

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

### KIDNEY CANCER SPECIALIZED PROGRAM of RESEARCH EXCELLENCE (SPORE)

**Due: June 23, 2023**

The UTSW Kidney Cancer SPORE is pleased to announce an **intramural competition** for:

- **Career Enhancement Program (CEP)** Supports pilot projects from junior faculty as well as established investigators refocusing their careers to include kidney cancer research. Includes a minority award.
- **Developmental Research Program (DRP)** Supports high risk/high payoff projects and projects with a translational projection.

Expect to award 3 - 6 grants (**\$25,000 - \$40,000** direct costs).

#### Eligibility:

- Faculty member at the level of Assistant Professor or higher
- Relevance to kidney cancer. Includes: cellular signaling pathways (VHL/HIF, PI3K/mTOR/PTEN, cMET, HIPPO [NF2, YAP...], MITF/TFE3/TFEB, p53, p16...), epigenetics (BAF, PBAF complexes, SETD2...), metabolism, EMT, tumor/stroma interactions, migration/invasion/dormancy/metastasis, tissue tropism of metastases, immunology (innate [TLRs, STING], adaptive), genomics and bioinformatics, biomarkers (early detection, prognostic, predictive), animal models, imaging (preclinical, clinical), clinical trials and correlative studies, drug discovery, screens, epidemiology, pediatric kidney cancer (WT1, miRNA pathways), radiation, survivorship, etc.\*
- Women and under-represented minority faculty are strongly encouraged to apply.

\*Drs. Brugarolas and Kapur, as Co-PIs of the KCP SPORE, are available for discussion of potential projects

#### Application Materials:

- Cover page with PI name, academic rank, department, project title, and whether applying for a DRP or CEP.
- Research plan (2 pages). Include specific aims, preliminary data (if available), and research strategy (significance, innovation, approach). After discussion with SPORE PIs (Brugarolas and Kapur), awardees from prior years may submit an application for additional funding. The application should include 1 page describing the progress made during the first year with key results, and a 2-page updated application building on preliminary data (projects will be considered if sufficient funds are available after consideration of new pilot projects).
- For CEP applicants who are Assistant Professors: A letter of support from the Department Chair or a faculty member serving as primary mentor (may be a KCP/SPORE investigator). Include relationship with the applicant, why the applicant would be a good candidate, and outline a mentorship plan.
- NIH biographical sketch
- Detailed budget (funds cannot be used to support PI's salary or for equipment)
- Budget justification

Combine into a single PDF file and email to: [KCPCoord@UTSouthwestern.edu](mailto:KCPCoord@UTSouthwestern.edu)

**Project Selection:** Projects will be scored primarily on the basis of significance and innovation. High-impact/high-risk projects are encouraged. Potential for translation into the clinic and deployment of SPORE Core resources will also be considered.

Award Notification: July 17, 2023

Start Date: August 1, 2023

Investigators receiving funding will benefit from access to Kidney Cancer Program and SPORC resources, including: kidney cancer cell lines (both primary and established); tumorgrafts/PDX models (>190 models from a variety of tumors, many with whole exome sequencing and RNAseq); >1,200 fresh-frozen tumor/normal sample pairs with clinical annotation; a web-based resource linking clinical information, samples and experimental genomics (available for >500 samples); state-of-the-art genetically engineered mouse models; access to bioinformaticians and biostatisticians.

*Awardees are expected to participate regularly in SPORC research conferences, including BOLD, and present their research results towards the end of the grant period.*

Contact: [Kathy Worland](#) (KCP Coordinator)