancer recognition and timely treatment. Development of effective diagnostics to remedy this bottleneck requires both improvement in technologies and an understanding of the needs of populations and systems. Technology without social context or effective implementation may create or exacerbate inequities and disparities in the very diseases the interventions are meant to alleviate.

Overview of the PEER Award

Prevention and Early Detection for Emerging Researchers (PEER) Awards are designed to encourage and support the scientific career development of Harvard Chan School Assistant and

Associate Professors on the tenure ladder. To advance this goal, we will solicit proposals for pilot projects that will provide faculty the opportunity to develop their research ideas, collect pilot data, or conduct secondary data analysis to be used as pilot data. Although not required, we are particularly interested in proposals that are interdisciplinary in nature. The award is intended to maximize faculty competitiveness for extramural funding by allowing faculty to develop innovative and novel ideas/methods.

GOALS

- I. Provide funding for investigators who are interested in developing a career in early diagnosis and precision prevention that will increase equity of cancer outcomes across populations burdened by cancer disparity. The preferred candidate will have had fewer than 2 RO1 or equivalent grants.
- II. Support projects that combine public health expertise with expertise in new cancer prevention and diagnosis tools and techniques with potential to transform the implementation and practice of cancer prevention and early detection.
- III. Position awardees to be highly competitive for larger external collaborative grant mechanisms.

ELIGIBILITY

Tenure-track Assistant and Associate Professors who have a primary appointment at the Harvard Chan School are eligible to apply. Harvard Chan School investigators with fewer than two RO1 or equivalent grants are preferred. These grants can be in collaboration with other Harvard investigators with any level of funding, particularly those who have a mentoring relationship with the PI. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility to apply for this award, please contact Lydia Conley at lbconley@hsph.harvard.edu.

REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA

A committee of Zhu Center for Global Cancer Prevention and other Harvard Chan School faculty will review the proposals. The PEER Awards encourage collaborations and support innovative ideas that capitalize on the strengths of an interdisciplinary perspective. As such, reviewers will evaluate applications based on the following review criteria:

Significance: Successful applications will make a compelling case that articulates the public health, research platform, or diagnostic need to be addressed and specific goals/impact to be achieved with the aid of the grant. Alignment with cancer treatment priorities in the WHO NCD GAP is encouraged. Relevance to the needs and potential to reach underserved populations is required. Examples:

- I. Uptake of cancer screening using novel approaches to reach underserved and screening resistant populations (examples: “at home” or “visitless” screening).

II. Earlier access to disease identification (examples: patient and community provider education, minimally invasive, patient centered technology such as ultrasound and other point of care technologies).

III. Improved patient navigation and health systems integration for suspected cancer cases (examples: artificial intelligence, decision support for symptom evaluation or further evaluation of abnormal initial findings, information and communication technology for improved health system access and coordination of services).

IV. Improved follow-up and monitoring of people with abnormal findings but were not found to have cancer. (example: follow up of patient with cancer risk identified by PSA, mammography or HPV testing)

Investigators: Meritorious grants will include investigators that have demonstrated academic progress and the potential to build successful careers in the area of the proposed research.

Innovation: Transformative potential rather than incremental progress is preferred. Projects investigating novel technologies should include careful description of potential significance. Repurposing or adaptation of existing approaches is also acceptable with clear documentation of innovation and transformative potential.

Approach: The potential to advance technology or tool development from T2 or T3 towards T4 is encouraged and should be addressed in the application.

Additional Criteria: Describe eventual clinical utility and describe how results will support future applications for research support.

AWARD AMOUNT AND DURATION

Awards will be made for up to \$100,000 (direct cost) per year for 2 years. An automatic 6-month no-cost extension will be granted if needed, after which no additional extensions will be allowed. Up to three awards will be distributed annually. The actual number of awards distributed may vary based on Zhu Center priorities. Please direct questions regarding eligibility to apply for this award to Lydia Conley at lbconley@hsph.harvard.edu

SUBMISSION PROCESS

LOI Submission Requirements

Maximum of 3 pages, Email to cgcp@hsph.harvard.edu

- Full name of the submitter
- Email address of the submitter
- Title of Proposal

Lead Principal Investigator (PI) Information

- Full name of PI (edit if not the same as submitter)
- Email address of the PI (edit if not the same as submitter)

- Faculty rank/position
- Institution
- Department
- Optional administrative contact name, phone number, and email address
- Collaborator information
- Full name(s) of Co-PI(s)
- Email address(es) of Co-PI(s)
- Degree(s)
- Faculty rank(s)/position(s)
- Institution(s)
- Department(s)

Research Proposal Information

- Specific Aims
- Background and Significance of the proposed research and the impact of the proposed research.
- Proposed Collaboration (if applicable)

Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals are to be submitted through the [Harvard University Funding Portal](#) (HUFPP). If you are using the application portal for the first time, you must complete a short registration process (see below). Please note, you can search for awards without logging in but you must be registered and logged in with your Harvard Key to submit an application. There is an option to assign a proxy for proposal submission but your grant manager cannot use your Harvard Key to submit your application. Please see below for more information on registering for an account and assigning a proxy.

