

**Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center
SPORE in Multiple Myeloma**

**Career Enhancement Award
Application - 2021**

Career Enhancement Award Application

The overall goal of the Career Enhancement Program is to bring talented new researchers to the area of myeloma research. Increasing pressure is put on young investigators to become productive and financially independent sooner in their careers than in the past. This has particularly impacted on clinical investigators who spend time seeing patients. The need to balance their time between clinical and research efforts has become more difficult in a time when reimbursement for clinical effort has diminished. This balancing act deters new talented investigators from pursuing careers in clinical research in a time when the opportunities for translating fundamental discovery into the clinic are unprecedented. One priority of this SPORE will be to protect the time of clinically oriented young investigators to pursue their careers. Another priority of the Career Enhancement Program will be the recruitment of highly qualified minority investigators to the field of myeloma. We feel that, in so doing, we will facilitate the diversification of our research interests, and potentially increase our minority recruitment to clinical trials.

The goal of the Career Enhancement Program of DF/HCC Myeloma SPORE is to build upon the track record of the SPORE investigators and establish a formal process for the identification, selection, funding, and mentoring of individuals pursuing careers in the study of the basic and clinical aspects of myeloma.

Eligibility of the candidate

The candidate will be a junior faculty, a clinical fellow or postdoctoral fellow, generally in his/her last year of fellowship, who has shown interest and productivity in the field of myeloma research.

Mentors

The identification of appropriate mentor(s) is critical, and potential mentors in our Career Enhancement Program must be members of the faculty at DF/HCC, or the participating institutions. Candidates who are not members of the SPORE will be evaluated based upon commitment, facilities, and environment available for the mentor to assure proper training of the Career Enhancement Applicant in translational research.

Application

The eligible candidates are requested to submit their completed application as **one file in pdf format** to daniel_mcdermott@dfci.harvard.edu on or before **March 12, 2021**.

The application should contain the following components:

1. Application Front Page
2. Research Abstract (½ page)
3. Budget and Justification (phs398 format)
4. Research Proposal to include Background and Relevance, Specific Aims, Preliminary Data, and Experimental Methods. Not to exceed 5 pages exclusive of the literature cited.
5. Translational Objectives of the Proposed Research (1 page)
6. Applicant's Career Goals (1 page); If applying for second year please summarize the progress in the first year including how the original career development objectives were satisfied
7. Mentor's Letter of Support detailing mentorship plan
8. Applicant's Biosketch (NIH format)
9. Mentor's Biosketch (NIH format)

Budget

Career Enhancement awards will be up to \$50,000 direct cost for one year with a chance of re-application for a 2nd year based on merit. The money can be used toward the awardees' salary, research supplies, and/or salaries of research assistants or technicians. Detailed breakdown of the budget with justification is requested.

Criteria for Selection

Candidates may be either clinicians with an MD degree who are interested in translational research, or scientists with a PhD degree (or an equivalent higher degree), who are interested in the application of basic science to the problem of therapy of myeloma. Selection will be made according to the following criteria:

1. The quality of the science proposed
2. The candidate's potential for an independently funded research career.
3. The dedication of the candidate to a particular clinical problem in myeloma, and his or her likelihood to remain interested in translational cancer research in the future.
4. The track record of the individual and his/her potential to contribute to the field. If applying for the second year, the progress in the first year and how the second year funding will help achieve the career development objectives.
5. The programmatic needs of the SPORE. The application should not have studies or areas already covered in the ongoing SPORE related research. The Career Enhancement Selection Committee may consider current and future needs to build strength in one or more areas, and target selection to these areas. When possible, we will solicit nominations in these areas of concentration, when they have been identified.
6. The track record of the mentor.
7. The potential for the candidate to continue a productive relationship with investigators in the SPORE and Cancer Center, including willingness to identify a mentor and involve that person in planning a career in myeloma research.

Mentor Responsibility

The DF/HCC Myeloma SPORE will be committed to the mentorship and development of the Career Enhancement Awardee(s). It will be the mentors' responsibility to guide the awardee in his/her research activities and to encourage and critique manuscripts, etc. The mentor will also facilitate and encourage the acquisition of peer-reviewed funding and assure the appropriate protection time for research of clinical faculty. In most cases, the mentor will already have been determined by the awardee, through his/her previous work. After identifying the individual's interest, the Career Development Committee of the SPORE (Governance Committee) will determine who might serve as additional appropriate mentor, recognizing that in some cases it is necessary to share mentorship when the research interests of the trainee go beyond the expertise of one individual.

AWARD CONDITIONS AND REPORTING

- The monetary award is provided to the awardee's sponsoring institution for the direct support of the recipient's work during the award year. The award may be used for laboratory supplies and research services costs for the research proposed. No more than \$500 may be requested for travel directly related to the research project.
- After six months, the recipient is required to submit a brief written summary of the research conducted as well as a detailed account of the use of award funds. Upon review and approval of award recipient's summary, the second six months of funding is provided. Should the recipient's work not be considered acceptable by the award committee, funding will cease.
- A final report is also required.
- Recipients are expected to credit P50 CA100707 in any publications/presentations that result from the funded work.

