

**Prostate Cancer Foundation
2014 PCF Global Treatment Sciences (GTSN) Challenge Award
For Lethal Prostate Cancer
Request for Applications**

The Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) is pleased to announce a Request for Applications (RFA) for lethal prostate cancer. Approximately 5-10 GTSN Challenge Awards will be funded depending on level of innovation in applications received. High-risk, first-in-field and currently unfunded projects are most desired.

PCF Challenge Awards:

- PCF Challenge Awards support large-scale team science research projects concerning lethal prostate cancer over a duration of 2-3 years.
- Provide up to a total of \$1,000,000 per team.
- Cover direct research costs only.
- Focus on funding Treatment Sciences: Investigations to support the correlative research around either clinical trials of novel agents or strategies or standard of care. One emphasis is on developing or validating biomarkers that guide therapy in patients or further our understanding of the mechanism by which therapies work. While the emphasis is on research in humans, the actual trials or treatments themselves will not be supported. Human samples are highly preferred although at times model systems might be required to complement our understanding.
- Multi-institutional biomarker studies will be looked at favorably.
- Assay standardization across platforms and or institutions will be looked at favorably
- Inclusion of a statistician and a clear statistical plan to justify size of study population is mandatory.
- An IRB-approved protocol ready for activation is mandatory if applicable, including specimen acquisition.

Treatment Sciences research in the following topic areas is preferred (however, all treatment sciences ideas will be evaluated):

1. First-in-field research on new targets in lethal prostate cancer systemic treatment.
2. Mechanisms of resistance to current and investigational drugs targeting the androgen receptor and androgen axis, immune system and chemotherapy.
3. Tumor microenvironment signaling related to cancer progression including the immune components are topic areas we strongly encourage.
4. New treatments for lethal prostate cancer including those targeting the currently 'undruggable'.

Examples of areas of need include:

- Developing standard approaches to predicting resistance mechanisms to AR targeted therapy (e.g. ARV-7).
- Developing novel and intermediate biomarkers for immunotherapy efficacy (e.g. TCR variability).
- Understanding the role of the microenvironment in resistance mechanisms using imaging or biopsy material in humans.

The PCF Challenge Award Team:

- Should be composed of at least 3 highly experienced investigators capable of providing unique scientific expertise toward solutions of significant problems in prostate cancer research.
- May be assembled from one institution, or several institutions.
- Must embed at least one young investigator as an integral contributor to the team. The young investigator should be within six years following completion of a professional degree or clinical training such as MD, PhD, MD-PhD, MPH, etc. The young investigator may hold the title of Senior Postdoctoral Fellow, Instructor, Research Associate, Assistant Professor, or equivalent. He or she should have received no more than \$200,000 in current direct research funding from all sources including institutional funds. Young investigators who have specifically received research support from the NCI, NIH, or DoD are still qualified and very much encouraged to apply.

PCF Challenge Award Application Guidelines

1. **Eligibility:** Investigators representing non-profit academic research centers worldwide are eligible to apply. Investigators from for-profit companies and government-sponsored institutions, i.e. NIH, are ineligible.
2. **Application Form:** To be completed online by the Principal Investigator at www.pcfscience.org.
3. **Research Proposal:** The Research Proposal and all supporting documents should be merged into a single PDF file to be uploaded along with the application form at www.pcfscience.org. A complete application will include the documents below, arranged in the following order in the PDF file:
 - i. **Cover Page:** Names, institutions and contact information of all investigators.
 - ii. **Statement of originality (1-page limit):** This statement delineates why the work is first-in-field, original, and currently unfunded. PCF seeks new and never- before tested ideas, not derivatives of ongoing investigations or incremental research.
 - iii. **Research Proposal (10- page limit):** includes both the narrative text and any preliminary data in support of the proposal.
 - iv. **A list of references of research cited.**
 - v. **NIH Biosketch:** Please submit a 4-page NIH Biographical Sketch for each investigator, including a list of relevant publications.
 - vi. **Budget page(s):** Please include an annual budget for the proposal. PCF will cover only direct costs. The budget can be prepared using NIH Budget forms such as PHS 398, or other similar forms.
 - vii. **Clinical trial protocol and a timeline for activation of the clinical investigation:** If applicable, to be included as an appendix to the application.

4. Reporting requirements and the budget process will be discussed at the time of announcement of the awards.
5. **Please direct questions to applications@pcf.org.**

Prostate Cancer Foundation
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Funding decisions will be made through peer and programmatic review.

**The deadline for applications is September 22, 2014
11:59 p.m. Pacific Time**

In fairness to all, there will be no exceptions to this deadline.