

THE HOPE FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

SUPPORTING SWOG CANCER RESEARCH NETWORK

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

2021 SWOG DEI Career Development Award:

A Fellowship Supporting Improved Diversity and Representativeness of Clinical Trial Participants

About SWOG

SWOG Cancer Research Network is a global cancer research community that designs and conducts publicly funded clinical trials. Since 1956, these trials have saved more than 3 million years of life by testing new treatments, new prevention strategies, and new ways to care for those who survive cancer.

The Hope Foundation for Cancer Research is the public charity supporting SWOG's mission. Hope provides research grants, scientific trainings, career awards and fellowships to support SWOG's members and further the impact of their work. **In 2021, Hope will offer a career development award supporting a SWOG investigator charged with implementing a new system for developing, managing, and sharing SWOG trials that will increase participant diversity and improve health equity.** These efforts are critical to achieving the group's diversity, equity, and inclusion goals and expected to be a model in the National Cancer Institute's National Clinical Trials Network.

Overview of Award

The intent of the DEI Career Development Award is to provide a motivated candidate with the opportunity to build or further their career within SWOG, and to lead a network-wide project with the potential to impact clinical trials and cancer care for patients everywhere.

Specifically, the award aims to assist in the implementation of new systems, processes, and procedures to increase diversity of SWOG trial participants. The system, unique to SWOG, is laid out in a new training program called *TeamScience@SWOG: Improving Diversity and Representativeness of Clinical Trial Participants*. The implementation will be a partnership between the SWOG patient advocate and recruitment and retention committees, and give the grantee deep, direct experience in improving clinical trial accessibility, increasing diversity in cancer trial participants, and leading significant organizational change.

The Grantee will oversee work that will:

1. **Begin to train and provision SWOG members** – study chairs, biostatisticians, and patient advocates – in best, good, and emerging practices in planning for and attracting diverse patient populations. The practices will include cultural competence, population forecasting for trials, establishing inclusion and exclusion criteria which support diversity and representativeness, supportive site selection, accrual progress checks and countermeasures, building awareness, sharing results, and more. Practices would be available for posting on SWOG.org which would allow access not only to SWOG members but others within the National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN).
2. **Forge partnerships and synergies** with cancer advocacy groups focused on diverse populations as well as leading cancer advocacy groups with significant diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. Partners could leverage SWOG’s diversity and representativeness methodology and supporting resources, and SWOG would leverage the partnerships to raise awareness about its trials, as well as other NCTN and NCORP studies.
3. **Initiate direct appeals to underrepresented patients** to learn about, and enroll in, SWOG trials. These appeals would include a social campaign to direct the public to SWOG.org to view printable, sharable, plain language trial summaries, and direct them to call 1-800-4-Cancer for additional information or questions.

Reporting Requirements

The Grantee will be responsible for documenting and sharing project progress through regular reporting. Scholarly products, such as publications, are also expected to result from the work. Findings will be further disseminated through SWOG’s communications & public relations manager who regularly publishes network news and press releases for wider public consumption. **Year 2 funding is contingent upon receipt and approval of regular progress reporting.**

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible applicants will:

1. Have demonstrated interest in health disparities and/or DEI research
2. Be a member of one of the following racial and ethnic groups have been shown by the National Science Foundation to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis: Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders
3. Have the capacity to shift 25% effort to the project for a period of 24 months
4. Have institutional and individual membership in SWOG (*applicants who are not yet individual members of SWOG may apply, contingent upon joining prior to start of award period*)

5. Have proven experience in team and/or project leadership

Preferred Experience

1. Experience implementing practice changing initiatives and/or cultural change
2. Experience with continuous improvement, clinical trial methods and accrual, and best practices

Institutional Criteria

SWOG member institutions should encourage eligible applicants to apply.

Letters of nomination from the institutional SWOG PI must clearly demonstrate commitment to the candidate's potential for the project and/or overall academic career. For applicants who hold Clinical Instructor or Lecturer appointments, this letter of support must include ongoing commitment by the institution for the period of the grant award.

Application Procedure

To apply, please assemble the following materials and submit online by 5pm ET on March 1, 2021:

- Completed full application form ([online](#))
- Current CV and Other Support of the applicant
- Letter of Support from SWOG institutional PI
- Letter of Recommendation from relevant mentor, colleague, or collaborator
- Personal Statement (max 5 pages) which details the following:
 - Summary of career to date
 - Future career goals
 - Role of SWOG in career development
 - Motivation to apply for DEI career development award
 - Relevant experience (including any work with advocacy groups, community based organizations, community health promotion initiatives, and/or patient-facing resources)
 - Approach to implementation science

Evaluation

A committee of SWOG and Hope leadership will review applications in consideration of the following criteria: 1) Investigator qualifications, 2) Strength of institutional environment and support, 3) Strength of application materials, specific to DEI and patient-focused efforts.

Funding

The award provides \$100,000 over two years, to be paid at \$50,000 per year. In addition, the Foundation will provide funding for travel to group meetings and one professional society meeting within the funding period. The source of this funding is non-federal. No indirect cost is

paid on this award, and payment will be made annually to the hosting institution, as is Foundation policy for all career awards and fellowships. Transfer of hosting institution within the grant period must be acknowledged in writing to the Foundation for review.

A no-cost extension may be considered for this award with proper justification. Any unused funds should be returned to the Foundation within 90 days of project close.

Please note: In compliance with the Physician Payments Sunshine Act, components of this program (travel, meals, educational materials) may require reports of payment or transfer of value provided to all US licensed physicians. The Foundation will alert grantees should regulations mandate reporting.

Key Dates

- Applications due: March 1, 2021
- Award announced: April 1, 2021
- Period of award: May 2021 through May 2023