



*Making a world of difference in cancer care*

# **THE ASCO CANCER FOUNDATION- BREAST CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION 2010 COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP IN BREAST CANCER**

## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

### **The ASCO Cancer Foundation**

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### **THE ASCO CANCER FOUNDATION**

The ASCO Cancer Foundation supports educational programs of the highest quality in cancer care and prevention; facilitates the dissemination of information about cancer and cancer treatment to patients and their families; and, through its grants program, supports, encourages, and recognizes excellence in clinical research in the field of oncology. For more information visit [www.ascofoundation.org](http://www.ascofoundation.org).

### **THE BREAST CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation is an independent 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to achieve prevention and a cure for breast cancer in our lifetime by providing critical funding for innovative clinical and translational research at leading medical centers worldwide, and increasing public awareness about good breast health.

## **Purpose**

Comparativeness Effectiveness Research (CER) is defined as the generation and synthesis of evidence that compares the benefits and harms of alternative methods to prevent, diagnose, treat, and monitor a clinical condition or to improve the delivery of care. The purpose of CER is to assist consumers, clinicians, purchasers, and policy makers to make informed decisions that will improve health care at both the individual and population levels (Institute of Medicine Report Brief, June 2009).

In response to the rapid growth of the CER field and the governmental recommendation to increase training opportunities in comparative effectiveness methods, The ASCO Cancer Foundation (TACF) through support from The Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) has created a Comparative Effectiveness Research Professorship in Breast Cancer. Professorships from TACF reward successful scientists who also dedicate their time to mentoring the next generation of researchers.

The TACF-BCRF Comparativeness Effectiveness Research Professorship (CERP) in Breast Cancer is a five-year grant award designed to provide flexible funding to outstanding researchers who have made and are continuing to make significant contributions that have changed the direction of breast cancer research and who provide mentorship to junior researchers. The award is intended to provide support to qualified individuals to investigate comparative effectiveness in breast cancer and to train future generations of researchers in this field.

The TACF-BCRF Comparativeness Effectiveness Research Professorship in Breast Cancer will accept applications focusing on all aspects of breast cancer including prevention, diagnosis, treatment, delivery of care, and health economics.

## **Funding Available**

The award totals \$500,000 and is paid in 5 annual increments of \$100,000 made on or about July 1 of each year of the grant term. The award is not designed to cover the total cost of a research project or the investigator's entire compensation, but can be used at the discretion of the awardee to support their overall research activities.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must have an MD, DO, PhD or equivalent degree.
- Applicants must have the rank of full professor (or equivalent). If current rank is not that of a full professor but meets all other eligibility criteria, a written explanation must be provided for equivalency of current rank.
- Applicants must have a full-time faculty appointment at an academic medical center.
- Applicants must have made significant contributions that have changed the direction of breast cancer research.
- Applicants must be serving as a research mentor to one or more researcher(s) in training, and must be planning to continue to provide leadership in this area throughout the award period
- Applicants must lead a research team in conducting research on comparative effectiveness in breast cancer.
- Applicants must be an active member of ASCO or have submitted a membership application with the grant application.
- Applicants must commit to spending 75% of time during the award period dedicated to research (applies to total research, not just the proposed project) including leading a team of researchers (in the lab and/or the clinic) and mentoring physician-scientists. Individuals with an endowed professorship from their own

institution are eligible to apply for this award. Individuals with administrative responsibilities (such as a Division or Department Chair) must clearly document their time commitment for performing research activities and mentoring activities.

- The sponsoring institution must be a not-for-profit institution.

**The ASCO Cancer Foundation reserves the right to evaluate and determine applicants' eligibility based on the information and justifications included in the application materials.**

## Key Dates

Online Applications Open: **September 1, 2009**  
Letter of Intent Due: **November 3, 2009 by 5:00 pm EDT**  
Full Application Due: **December 22, 2009 by 5:00 pm EST**  
Award Notification Date: **April 2010**  
Award Term: **July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2015**

**Applicants are encouraged to start their application early due to the complexity of the online application process. To initiate an application, please go to <https://grants.ascocancerfoundation.org>.**

## Application Process

Domestic and international applications must be submitted in accordance with the requirements and instructions of this Request for Proposal (RFP). All application materials must be in English and must be submitted online. No paper applications will be accepted.

