

## O'Neal Invests

**Description:** The O'Neal Invests Program seeks to promote excellence in broad areas of basic, translational, and population science research relevant to cancer. Therapeutic clinical trials cannot be supported by this mechanism, but the inclusion of diagnostic or biomarker correlative studies related to a therapeutic protocol that are within the budget constraints will be considered.

There are two funding cycles per year, in the spring and fall. For the current cycle, the **proposals will be due on December 3, 2021**. Grant proposals will be reviewed by a standing study section composed of members of each O'Neal research program and *ad hoc* reviewers as needed. Awards will be made on September 1, 2021. Funds from all sources including Elkus, Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama (BCRFA), Young Supporters Board New Investigator Awards, Mike Slive Foundation and CCSG Developmental Funds will be distributed through this process.

Reviews will be provided for funded and unfunded proposals. Investigators with proposals that were discussed but not funded can meet with the review panel chair to discuss the critiques.

### **There will be two award mechanisms:**

**Pre-R01:** This mechanism will support research projects that will lead to a single PI or multi-PI R01 submission within two years. The award is \$80,000 per year, for two years, contingent on a 9-month progress report.

**Pre-P01/Pre-SPORE:** This mechanism will support collaborative, team science that will lead to an application for a multi-project, multi-PI extramural grant such as a P01 or SPORE within two years. This award is for \$250,000 per year for up to two years. Three, preferably four, investigators with distinct projects must apply together. **Approval from the O'Neal Director is required for Pre-P01/Pre-SPORE prior to submission of letters of intent.**

### **General guidelines and instructions:**

- A **Letter of Intent** must be provided no later than **5 p.m. October 15, 2021**. The Letter should include the title of the project (160 characters or less), the investigator(s) involved, and the intended mechanism (Pre-R01, Pre-P01 or pre-SPORE). Investigators who will receive funds for the grant should be listed as Co-PIs. All other investigators that are involved but will not receive funds should be listed as collaborators. A description of your project is not required as there is no selection process to triage LOIs. Hence, everyone who submits an LOI is eligible submit a full application.
- Investigators can be a PI or Co-PI on only a single application.
- Investigators must be Assistant Professors or higher and have their own independent laboratory.
- Investigators who currently hold O'Neal Invests grants are ineligible.
- PIs and Co-PIs must be members of the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center or become members upon receipt of an award.
- Funds will be available only for personnel, supplies or services directly required for the project. Investigator salaries, indirect costs and travel are not allowed.

- All funds must be used for work at UAB, except for essential collaborations focused on providing key reagents or technologies. These funds must be approved in advance of submission.
- A one-page progress report is required 9 months from the start of funding. Funding for the second year is dependent on satisfactory progress towards achieving the 9-month deliverables provided in the original application.
- Applications submitted in previous funding cycles, but that were not successful, may be resubmitted. Changes may be made based on the critiques received, at the discretion of the PI. A separate one - page response to critiques can be included.
- Funded investigators will be invited to present an O'Neal Research Seminar at the completion of the pilot project and will be expected to serve on the review panel.
- At the end of the two-year period, unspent monies may be carried forward for up to one year with approval. Approval to carry these monies forward will depend on a plan to use these funds to continue or extend the aims of the initial proposal. Any monies remaining at the end of the third year will be returned to the O'Neal.

**Grant Format:** Please stay within the page limits set out below. The font should be 11 pt. with a smaller font for tables and figure legends. Narrow margins (min. 0.5 inch) may be used. Figure legends should be 9 pt. font or larger. Please submit your application as a **single document** in Microsoft Word or pdf format. **Applications that do not conform to this formatting or lack any of the required sections will not be reviewed.**

- **Cover sheet:** (1 page) Please provide the title of the project the name of the PI/ Co-PIs and their department, and a list of other key personnel. The cover sheet should also contain the following statement signed by departmental chairs of each PI and Co-PI:

*I confirm that the applicant spends at least 70% of his/her effort on research and has adequate laboratory space and departmental support to complete these studies over a two-year period.*

- **Lay abstract:** (1/2 page) Please provide a brief description of your project in lay terms. This is to inform non-scientist donors of the importance of the work proposed.
- **Scientific Abstract:** (1/2 page) Please provide a description of your proposal in scientific terms. Describe its relevance, significance and innovation. Do not include figures or diagrams in your abstract.
- **Specific Aims:** (1 page) Succinctly outline the significance and rationale for the proposed research and describe the hypotheses to be tested in each aim in a format similar to an R01 specific aims page.
- **Relevance to catchment area:** (1/2 page) Please identify how your project would address specific cancer needs of our catchment area (the State of Alabama). This is important for our NCI CCSG. We must explain how the research done at the O'Neal impacts the cancer burden and disparities of our catchment area. For additional information on specific cancer burdens and cancer disparities in the catchment area that your work may impact, please contact Monica Baskin, PhD ([mbaskin@uab.edu](mailto:mbaskin@uab.edu)), the Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement.
- **Relevance to specific cancers:** (1/2 page) If your proposal is not focused on a specific cancer, please indicate how your work is relevant to one or two types of cancer. This is important as we have some funding that is restricted to specific cancers such as breast, lung, GI, hematologic cancers,

and prostate. If your work is relevant to any of these cancers, it will increase the potential funding pool. **If your proposal is clearly focused on a specific cancer, this section is not needed.**

- **Approach and Preliminary Data:** (3 pages) Provide any key data needed to support your hypothesis within this 3-page section. Describe the approach you will use to test your hypothesis through your specific aims and summarize the expected outcomes. **For Pre-P01/SPORE each project will have a 3-page approach.**
- **Nine-month deliverables:** (1/2 page) List 3 key specific scientific deliverables that you expect to complete by 9 months. This should be a list of experiments that you proposed and plan to have complete, not plans to write papers and grants. **For Pre-P01/SPORE, each project will have a nine-month deliverable list.**
- **Game Changing:** (1 page) Explain why this is a new area for your lab, why you feel that it will lead to new extramural funding and what you envision to be the focus of the proposal for extramural funding. Discuss the work in your lab that is currently funded and explain why this proposal is different.
- **Bibliography:** No page limit.
- **Integration of Projects (Pre-P01/ Pre-SPORE applications only):** (1½ pages) Describe how the work in each project informs the other projects. This is a very important review criterion for P01s and somewhat important for SPORE applications. It is not sufficient that reagents made in one project will be used in another project. Instead, the results from one project must influence/synergize with work done in the other projects.
- **Biosketch and other support:** Required for PIs and Co-PIs
- **Appendix:** You may include letters of support from key collaborators. Please do not include reprints, figures or other materials, as these will not be provided to reviewers.
- **Budget:** Please indicate how funds will be allocated. List all personnel with % effort and provide a brief description of their activities on the project.

**Approvals:** All applicable approvals (such as IACUC, IRB, OHS) must be provided before funds will be released. You may amend existing approvals to include O'Neal Invests funding, if permitted by the relevant internal regulatory committee. If approvals are not provided within 3 months of the date of notification of an award, the award will be rescinded.

**Progress Report:** A one-page progress report is required 9 months from the funding start date. Second year funding is contingent upon reasonable progress having been made.

**Publications:** All publications must acknowledge funding from the O'Neal and relevant agencies providing support. This information will be provided at the time of award notification.

**Questions:** Please direct questions about this funding opportunity to Susan Ruppert, PhD, Pilot Grant Coordinator, at [CCC-oneal-invests@uab.edu](mailto:CCC-oneal-invests@uab.edu)