

**VCU**

Current Funding Opportunities – October 2018

1. Integrating Biospecimen Science Approaches into Clinical Assay Development (U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) ([PAR-18-947](#))

Sponsor: NIH NCI

Synopsis: This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will support extramural research to investigate and mitigate challenges facing clinical assay development and subsequent analytical validation due to preanalytical variability in tumor tissue biopsies and blood biospecimens utilized as “liquid biopsies.” Extramural research funded under this FOA may include investigations of preanalytical variability associated with the procurement and study of small biopsies (core biopsies, small excision samples), pleural aspirates, and blood utilized for liquid biopsies. Investigator-designed experiments will explore how different biospecimen preanalytical conditions affect emerging and clinically relevant biomarkers quantified by a variety of testing platforms. The results from this research program will improve the understanding of how analytical quantification of clinically relevant biomarkers is affected by variation in biospecimen collection, processing, and storage procedures. The overall goal is to expedite biomarker clinical assay development through evidence-based standardization of biopsy handling practices.

Application Receipt Date: November 28, 2018; March 14, 2019; July 11, 2019; November 7, 2019; March 11, 2020; July 9, 2020; November 9, 2020; March 15, 2021; July 11, 2021, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

2. New ACS Initiative: Mission Boost Grant (MBG) ([weblink](#))

Sponsor: American Cancer Society

Synopsis: The Extramural Research Program of the American Cancer Society has historically focused its investments on grant mechanisms that help launch the careers of investigators in cancer research. These investments have funded some of the brightest minds in cancer research. They’ve also broadly expanded knowledge about cancer biology in cells, animals, and humans, and about cancer health services and disparities, in addition to providing training for many healthcare professionals. To extend our previous focus, we are pleased to announce our new investment initiative: Mission Boost Grants. We designed these grants to support select current and past ACS grantees specifically for the translation of their research to human testing.

Mission Boost Grants (MBG) are opportunities for ACS grantees to seek additional, or “boost,” resources for innovative, high-risk/high-reward projects. MBGs offer 2 stages of funding.

The Primary Boost requires the investigator to develop outcome-specific, unequivocal milestones that reduce the risks of studying a new drug, device, or procedure in patients. The topic of study may be the same that was previously funded by the ACS grant, but it doesn't have to be. Primary MBG studies can be preclinical or clinical in nature.

The Secondary Boost requires the investigator to have successfully completed the Primary Boost milestones and submitted them to the Extramural Council for permission to move forward with this grant. The investigator may apply for a Secondary Boost grant to receive support for an additional period for advancing the research to clinical testing in cancer patients. Secondary MBG studies must involve testing in cancer patients.

To be considered for an MBG, research projects must focus on studies in cancer patients, such as:

- Treatment – First Time in Humans (FTIH); clinical proof-of-concept (PoC); side effect reduction
- Diagnostics/Prognostics/Medical Devices – Clinical validation in humans
- Prevention – Including initial incidence or recurrence in humans (biomarker based/biomarker testing)

Letter of Intent Deadline: March 1, 2019

Application Receipt Dates: July 15, 2019 for selected applicants