### Letter of Intent Submission

The online application will open on **September 1, 2009**. A letter of intent must be submitted online on or before **November 3, 2009 by 5:00 pm EDT**. The following components are required:

1. Applicant Information
  - Name
  - Contact Information
  - Position Title (need to be a full professor or equivalent)
  - Institution
  - Degree
  - ASCO Member ID (Choose "Pending" if submitting a membership application with the grant application)
  - Subspecialty Training Completion Date
  - Initial Full-time Faculty Appointment Start Date
2. Project Information
  - Project Title
  - Abstract - a brief abstract of the research proposal must be entered (<350 words). Abstracts should mention the applicant's role as a mentor in comparative effectiveness research.
  - Subject Area
  - Focus Area(s)
  - Human Subject and Animal Use Assurances
3. Applicant's Biosketch – Applicants can upload their current NIH biosketch if they have one available. If they do not have an NIH biosketch, they can use the template provided in the online application. The biosketch must not exceed four pages.

The Letters of Intent (LOI) will be reviewed internally by The ASCO Cancer Foundation based on the following criteria: (1) completeness of information; (2) eligibility, and; (3) appropriateness of scientific topic. After review, applicants will be notified about the status of their LOI on **November 10, 2009**. Only applicants who have received an approval for their LOI will be eligible to submit a full application. Applicants will not receive feedback on the LOI submitted.

### **Full Application Submission**

The full application must be submitted online on or before **December 22, 2009 by 5:00 pm EST.**

The following are **mandatory** components:

1. Contact Information
2. Project Information (includes abstract, IRB, and Animal Use Assurances)
3. Applicant's Biosketch
4. List of Collaborators
5. Research Plan
6. Cited References
7. Budget and Justification
8. Letters of Support - from Department Chair or Dean and Researchers-in-Training
9. Institutional Approval Face Sheet Signed by Institutional Approver

The following are **optional** components:

1. Clinical Protocol (It is strongly encouraged to attach this document.)
2. Prior Publications (2 maximum)
3. Supporting Documentation (Additional Uploads)

**Contact Information.** This section includes the following information about the applicant:

- Name
- Contact Information
- Institution
- Degree
- ASCO Member ID (Choose "Pending" if submitting a membership application with the grant application)
- Subspecialty Training Completion Date
- Initial Full-time Faculty Appointment Start Date

*Please note that not all information will be carried over from the Letter of Intent and it may have to be re-entered.*

**Project Information.** This section includes the following information about the proposed project:

- Project Title
- Abstract - a brief abstract of the research proposal must be entered (<350 words). Abstracts should mention the applicant's role as a mentor in comparative effectiveness research.
- Subject Area
- Research Focus Area(s)
- Assurances for use of human and/or animal subjects in the research proposal

*Please note that not all information will be carried over from the Letter of Intent and it may have to be re-entered.*

**Applicant's Biosketch.** Please note that biosketches do not carry forward from the Letter of Intent and will need to be re-uploaded.

**List of Collaborators.** This list should include (1) the researchers the applicant plans to collaborate with on the proposed research project; (2) the researchers that the applicant plans to mentor, and; (3) a brief description of each individual's role in the project.

**Research Plan.** The research plan should be limited to ten (10) typewritten, single-spaced pages, with one-inch margins and 11 point Arial font type. ALL pertinent tables, pictures, and graphs MUST be included within the 10-page limit. This Professorship is designed for established faculty who have demonstrated innovative work and made significant contributions to breast cancer research, and would like to pursue comparative effectiveness research focused on breast cancer. Although a record of outstanding research or creative work must be shown, a promise of continued productivity in research activities, and a commitment to mentoring future researchers must also be demonstrated. The research plan should primarily focus on the applicant's plans to perform comparative effectiveness studies and commitment to training junior researchers in this expanding field.

**Cited References.** A list of cited references in the Research Plan should be uploaded as a separate document in the designated section.

**Budget and Justification.** The award funds will be directed to the sponsoring institution and can be used at the discretion of the awardee to support their overall research activities. Award funds may not be applied to patient care costs that are reimbursable by a third-party payor. The budget must be directly entered into the online application. Budget justification for the entire project period must be included for each line item under the "Notes" section.

