

CONCERN FOUNDATION'S CONQUER CANCER NOW AWARD 2019 Call for Applications and LOI Guidelines

IMPORTANT DATES:

LOI online submission deadline: 5:00 pm (EST) September 5, 2019

Notification of LOI selection: October 2019

Full proposal submission deadline: 5:00 pm (EST) December 5, 2019

Notification of awards: June 2020

Start of funding: July 1, 2020

End of 1st year funding: June 30, 2021

End of 2nd year funding: June 30, 2022

CONTACT INFORMATION

For help with the electronic submission process, contact Customer Support at Survey Monkey Apply. For more information, visit <https://smapply.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/115001660353-Email-Support#for-apps-reviewers-recommend>

Grant program questions should be directed to the Grants Administrator:

Seunga Yu

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% or greater of net proceeds going directly to research, Concern has raised more than \$60 million dollars and funded over 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 accepts new grant proposals every two years. It begins with submission of a 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: Eligible applicants are 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). Due to the highly accomplished nature of the junior faculty who typically apply to Concern, PIs must have been in their current position for at least one year at the time of submission of the LOI.

A brief letter from the applicant's Department Chair is required and should attest to 1) the applicant's faculty status and duration or start date, 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.

Pre-Eligibility Questionnaire: To ensure that only qualified candidates spend the time to complete the LOI, a brief questionnaire has been implemented on Survey Monkey Apply to determine eligibility. In some instances, an applicant that has been declined based upon the questionnaire may feel that there are extenuating circumstances. The applicant is welcome to send an email to Concern Foundation's Grants Administrator, Seunga Yu, at seunga.yu@gmail.com stating his/her rationale along with a current biosketch.

Priority will be given to proposals from investigators who are well-regarded by their institution and have yet to obtain significant outside funding for their work. An applicant who is a PI with 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 already reviewed but fundability based on its score is not clear-cut during 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 Survey Monkey Apply. The deadline to complete the LOI is 5:00 pm (EST) September 5, 2019.

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 2019. Due to the large number of LOIs submitted, only a small percentage are invited to submit a full proposal. Additional guidelines will be made available to those invited to submit the full proposal via Survey Monkey Apply. The full grant application deadline will be 5:00 pm (EST) December 5, 2019.

The LOI application process will be operational on or before July 1, 2019.

LETTER OF INTENT COMPONENTS and FORMAT

The LOI should include the following sections and content:

- A) All information requested by Survey Monkey Apply 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 and their start date in that position.
2. Degree of independence (applicant's position, independence in directing research direction and budget use, independence in terms of laboratory space)
3. Institutional commitment (independent space, institutional financial support, amount of protected time, duration of the protection, etc.)
4. Other relevant information in support of the applicant

D) **Biosketch** (Current NIH biosketch, up to 5 pages, uploaded, template provided) 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 the content above
 - Biosketch: up to 5 pages