

Applicant Last name, First name

2026 APPLICATION/PILOT PROJECT/GW AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY (ACS) INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH GRANT (IRG)

This application is for an institutional award to provide pilot research funding to beginning investigators who have not yet achieved independent funding at the national level. Applicants are expected to identify their own GWCC primary mentor or GWCC member of their faculty mentorship committee, or senior GWCC member who will help to guide the award. The role of the mentor is to provide scientific guidance, oversight, and support that will foster the applicant's progression toward greater research independence. As part of the application, the primary mentor must submit a detailed letter describing the space and resources that will be made available to support the proposed research. This letter should also outline the nature of the planned mentorship, including how the mentor-mentee relationship will contribute to the applicant's career advancement.

Applicants must be eligible to apply for independent national competitive research grants but may not currently hold an NIH R01 or R01-like grants. ACS defines an R01-like grant as an award that is more than three years in duration and greater than \$100,000 per year in direct costs. *Holders of career development awards, such as the NIH K series (including K99/R00) are eligible.*

- Applicants should be Assistant Professors (or equivalent) with faculty appointments of six years or less, who are eligible to apply for independent national competitive (peer-reviewed) research grants, but who currently do not hold such funding.
- At the time of the award, applicants must hold a regular GW faculty appointment, although they may be based at GW, Children's National, or the DC Veteran's Administration.
- Applicants are not required to be United States citizens but must hold a visa that will allow him or her to remain in the U.S. long enough to complete the IRG pilot project.

Questions about the pilot project should be directed to Darrion Sprueill (d.sprueill@gwu.edu). Investigators who have difficulty identifying and/or securing a GWCC mentor should contact the Program Directors Dr. Ed Seto at (seto@gwu.edu) or Dr. Alison Hall at (akhall@gwu.edu) for assistance.

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1. GW ACS-IRG Cover Page

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION		
First Name:	Last name:	
Degree(s):	Academic Title:	
Department:	School:	
Year of last degree conferred:	Year of first independent position:	
Citizenship Status (check one):	U.S. citizen or noncitizen	Permanent resident of U.S.
	national	
<i>Applicants must be within six years of their first independent research or faculty appointment. Applicants may not have received NIH R equivalent national funding active at the start date of the proposed IRG application.</i>		

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2. Project Title: (200 characters max) and Abstract (150 words max)

- **Project Title:** A 200-character limit title for the proposed research. Where possible, limit abbreviations.
- **Abstract:** A 150-word description of your research project written in “lay” language is required. The purpose of the summary is to provide a clear overview of the research in straightforward, non-technical language to be shared with donors, the general public, and the media. Include investigator information, as well as primary mentor name.

3. Research Plan/Description of Research Proposed (Strict 4.5- page maximum—not including references)

The intent of the ACS IRG is to support junior faculty in initiating cancer research projects so they can obtain preliminary results that will enable them to compete successfully for national research grants. The proposed research plan should represent a realistic set of goals for a one-year period. Please use the following headings and suggested page limits:

- Condensed versions of R01 (or equivalent) grant applications are not likely to be favorably reviewed by the IRG committee.
- We expect this award will help early investigators establish research programs and enhance their promotion at GW. This award is non-transferable, and scholars who are considering alternative appointments during the award period should not apply.
- *This award is not intended for bridge funding*

3A. Background, Preliminary Investigation and Cancer Relevance (1 page): Discuss the pertinent research findings in the scientific literature and how this proposal will add to these results. Discuss any preliminary data obtained by the applicant that are relevant to this proposal. Explain the relevance of the work to cancer. Any figures must fit within the overall page limit, and no appendices are allowed.

3B. Objective/Hypothesis (about 1/2 page): State concisely the hypothesis to be tested and the specific objective(s) to be achieved during the grant period. The objectives must be reasonable to achieve during the one-year period of grant support.

3C. Proposed Study Design and Analysis (about 2.5 pages): Concisely present the experimental design and the methods to be used to accomplish the specific aims. Indicate how the results will be interpreted and how they will lead to future investigations. Well-documented experimental methods and standard procedures may be described very briefly or referenced, but novel experimental approaches should be described in more detail. Incorporate how the project uses GWCC cores or GWCC members.

3D. Plan for subsequent project support (up to ½ page): The GW ACS-IRG is intended to support pilot studies leading to independent support. Please list the foundations or federal support you will seek, with relevant deadlines of application.

