

CONCERN FOUNDATION'S CONQUER CANCER NOW AWARD
2017 Call for Applications and LOI Guidelines

IMPORTANT DATES:

LOI online submission deadline: 5:00 pm (EST) September 7, 2017
Notification of LOI selection: approximately October 10, 2017
Full proposal submission deadline: 5:00 pm (EST) December 7, 2017
Notification of awards: May 2018
Start of funding: July 1, 2018
End of 1st year funding: June 30, 2019
End of 2nd year funding: June 30, 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION

For help with the electronic application process, please contact Customer Support at proposalCENTRAL:

E-mail: pcsupport@altum.com
Phone: 1-800-875-2562

Grant program questions should be directed to:

Ms. Seunga Yu
Grants Consultant
Concern Foundation
E-mail: seunga.yu@gmail.com

CONCERN FOUNDATION

Concern Foundation is an independent, volunteer-driven organization conceived in 1968 by a group of friends who wanted to make sure their dollars counted in the fight against cancer.

With an average of 92% of net proceeds going directly to research, Concern has raised more than \$57 million dollars and funded 750 cancer research scientists studying cancer, primarily in the areas of cancer genetics, cancer cell biology, and cancer immunology.

By specifically targeting promising early-career scientists and providing critically needed “seed” money for innovative projects, Concern Foundation supports development of the next generation of cancer researchers and thus promotes progress in understanding cancer biology and improved approaches to cancer.

CONCERN Foundation grant cycle is every two years. It begins with submission of Letter of Intent (LOI). After administrative and scientific review, the most promising LOIs are invited to submit a full proposal. Submitted proposals are peer-reviewed by experienced scientists and top applications are recommended to the Concern Foundation Executive Board for funding.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Proposal content: Proposals must be hypothesis-driven and centered on cancer genetics, cancer biology, or cancer immunology. Concern will not fund clinical trials, cancer epidemiology, or behavioral studies.

Eligibility: Grants are awarded to independent investigators who are at the start of their scientific career (i.e., junior faculty) and are at the level of Assistant Professor (or equivalent with explanation). A letter from the applicant's Department Chair is required and should attest to 1) the applicant's faculty status, 2) the applicant's status as an independent investigator, 3) institutional support in terms of stand-alone laboratory space and startup funds, and 4) percent protected time devoted to research as junior faculty. This letter needs to accompany the initial Letter of Intent and (if selected) also uploaded with the full proposal.

Priority is given to proposals from independent investigators who have yet to obtain significant funding for their work. Applicant who is PI on an existing R01 or equivalent is not eligible. Applicant who is notified prior to the full Concern grant submission deadline of a clearly-fundable score on an R01 or equivalent grant-in-review where he/she is PI is also not eligible. However, a submitted R01 that has not yet been reviewed at the time of Concern grant submission is eligible. If its score is not clearly fundable in this interim period, contact Concern to determine eligibility.

Applicants must list all current and pending support from other funding sources, noting any budgetary or scientific overlap. This includes funding from all years of multi-year grants. This information will be requested with the initial LOI and will need to be updated with the full grant application.

Concern Foundation accepts grant applications from institutions in the United States and abroad. U.S. citizenship is not a requirement.

Applicants at governmental agencies are not eligible.

AWARD TERMS

The total grant amount for a Conquer Cancer Now Award is \$60,000 per year for a maximum of two years. A second year of funding is not guaranteed and is based on evidence of sufficient progress based on the required progress report, availability of funds, and approval of the Concern Foundation Executive Board. Grants are disbursed in quarterly installments.

A detailed progress report must be submitted at the conclusion of the first year to be eligible for the second year of funding.

At the conclusion of the funding period (and/or 2nd year), a detailed final report must be submitted explaining the results of the investigation funded by Concern, including papers published and new grant support obtained based on the Concern work. If unexpended funds remain, they must either be returned to Concern, or a 'no cost extension' with a justification needs to be requested in writing.

Concern will not fund overhead costs, indirect costs, or similar fees or charges levied by an institution. Funds are not provided for equipment, administrative support or travel. All funds are to be distributed only for salaries and supplies/reagents/services directly related to the funded research.

Any publication based on work funded wholly or partially by Concern must acknowledge the support and be communicated to the Concern office upon its publication. Following completion of the award, awardees are expected to respond to periodic brief inquiries from Concern regarding updates on long-term career progress and success.

SELECTION PROCESS

Conquer Cancer Now Award recipients will be selected based on peer review by Concern Foundation's Scientific Review Committee. The committee is comprised of a panel of cancer research scientists from institutions in the United States and abroad.

Recommendations will be based on the following criteria:

1. Focus on the mission of Concern to fund the best research in the areas of cancer genetics, cancer biology, and cancer immunology.
2. Significance and originality of the proposal.
3. Strong hypothesis-driven scientific approach.
4. Feasibility of the aims of the proposal.
5. Qualifications of the investigator and his/her team.
6. Institutional commitment, scientific research environment, and availability of resources to support the proposed project.

LOI: HOW TO APPLY

A Letter of Intent (LOI) is required for all Conquer Cancer Now award applications. LOIs must be submitted online via proposalCENTRAL at <https://proposalcentral.altum.com>. The deadline to complete the LOI is 5:00 pm (EST) September 7, 2017.

Letters of Intent are reviewed by members of the Concern Foundation Scientific Review Committee. Notification of LOI status and invitation to submit a full proposal will be available in early October 2017. In the recent grant cycle approximately one third of LOIs were invited to submit a full proposal. If invited to submit a full proposal, additional guidelines will be made available via proposalCENTRAL. The full grant application deadline will be 5:00 pm (EST) December 7, 2017.

Applicants should register at proposalCENTRAL and complete a professional profile. Applicants also should ensure their institution has registered an Institution Profile with proposalCENTRAL. Tutorials are available at the login screen once you register.

The LOI application process will be operational at proposalCENTRAL on or before June 1, 2017.

LETTER OF INTENT COMPONENTS and FORMAT

The LOI should include the following sections and content:

- A) All information requested by proposalCENTRAL and filled online.
- B) **Scientific Description** (up to 1 page, uploaded as pdf)
 1. Principal Investigator (applicant)
 2. Title of project
 3. Key Words (3-5)
 4. Background and Preliminary Data
 5. Hypothesis
 6. Specific Aims and Synopsis of the work
 7. Impact, Significance, Novelty (to science, to cancer, to advancement of PI's career)
 8. Relevance to Concern Foundation's mission
- C) **Chair letter of support** (uploaded)

Letter from the Department or Division Chair should include information on:

1. Academic position of applicant attesting to their status as junior investigator
2. Degree of independence (applicant's position, independence of research direction, independence of laboratory space)
3. Institutional commitment (space, financial support, protected time: amounts, duration)
4. Other relevant information in support of the applicant

D) **Biosketch** (Current NIH biosketch, up to 5 pages, uploaded, template provided on proposalCENTRAL)
NIH-style biosketch. This should include past/current/pending grant support: agency, PI, role, grant title, dates, goal, % effort (or months effort), direct cost per year, overlap with current application.

Format requirements:

- Font size: 11 or greater, standard line spacing and text density
- Margin size: 0.5" all around
- Page limits:
 - Scientific page: up to 1 page, inclusive of all content above
 - Biosketch: up to 5 pages, NIH style, sample provided on proposalCENTRAL