Registering your HUFPP Account: Select “Log-in” in the top right corner of the HUFPP webpage, which will bring you to a log-in page with two options. Select the "with Harvard Key" icon, which will prompt you to enter your Harvard Key. You will be led through a short three-question registration process. Once registered, you will be able to log in with your Harvard Key to submit applications.

Assigning a Proxy for Submission: Before beginning an application, both the proxy and the PI must register for individual accounts in HUFPP using their Harvard Key credentials. Once the proxy and the PI are registered, the proxy can begin an application on behalf of the PI. The Proxy will indicate that they are a proxy applicant and will be asked to locate their PI in HUFPP. Proxies should never “Add User” in HUFPP. Once this is completed, both the PI and the proxy will be able to access and edit the application.

Please contact ORSD (hconrad@hsph.harvard.edu) if you have any questions about using HUFPP.

PROPOSAL CONTENT AND PAGE LIMITS

You must complete all sections within the application portal before submitting your application. The sections within the application portal are as follows:

- Applicant Information (including academic degrees, academic title, and dates of appointment)
- Collaborators
- Project Information: In this section, you must complete a 200-word (maximum) research abstract including specific aims and upload the following documents as a single PDF
- Project Proposal: Maximum of 4 pages of text (not including items #2-5 listed below.) Figures and references are allowable in addition to this page limit. No other appendix material will be accepted. Within the project proposal, please describe any key challenges that may arise during the course of this project and how you will manage them.

Additional Required Forms by Award Type

1. Interdisciplinary Approach & Coordination Form. Maximum of 1 page of text. See attached amendment.
2. Biosketch: Current [NIH Biosketch](#) for each participating investigator.
3. Budget Request: Budget estimates should be submitted on [NIH PHS 398 detailed budget form](#) with major divisions of funds (personnel, equipment, etc.). PIs may include effort and salary support commensurate with their effort. The full amount of the award may be used for direct costs. **PLEASE NOTE: Indirect costs, including indirect costs on sub-contracts, cannot be charged to internally funded awards**
4. Budget Justification

Budget Guidelines

- **Subcontracts:** External collaboration is permitted in cases where there is a clear scientific rationale for why the work needs to be done externally. A letter describing the subcontractor's commitment to the work outlined in the proposal and the scope of their contribution should be submitted at the time of application. All other paperwork needed to set up the subcontract can be submitted if and when the project is funded.
- **Outside spending/salary support:** If there are questions regarding salary support for faculty outside of Harvard University, please contact Lydia at lbconley@hsph.harvard.edu.
- **Indirect costs:** Indirect costs are not allowed. The full award should be used to support direct project costs.

REPORTING

Awardees are encouraged to interact with Zhu Center scientific staff on a regular basis (e.g., quarterly) to discuss research progress. Each awardee is required to complete an annual progress report after Year 1 of the award and a final progress report. Final reports must be submitted within 30 days of project completion and no later than 30 days after the 24- month or 30-month mark, with an extension. The report should summarize the impact of the project and progress towards

broader dissemination of knowledge. Templates will be sent to awardees one-month prior to their due dates.

ADDITIONAL TERMS OF THE AWARD

Should the PI leave Harvard, the remainder of the award will be forfeited (i.e., may not be transferred to another institution).

Amendment One: Interdisciplinary Approach & Coordination Form (1 page max)

Interdisciplinary Approach

Describe how the proposed project is interdisciplinary in nature, including:

1. an explanation of how the collaboration will strengthen the proposal and how an interdisciplinary approach will maximize the potential impact of the work;
2. a description of the scientific expertise each team member will contribute to addressing the proposed aims.

Coordination

Summarize how collaborations will be operationalized to ensure successful completion of the project.

1. A description of:
 - a. how the team will communicate team goals, individuals' objectives, and next steps – incorporating regular team meetings is highly encouraged;
 - b. the processes that will be used for making decisions on scientific direction.
2. An outline of:
 - a. the roles and responsibilities of PIs and other key personnel – how the project will be managed and led;
 - b. any other administrative processes that will be important in completing the aims of the project (e.g., data sharing and data management, procedures for resolving conflicts and authorship issues).