



Request for Proposals: 2021 LCRF-AstraZeneca Grant Program

1. Program Summary

Lung cancer continues to be the number one cause of cancer deaths worldwide, accounting for an estimated 136,000 deaths annually in the United States alone¹. Despite significant advances in lung cancer treatment, the disease remains the most common cancer killer of both men and women. New treatment modalities such as targeted therapies and immune therapies also pose new and unique challenges. To help address the most profound of these challenges, the 2021 LCRF-AstraZeneca grant program aims to fund innovative projects to:

- Understand primary and acquired resistance to osimertinib and novel combinations targeting concurrent driver mutations
- Develop more effective approaches to address disease progression in patients treated with durvalumab
- Discover novel biomarkers for predicting response to osimertinib or durvalumab and to identify patients who are at higher risk of recurrence (translational research preferred)
- Identify predictive biomarkers, understand the underlying biology and develop novel interventions for immune mediated adverse events, such as pneumonitis, in patients receiving durvalumab

Awards made through this funding mechanism will provide investigators up to \$150,000 in funding over a period of two years. Proposals which specifically focus on either osimertinib or durvalumab will be strongly favored.

2. Eligibility Criteria

Investigators must be affiliated with a non-profit academic or research institution and must be post-doctoral researchers, clinical fellows, or early-career and mid-career investigators with less than ten years' experience since their initial faculty appointment.

Applicants from US-based and international institutions are eligible to apply and may hold any residency/citizenship status. Senior investigators with more than ten years' experience since faculty appointment are generally not eligible for funding and are encouraged to mentor a junior team member through the application process. However, exceptions will be made for investigators with more than ten years' experience in other disease areas or topics. Ineligible investigators with these or other special circumstances may request review by contacting the LCRF grants office (see Inquiries section below).

3. Budget Requirements

The maximum award amount is \$150,000 for a period of two years (disbursed at \$75,000 per year). Additional budget requirements and considerations include the following:

- Funding from this award may not be used to support institutional indirect / facilities and administrative costs.
- The LCRF grant must be the primary source of support for the project. Additional secondary funding (e.g. for core services support) is permitted.
- There is no limit on the amount of salary support that may be requested. However, appropriate justification for all budget items is required. For laboratory-based projects, any salary requests in excess of 20% of the total budget must be explicitly justified.

¹ American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2020. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2020.

- Any equipment costs must be limited and directly applicable to the research project (i.e. large, general equipment costs are not permitted).
- Direct patient care costs reimbursable by other sources may not be included.
- Travel and publication costs are permitted.

4. Data Sharing and Open Access Policy

LCRF is committed to promoting open science by helping to increase access to investigators' findings and improving collaboration and data sharing among the lung cancer research community. Accordingly, it is a condition of LCRF funding that all peer-reviewed articles supported in whole or in part by LCRF funds must be made available in the PubMed Central online archive no later than twelve months after publication. In addition, LCRF grantees must indicate explicitly in all reports, publications, and other research communications whether the data, methods used in the analysis, and materials used to conduct the research will be made available to any researcher for purposes of reproducing the results or replicating the procedure. At the time of submission of the full proposal, all investigators must indicate if they will or will not make their data, analytic methods, and study materials available to other researchers.

5. Application Instructions and Requirements

All applications for funding must be submitted through a two-stage process consisting of a letter of intent (LOI) and full proposal. Applicants may only apply for one LCRF grant per grant cycle. Upon submission and review of the LOI, applicants whose submission is reviewed favorably will be invited to complete a full proposal. Applications for an extension of a previously awarded LCRF grant are not permitted under this funding mechanism.

The following application components are required for a complete submission:

Letter of Intent	Full Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Information / Demographics • Specific Aims (one page in length) • Biosketch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal Summary • Narrative (six pages maximum): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Background and Significance ○ Specific Aims ○ Experimental Approach ○ Preliminary Data (if applicable) ○ References (not included in page-limit) • Success Factors • Timeline • Future Plans • Budget • Letter(s) of Support²

Additional Considerations:

- All LOIs must include a NIH biosketch or curriculum vitae (five pages maximum length) of the primary investigator and any key personnel involved in the project.
- At the full proposal stage, applications must include at least one letter of support from the principal investigator's program director/advisor affirming the following statements:
 - The applicant will be officially affiliated with or employed by the institution during the grant period.
 - There is adequate institutional space and equipment to accomplish the proposed project.
 - The program director/advisor confirms his/her commitment to and provision of institutional space and equipment for the grantee.

