

THE HOPE FOUNDATION

FOR CANCER RESEARCH

The SWOG/Hope Foundation Impact Award 2023 Announcement

OVERVIEW

SWOG Cancer Research Network's mission is to improve the practice of cancer medicine in preventing, detecting, and treating cancer, and to enhance the quality of life for cancer survivors, primarily through design and conduct of clinical trials. SWOG is a National Cancer Institute-supported network of more than 4,000 cancer researchers at more than 500 institutions in the U.S., Canada, and beyond. Additional educational and cancer research support is provided by SWOG's non-profit, philanthropic partner, The Hope Foundation for Cancer Research.

The **SWOG/Hope Foundation Impact Award** is a funding program from The Hope Foundation that **encourages novel and innovative SWOG research** by supporting early and conceptual stages of these projects. **The work proposed should use resources from completed SWOG trials or be directly translatable to clinical trials in SWOG and the NCTN in the foreseeable future.**

Awards will be issued through a competitive, peer-review process that includes SWOG and Hope Foundation leaders as well as externally nominated reviewers, as necessary.

Individual projects are funded for up to \$250,000 (total cost) and may be spent over a 2-year award period. Funding for smaller feasibility projects that are critical to the conduct of future SWOG trials are also encouraged. Indirect costs are included in the total award and limited to a rate of 25%. The number of awards and duration of program is contingent upon available funding at SWOG and The Hope Foundation.

OBJECTIVES

Achieving SWOG's mission of changing the practice of cancer medicine in clinical trials requires innovative ideas, techniques, and perspectives. SWOG and The Hope Foundation

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understand that novel ideas might not align with current thinking or may not yet be supported by substantial preliminary data. The Impact Award Program is intended to foster novel scientific ideas, agents, targets, and technologies that have the potential to substantially advance the practice of clinical cancer research within the Group. For example, a project may seek to identify new predictive bio-markers for prevention, supportive care or therapeutic studies, assess the feasibility of an agent device or measurement tool, identify resistance mechanisms, develop new technologies for monitoring therapeutic response, or develop and test novel methodologies to assist with the conduct of health care delivery studies.

These studies may involve considerable scientific risk but may potentially lead to a breakthrough in a particular area, or to the development of novel techniques, agents, methodologies, models, or applications that could have a major impact on cancer research. It is expected that support via this mechanism will lead to subsequent extramural support from other sources, a metric of success for this grant awarding program. In addition, publications citing SWOG and The Hope Foundation, subsequent professional promotion or other related successes will be further metrics. Grantees must be willing to provide ongoing and long-term reporting on individual project outcomes.

KEY DATES

LOI Deadlines: January 15 and July 1 at 5pm ET

Full Application Deadlines: March 15 and September 1 at 5pm ET

Award Announcements: Spring and Fall SWOG Group Meetings

RFA Release: Fall SWOG Group Meeting

Award Period:

March submission: June 1-May 30

September submission: January 1- December 31

ELIGIBILITY

Any SWOG member investigator eligible for NIH funding is encouraged to submit to this program. Awardees will be expected to present their work at one or more semiannual

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SWOG group meetings and to adhere to Group policies and procedures as applicable to the project.

Basic Science applicants are required to partner with a clinician as a Co-PI.

Applications involving the use of specimens or data from a SWOG trial must include statements of support from the appropriate Committee Chair (or TM Chair from Committee) and Committee Statistician. In addition, when applicable a TM Proposal Submission form must be completed and submitted with the application materials. Templates are provided at [the program page](#).

Though funding is awarded for Investigator-initiated projects, funding will be awarded directly to an institution. Eligible institutions include:

- Non-profit organizations
- Public or private institutions, such as universities, colleges, hospitals, and laboratories
- Units of State and local governments
- Eligible agencies of the Federal government
- Domestic or foreign institutions/organizations

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- LOI: See instructions at [the program page](#).

If invited to submit full application:

- Cover Letter that introduces project and **PI/PD relationship to SWOG**
- Abstract, limited to 250 words
- Budget, including:
 - Budget for Entire Proposed Period
 - Budget Justification
 - Key Personnel
- Biographical Sketch for no more than 3 Key Personnel *inclusive of PI or Co-PI* **(Must not exceed 5 pages each)**
- Other Support

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- Research Strategy (6-page limit for Significance, Innovation and Approach, inclusive of charts. References DO NOT count toward this limit.)
- Specific Aims (1-page limit)
- Statements of Support: If a project involved the use of specimens or data from a SWOG trial, brief statements of support are required from the appropriate Committee Chair and Committee Statistician, as well as the completion of a TM Proposal Submission form. Templates are provided at [the program page](#).
- **Formatting:** include page number and PI name in upper-right corner of all pages

Applicants may submit more than one application, provided that each application is scientifically distinct.

SUBMISSION

Completed submissions should be uploaded to The Hope Foundation website in accordance with form and instructions available at [the program page](#).

Additional submission details:

- The **Error Correction Window** for the SWOG Impact application is 48 hours from time of submission.
- **Should the due date fall on a weekend or holiday**, the deadline is automatically extended to next business day.
- **In case of an emergency or extreme weather**, documentation of institutional closing should be sent along with application, which must be received by 5pm local time on the first business day that the institution is open.
- **Late submissions will not be accepted.**
- **Resubmissions** are allowable; **no more than three (3)** resubmissions of the same concept accepted.
- Resubmissions that were assigned an **Impact Score of less than 40** do not require submission of an LOI.

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SCORING CRITERIA

All applicants will receive an Overall Impact score and brief written critique.

The scoring criteria and definitions of the Translational Research Award coincide with the current NIH peer review process, with range of scores from 1 (best) to 9 (worst). The 5 core NIH criteria will be used, with additional criteria gauging ***feasibility and pertinence to SWOG's mission***.

Overall Impact. Reviewers will provide an overall impact/priority score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the following five core review criteria, and additional review criteria (as applicable for the project proposed).

Core Review Criteria. Reviewers will consider each of the five review criteria below in the determination of scientific and technical merit and give a separate score for each. A score will also be provided for feasibility.

- **Significance.** Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?
- **Investigator(s).** Are the PD/PIs, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? Have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance, and organizational structure appropriate for the project? If the applicant is a basic scientist, is a clinician sited as the co-PI?
- **Innovation.** Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of

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theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

- *Approach.* Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility, and will particularly risky aspects be managed? If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children, justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?
- *Environment.* Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?
- *Feasibility.* Is the project feasible within SWOG's framework? Does the project directly support the strategies and goals of SWOG's Committees? Will this project be concluded within projected timeframe?

PAYMENT

Payment will be remitted as described in the executed Award Notice from The Foundation. Certain contingencies for release of funds may exist, including provision of Just In Time data, confirmation of SWOG samples/bank inventory, IRB approval, or updated Other Support forms, as applicable.

PROGRESS REPORTING

Awardees will be expected to present their progress reports as an oral presentation at one or more semi-annual SWOG meetings upon request, and with an annual 2-page progress and financial report submitted to the president of The Hope Foundation. In addition, long-term follow-up reporting is required, up to five years.

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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.

All inquiries related to this may be directed to:

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