Request for Abstracts
Cancer Health Disparities SPORE Projects
DEADLINE: April 16, 2018

The UAB CCC is inviting project abstracts for future submission of an application for a P50 Research Center Grant for Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE) on cancer health disparities (PAR-18-313).

Eligible Projects
This SPORE application will focus on cancer health disparities, a theme that covers cancers of various organs. All proposed SPORE projects must address one or more cancer disparities and must be translational. In each project, the development of new cancer-relevant interventions should include both a laboratory component and a human endpoint that must be reached during the project period of the grant.

In each SPORE project, at least one of the following types of human endpoints should be proposed:

- Early phase clinical trials of new investigational drugs, biologics, experimental procedures, medical devices, or combinations;
- Early phase clinical trials of new combinations or new uses of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved agents and devices;
- Discovery and development of biomarkers, only when measurements are made in human specimens, or directly in human subjects;
- Laboratory studies that begin with an observation in the clinic and use human specimens to generate new clinical hypotheses;
- Population, behavioral, or psychosocial studies, when these studies address mechanistic aspects of the biology of the disease;
- Investigational new drug (IND)-directed toxicology studies conducted following a pre-IND meeting with the FDA in which the plan proposed by the investigators is acceptable to the FDA.

Experiments using cell lines, xenografts, patient-derived xenografts (PDX), organoids, paired germline samples, or engineered tissues, may be relevant to the translational studies proposed and are encouraged, but are not sufficient to meet the human endpoint requirement.

All SPOREs must include at least one project that proposes a clinical trial that can serve as the required human endpoint for that proposed project. An IND-directed toxicology study can serve as a human endpoint, but is not sufficient to satisfy the clinical trial requirement. Inherent in this process is the interdependence between investigators conducting basic and applied research. Clinical and/or epidemiological research that does not include a wet laboratory or imaging component is not considered translational for the SPORE.
- Only Phase I and early Phase II clinical trials (generally non-randomized, approximately 100 individuals), may be supported by funds from the SPORE program. SPOREs are strongly encouraged to establish collaborative clinical trial activities across NCI-funded mechanisms early in the development of projects that have clinical trials/studies as their goals.

- For multicenter, randomized Phase II therapeutic trials (>100 patients), SPOREs wishing to collaborate as an inter-SPORE endeavor or with investigators funded by other grant mechanisms, should use the appropriate NCI Disease Specific Steering Committees and their Task Forces (http://restructuringtrials.cancer.gov/steering/overview) working together to develop clinical concepts from early SPORE trials that could move forward, beyond SPORE grant support, to the NCI Clinical Trials Network (NCTN). Collaborative trials using this opportunity may also include correlative studies. However, correlative studies associated with an NCTN trial may be supported within a SPORE project.

Preliminary Studies: Discuss the preliminary studies, data, and/or experience of the co-leaders of the project that are pertinent to the project.

Eligible Project Leaders
Each project must include both a basic and an applied/clinical co-leader who will use their combined expertise to design and implement the project.

- Minimum Research Base: At least one of the proposed co-leaders should be an investigator who currently serves as a PD/PI (or project leader) on a peer-reviewed research grant (e.g., R01, R21, P01, U01, U10, American Cancer Society (ACS), U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), or equivalent) or who is an overall chairperson or site chairperson on an active NCI-sponsored clinical trial.

Optional EPPS-related Project: SPORE applications may include qualified Early Detection, Prevention, or Population Science (EPPS) projects. Specific programmatic requirements pertaining to qualified EPPS projects are described in the key definitions section (here). For each qualified EPPS project, there must be a laboratory element addressing relevant mechanistic aspects of human cancer biology. The projects may involve genetic, epidemiological, behavioral, social, applied, and surveillance studies.

Abstract Format

1. A cover page that includes:
   - The title of the project
   - A list of the project co-leaders, at least one of whom has a research grant that qualifies to count towards the SPORE minimum research base

2. A 3-4 page Research Summary

Contacts
Scientific matters – Dr. Upender Manne, Professor of Pathology (upendermanne@uabmc.edu)

Please send PDF of abstract package to: Dr. Susan Ruppert (sruppert@uab.edu); administrative questions, please contact Ryan Chambers (rychamb@uab.edu)