

# UVMCC GRANT ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

## July 2026

### Description

In working toward submission of a Cancer Center Support Grant for NCI designation, the UVM Cancer Center is establishing a grant accelerator program to provide support for individuals pursuing awards and grants from a [National Cancer Institute peer-reviewed organization](#). UVM Cancer Center members who have submitted a cancer-relevant research proposal which was not funded but scored in the 25%ile or better will be eligible for a \$50,000 UVMCC Grant Accelerator Award. This award is intended to accelerate the results needed for resubmission. Up to 5 awards will be made available annually.

### Who is eligible?

- Cancer Center member with grants submitted through UVM
- Initial proposal was submitted to a peer-reviewed organization
- Proposal was not funded but scored in the 25%ile or better
- Investigator commits to resubmitting an A1 application within 9 months of receiving accelerator award
- MPIs on grants may split the incentive award

### How do I apply?

- Provide summary statement and percentile score information to Kate Webster
- Return signed commitment form agreeing to terms of award

### How do I utilize these funds?

- You will receive information as to how to access these funds
- Funds may be utilized for PI support, lab personnel support, supplies, publication costs, travel to scientific meetings
- Funds in the must be utilized within 9 months of the award distribution date. No extensions are permitted. Any residual funds will be reclaimed by UVMCC.
- Failure to resubmit an A1 application at the end of 9 months will result in return of all awarded funds to the UVMCC from the member's home department.

### What if I have more than one eligible award?

- PI is only eligible for one Grant Accelerator Award per year (July 1-June 30)

Address questions to Randall Holcombe, UVMCC Director, at [Randall.holcombe@med.uvm.edu](mailto:Randall.holcombe@med.uvm.edu)

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### What is cancer-focused or cancer-relevant research?

- Research focused on cancer patients, their families or how care is delivered to them
- Clinical trials for cancer patients
- Cancer prevention and screening research
- Fundamental research with a cancer disease-specific focus (e.g. breast cancer, melanoma)
- Fundamental research related to processes that may impact cancer development or progression (e.g. DNA damage, cell signaling, regulators of cell division)
- Fundamental research focused on contributors to cancer development (e.g. viruses, immune system)

### Tips to know if a grant is cancer-focused or cancer-relevant

- NCI is the granting agency
- Cancer is mentioned in the title of the grant
- Cancer (carcinogenesis, tumor, metastasis) is mentioned in the abstract and/or keywords
- The grant focuses on a cancer population
- One of the Specific Aims directly references cancer or cancer outcomes or processes

### Helpful Scenarios for Fundamental & Behavioral Research

1. R01 from NHLBI focused on REDOX mechanisms involved in the development of fibrosis
  - a. This could be cancer relevant as fibrosis is an important process involved in the development of cancer and response to treatment
    - i. Abstract states that the research has relevance to idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis; no mention of cancer, tumor, carcinogenesis etc. in keywords = NOT CANCER RELEVANT. The grant is focused on a different disease process.
    - ii. Abstract states that the research has relevance to idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and lung cancer development and lung cancer is listed as a key word = CANCER RELEVANT. Will likely be determined to be ~50% cancer relevant but will depend on review of specific aims.
2. R01 from NCI on REDOX mechanisms involved in the development of fibrosis = 100% CANCER RELEVANT
3. R35 from NIGMS focused on DNA damage
  - a. No disease process is listed in the abstract or keywords = CANCER RELEVANT
  - b. Cancer or cancer susceptibility syndrome listed in abstract = CANCER RELEVANT
  - c. Hereditary renal abnormalities listed in abstract = NOT CANCER RELEVANT
4. Tobacco cessation grant examining low nicotine cigarettes
  - a. Target population adolescents and young adults = CANCER RELEVANT
    - i. Tobacco research is accepted as cancer relevant unless specifically focused on a different condition.
  - b. Target population pregnant women with outcome measures focused on fetal malformations = NOT CANCER RELEVANT
  - c. Target population pregnant women with outcome measures focused on fetal malformations and on long term addiction to tobacco products. Will likely be ~50% cancer relevant but will depend on review of specific aims.

UVMCC Director is final arbiter of degree of cancer relevance of an individual grant.

## **What counts as peer-reviewed research?**

Peer reviewed research as defined by the NCI are awards from the NIH and agencies found at <https://cancercenters.cancer.gov/documents/PRFundingOrgs508.pdf> including:

1. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
2. Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF)
3. American Association of Cancer Research (AACR)
4. American Cancer Society (ACS), (national office only)
5. American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR)
6. American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR)
7. California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM)
8. Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
9. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
10. Central Office of the Veterans Administration (VA), (excluding local/regional and "block" grants)
11. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
12. The Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute (FAMRI)
13. Florida Biomedical Research Program (FBRP)
14. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
15. Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI)
16. Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS)
17. Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA)
18. Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF)
19. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
20. National Science Foundation (NSF)
21. New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center/New York State Stem Cell Science Program (NYSTEM)
22. Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)
23. Prevent Cancer Foundation (PCF)
24. Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF)
25. St. Baldrick's Foundation
26. Stand Up to Cancer (SU2C)
27. Susan G. Komen for the Cure
28. The California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP)
29. The California Tobacco Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP)
30. U.S. Army (DOD) special research programs (e.g. breast, ovarian, prostate cancer)

Agencies not listed that have a peer-review process (eg. Komen Foundation, V Foundation, Damon-Runyon) do not qualify as peer-reviewed by NCI criteria. Pharmaceutical contracts supporting clinical trials do not qualify as peer-reviewed, even if approved through FDA.