

## **Request for Applications: Career Development Program in Lymphoma Research**

**Publication Date:** October 12, 2011

**Letter of Intent to Apply:** Wednesday, November 2, 2011

**Please send applications via e-mail to:** [Linda\\_OConnor@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Linda_OConnor@urmc.rochester.edu)

**Mentored Application Due:** Wednesday, November 23, 2011

**Anticipated Start of Funding:** February 1, 2011

The Career Development Program in Lymphoma Research is part of the NIH-funded Specialized Program of Research Excellence (Lymphoma SPORE) at the University of Rochester James P. Wilmot Cancer Center, the University of Arizona Cancer Center, and the Massey Cancer Center at Virginia Commonwealth University.

The goal of the SPORE Career Development Program is to provide the necessary support, mentorship and research environment to enable young faculty to establish a translational research focus and independent funding in lymphoma. Training and education are offered to new investigators committed to careers in lymphoma research, as well as to established investigators transitioning to lymphoma as a new focus of research. The educational program is designed to provide breadth and flexibility to meet the specific needs of trainees; opportunities are available for:

- Short, lymphoma-related educational seminars/series within the participating SPORE institutions;
- Skill building workshops through the Clinical & Translational Science Institute;
- Graduate-level coursework in clinical investigation or translational research which may potentially lead to a master's degree in one of these fields of study;
- Intensive grant writing advisement/collaboration.

Awards of up to \$25,000 will be offered to provide support for salary and/or necessary research expenses for the first year of the award. With the demonstration of significant progress, funding may be renewed for a second year. Women and minority investigators are strongly encouraged to apply for these grants.

### **Application Process**

Eligibility: Eligible applicants will be required to:

- be US citizens or hold Permanent Resident status;
- hold an MD or other doctoral-level degree in biomedical or health sciences;
- be a junior faculty member, senior fellow (clinical fellow or post-doctoral fellow) with a faculty position commitment, or an independent investigator who is new to translational research in lymphoma.

Applicants who currently hold faculty positions will receive priority consideration for support. Promising trainees intending to pursue academic careers and likely to be granted a faculty position will also be considered for funding.

Letter of Intent (due **November 2, 2011**): Interested candidates are asked to submit:

- Two-page biosketch;
- A brief summary (less than one page) describing their preliminary lymphoma-related research interests and the areas of educational need;

Full Application: After confirmation of intent to submit a full proposal, each applicant will be assigned a program mentor who will meet with the applicant to discuss their career development plans and assure that the applicant has access to appropriate SPORE investigators who can provide advice in the development of their projects. The final applications will be due on **November 23, 2011**. A complete application will include:

- 4-5 page proposal outlining the applicant's specific research proposal, including Specific Aims; Background and Significance; Preliminary Studies (if applicable); and Research Design and Methods;
- A detailed budget specifying request for support and justification of each budget item.
- One page synopsis of a career development plan;
- Brief letter of support from a clinical or basic science mentor who may provide laboratory space and other unique resources for the trainee and will work jointly with the lymphoma SPORE mentor to assure trainee success.

### **Selection Process**

The Career Development Program Committee will review and prioritize the applicants within two weeks of the submission deadline. The following criteria will be used in the evaluation process:

- Lymphoma Relevance (30%)  
Relevance of research to advancement in areas of lymphoma biology, etiology, and treatment
- Scientific Merit (25%)  
Scientific merit, feasibility, and translational significance of research proposal
- Career Development Potential (20%)  
Strength and feasibility of career development plan, commitment and track record of sponsoring mentor, trainee potential for future success as an independent investigator
- Contribution to SPORE synergy (25%)  
Potential interactions between trainee's research focus and other SPORE investigators, balance of trainees between JPWCC and ACC

Results of this review process will be presented to the Lymphoma SPORE Steering Committee for final funding decisions. Candidates will be notified in writing of the selection decisions.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation of Trainee Productivity**

Each career development project will have administrative reporting requirements and access to SPORE core services similar to those of full projects. All trainees will be encouraged to participate in all SPORE activities and take full advantage of all educational opportunities. Annual progress reports will be required from each trainee.