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3E. Biostatistical Consult (about 1/2 page): Previous applications have not been prioritized because of lack of appropriate statistics and design. We strongly suggest you consult with biostatistician in planning your study. If you consulted with a biostatistics professional, please identify which GW/CN biostatistics expert you consulted and briefly describe the impact of this consult on your proposed project.

3F. References (No specified page limit): Not included in the 4.5-page Research Plan.

4. Scholar NIH Biosketch and other support

Include “Other Research Support” which should include ALL research support available to the applicant (including federal, non-federal, institutional, private industry, etc., currently funded, and pending). As of 2026, NIH requires the use of SciENcv to complete biosketches ([See instructions here](#)).

5. Mentor NIH Biosketch and other support

Please indicate your primary mentor. Include other research support information such as funding sponsor, sponsor’s project number (if applicable), title of project, dates of award, percent effort, direct costs, and goal of project. If applicable, please note any overlap in support with this IRG application. As of 2026, NIH requires the use of SciENcv to complete biosketches ([See instructions here](#)).

6. Proposed Budget

Please use NIH detailed budget template format using “Form Page 4: Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period” [here](#).

Budgets may not exceed a total of \$60,000 in direct costs. Indirect costs are not allowed.

Expenditures Allowed:

- Research supplies and animal maintenance
- Technical assistance
- Domestic travel necessary for research program
- Publication costs, including reprints not to exceed \$500
- Costs of computer time
- Special fees (pathology, photography, etc.)
- Stipends for postdoctoral assistants if their role is to promote and sustain the project presented by the junior faculty member
- Equipment costing less than \$2,000
- Registration fees at scientific meetings

Expenditures Not Allowed:

- Secretarial/administrative salaries

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- Salary of principal investigator (pilot project grant recipient)
- Student tuition and/or fees
- Foreign travel
- Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers
- Bridge funding
- Per diem charges for hospital beds
- Non-medical services to patients (patient travel or patient incentives are allowable)
- Construction, renovation, or maintenance of building/laboratory
- Books and periodicals
- Office and laboratory furniture
- Office equipment and supplies including laptop computers
- Rental of office or laboratory space
- Recruiting and relocation expense
- Dues and membership fees in scientific societies
- Indirect costs

7. Budget justification: Limit: 1 page. Provide detailed information regarding budget expenditures.

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED:

Term start:

Term end:

BUDGET PROPOSED:

- A. Personnel
- B. Permanent Equipment (Allowed only if less than \$2,000)
- C. Supplies
- D. Miscellaneous

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION:

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8. Compliance: Human Subjects/Vertebrate Animals

Please indicate any approved protocols and dates. Please also attach any approval letters or copies of submitted regulatory application forms from GW IRIS or the Office of Human Research (Radiation Safety Committee, Animal Studies, etc. if applicable.

- **Human Research Studies Note:** All cancer-related research involving human subjects needs IRB approval before any of the awarded funds will be made available and before the research can commence. Applicants are strongly advised to contact the [GWU Office of Human Research](#) several weeks prior to the application deadline for assistance with submission of research protocol information. Any application submitted without prior human research protocol submission will not be reviewed. Regardless of delays incurred due to the IRB review process, there will be no extensions made on the terms of the grant.
- **Animal Studies Note:** Please include an approved [IACUC](#) protocol from the animal studies committee, or a draft of your planned submission and an expected approval date. Animal approvals must be in place prior to the funding start date.

The materials in 1-8 should be combined into one pdf document for submission. Include a hyperlinked Table of Contents.

SUBMISSION: [Please submit application materials here](#) by 5 p.m. EDT on Monday, March 16, 2026.

NEXT STEPS AFTER PDF SUBMISSION: Letters of Support:

Applicants must identify two individuals who will provide letters of support within the application system. These individuals will be automatically contacted via email once the application is submitted. Support letters must clearly show the applicant has the appropriate training, ability, and time available to complete the proposed project.

- **Letter of Support from the department chair.** The department chair/ division director must comment on eligibility in a support letter.
- **Letter of Support from the primary GWCC mentor.** This LOS should address the space and resources the Mentor will provide to support the project, guidance the Mentor may provide, and how the mentor/ mentee relationship will help move the mentee to greater independence. Mentor should agree to participate in ACS-IRG progress meetings.

Please contact Darrion Sprueill (d.sprueill@gwu.edu) with any questions or concerns.