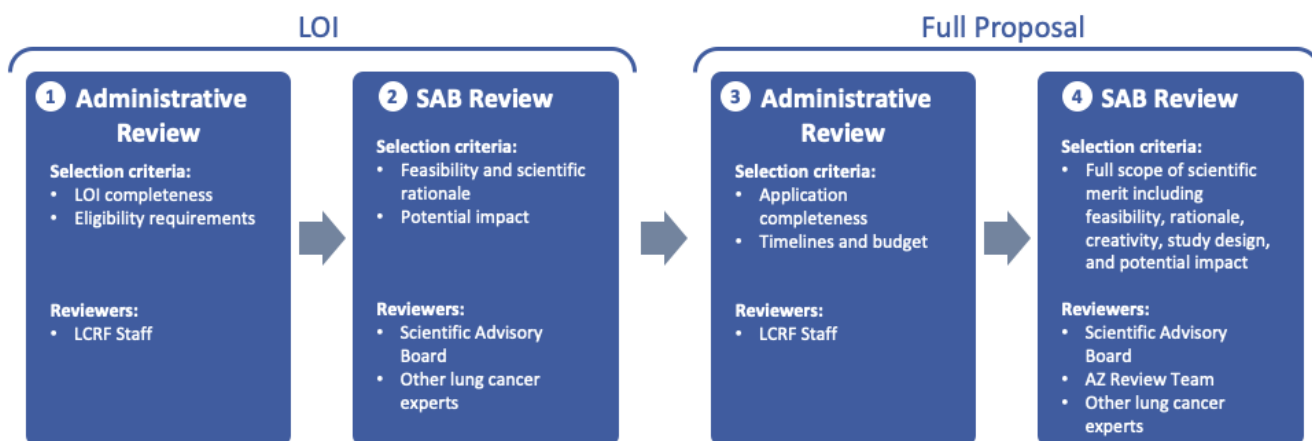
Both LOIs and full proposals must be submitted through LCRF's online grants management system accessible at <http://lcrf.org/grantinterface>. Previews of the LOI and full application may be accessed at http://lcrf.org/application_preview.

6. Timeline

- LOI submission deadline: **April 30**¹
- Applicants notified of LOI decision: June 25
- Full proposal submission deadline: **August 27**¹
- Notification of award: October 22
- Project start: December

7. Evaluation of Applications

All applications will be evaluated using a two-stage review process. Only applicants whose LOI is reviewed favorably will be invited to submit a full proposal. At each stage, the evaluation consists of an administrative review followed by a comprehensive review by a Scientific Review Committee (see figure below). At the LOI stage, evaluations will focus on high-level aspects of the research proposal including overall rationale, feasibility, and potential impact on the lung cancer field. At the full proposal stage, submissions will additionally be evaluated for sound scientific rationale, study design, feasibility, and creativity/innovation.² Similar to an NIH R21 award, reviewers at the full proposal stage will be asked to provide an impact score reflecting their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the field of lung cancer research.



Application review process.

¹ LOIs and full proposals must be submitted by 11:59pm Eastern US time on the date indicated.

² Note regarding preliminary data: A grant application need not have extensive background material, and preliminary data are not required. Reviewers focus their evaluations on the conceptual framework, the level of innovation, and the potential to significantly advance our knowledge or understanding. Appropriate justification for the proposed studies can be provided through literature citations, data from other sources, or, when available, from investigator-generated data.

8. Award Notification and Announcement

All applicants will be notified of their award status by the date specified in the Timeline section above. Regrettably, due to the high volume of submissions, LCRF is not able to provide feedback on LOIs or proposals

that are not selected to receive an award. Awards will be publicly announced at LCRF's annual Lung Cancer Awareness Luncheon, via the LCRF website, and press release.

9. Post-award Reporting Requirements

During the funding period, all investigators are required to submit at least two progress reports including the following:

Report Type	Due Date	Templates
Interim Report	At conclusion of year one of the grant term	http://lcrf.org/InterimReport
Final Report (includes financial summary report)	Within sixty days of conclusion of the grant term	http://lcrf.org/FinalReport

All reports must be submitted via the LCRF online grants management system, and additional reports may be assigned when project terms are amended (e.g. in the case of a no-cost extension or institutional transfer). Receipt of the second year of funding is contingent upon submission and approval of the interim progress report at the conclusion of the first year of the grant term.

In addition, all principal investigators will be required to meet annually with representatives from LCRF and AstraZeneca to share their findings, discuss progress, and assist in promoting the advancement of scientific knowledge.

10. Inquiries

For questions, please contact the LCRF office at grants@lcrf.org or via phone at +1 (212) 588-1580.