The budget guidelines are as follows:

- **Total Award:** The total award amount is \$500,000 payable in 5 annual increments of \$100,000 made on or about July 1 of each year of the grant term. The total cost requested per year should not exceed \$100,000.
- **Research support:** \$93,500 per year should support costs directly related to the research project
- **Travel:** Up to \$1,500 per year should be allotted specifically for the applicant's travel to the annual meeting and for any other travel essential to conducting the study. Attendance is mandatory at the ASCO Annual Meeting upon acceptance of the grant.
- **Indirect costs:** Up to \$5,000 per year (or 5% of the total award amount per year) can be applied to overhead or facilities and administrative costs of the recipient's institution in administering the recipient's research project.

**Letters of Support.** Letters of support from the following individuals must be uploaded.

- **From the Department Chair, Head, or Director at the sponsoring institution.** If the applicant is the Chair or Director, the letter must come from the appropriate Dean or equivalent. The letter must contain the following:
  - Description of the applicant's leadership role in relation to the research team
  - Certification of the department's commitment to provide the physical facilities and administrative services necessary to conduct the research, and have access to the clinical facilities throughout the award term
  - Certification that the application will devote the time required (75% or greater) to total research including comparative effectiveness research activities
  - A plan defining the applicant's commitment for performing comparative effectiveness research and mentoring activities (for applicants with administrative responsibilities)
- **From Researchers-in-Training mentored by the applicant.** The letter must describe the structure of the mentoring relationship, and the intended interaction in the proposed research.

**Clinical Protocol.** Inclusion of the clinical protocol for a clinical study is strongly encouraged.

**Prior Publications.** Up to two prior publications that are relevant to the proposal, or, that demonstrate the applicant's previous successes in breast cancer research may be uploaded. The applicant must be one of the authors.

**Supporting Documentation (Additional Uploads).** This section may be used to upload any necessary additional information required to properly review the application (ie. letter from a drug company that they will provide the investigational drug, a letter of collaboration from another laboratory providing expertise for this project, etc.). Due to the limited time given to the reviewers, upload of any documents that are not critical to the review of the proposal or any additional publications is not allowable.

**Institutional Approval.** The Authorized Official representing the institution of the applicant must approve the completed application (both the project proposal and the budget) before submission. This official is normally from the institution's Office of Sponsored Research.

In this section, the name and contact information of the Institutional Approver must be entered in the online application system. Once the application is complete, the "Notify" button should be clicked in order for the online system to send the Institutional Approver an email containing login information and instructions describing how to enter the online system to approve the application. If the application is still incomplete, the Institutional Officer should not be notified.

Once the Institutional Approver logs on, the completed application in PDF format will be available to view. If the application is approved, the Institutional Approver must upload the completed and signed Institutional Approval Face Sheet. However, if the application is not approved, the Institutional Approver should contact the applicant directly to correct any problems prior to approval.

Upon upload of the Institutional Approval Face Sheet, an email will be sent to the applicant confirming that this task has been completed. Subsequently, the applicant must login and submit the completed and approved application. No changes should be made to the application upon obtaining institutional approval.

**The completed and approved application must be received on or before December 22, 2009 by 5:00 pm EST.**

## **Selection Process**

An exclusively selected subcommittee of The ASCO Cancer Foundation Grants Selection Committee will select the recipient for this award using a peer-review process and based on the following:

- Qualifications, experience and productivity of the applicant
- Commitment to mentoring the next generation of researchers in comparative effectiveness research
- Scientific impact, merit, and originality of the applicant's ongoing research, and the ongoing research that the applicant is mentoring
- Documented effective research team leadership
- Facilities and resources available to the applicant to continue their research career and attain their career goals

Applicants will not receive feedback on the applications submitted.

For questions, please email [grants@asco.org](mailto:grants@asco.org).

## CHECKLIST

### TACF-BCRF Comparative Effectiveness Research Professorship in Breast Cancer

#### Mandatory Components

- Contact Information – including ASCO Member ID number
- Project Information – including Abstract (< 350 words), IRB, and Animal Use Assurances
- Applicant's Biosketch
- List of Collaborators
- Research Plan (10 pages maximum including tables, pictures, graphs, single spaced, 1 inch margins, Arial, font size 11)
- Cited References
- Budget and Justification
- Letters of Support
  - From Department Chair/Head, or Dean
  - From Researchers-in-Training
- Institutional Approval Face Sheet Signed by Institutional Approver

#### Optional Components

- Clinical Protocol (It is strongly encouraged to attach this document)
- Prior Publications
- Supporting Documentation (Additional Uploads)