

YALE SPORE IN SKIN CANCER DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAM AWARDS AND CAREER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM AWARDS

The **YALE SPORE in Skin Cancer** is pleased to announce **DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH AWARDS AND CAREER ENHANCEMENT AWARDS** beginning September 1, 2024 to fund projects in amounts up to \$50,000 for one year with the possibility of competing renewal for a second year of funding

DRP and CEP projects must have *promising translational research potential with application to human skin cancer*. It is expected that they can evolve into projects with a clear translational component that are suitable for funding either within the Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer or as R01 or equivalent grants.

Developmental Research Program Awards will support a broad spectrum of innovative pilot projects applicable to human skin cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment.

Career Enhancement Program Awards will support new investigative cutaneous oncologists and other scientists committed to multidisciplinary studies investigating the relevance of biological discoveries in human skin cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis or treatment, and enhance the careers of individuals who are already productively investigating this field.

DRP-eligible investigators include established and junior investigators (faculty appointment higher than Postdoctoral Fellow or Research Associate). They include faculty who currently lead skin cancer programs but wish to test an idea *clearly distinct from current or pending grants*. Or, they may lead programs not directed at skin cancer, but be interested in exploring the applicability of their expertise to skin cancer.

CEP funds are often awarded to faculty within five years of appointment as Assistant Professor. *Previous recipients of SPORE DRP and CEP funds are generally ineligible to be P.I.s of new projects within 3 years of completion of their previous funding.*

Deadline to submit applications is 11:59 p.m. Thursday, August 1st, 2024.

questions about DRP and CEP awards: email David F. Stern df.stern@yale.edu

Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer is committed to diversity of trainees and mentors and encourages applications from all communities at Yale

Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs) in Skin Cancer are funded by the National Cancer Institute

Application Instructions: 2024-2025 YALE SPORE in SKIN CANCER DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAM AWARDS AND CAREER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM AWARDS

DEADLINE

Thursday, August 1, 2024, 11:59 PM: Completed applications containing all required components to be uploaded <https://yale.infoready4.com> as a single PDF file.

CEP: <https://yale.infoready4.com/CompetitionSpace/#competitionDetail/1938038>

DRP: <https://yale.infoready4.com/CompetitionSpace/#competitionDetail/1938032>

ANTICIPATED FUNDING DATE: ~ September 1, 2024

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

DRP and CEP projects must have *promising translational research potential with application to human skin cancer*. It is expected that they can evolve into full projects with a clear translational component that are suitable for funding either within the YaleSPORE in Skin Cancer or as independent R01 or R01-equivalent grants.

Developmental Research Program Awards are intended to support a broad spectrum of innovative pilot projects applicable to human skin cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment.

Career Enhancement Program Awards will support new investigative cutaneous oncologists and other scientists committed to multidisciplinary studies investigating the relevance of biological discoveries in human skin cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis or treatment, and enhance the careers of individuals who are already productively investigating this field.

Categories of eligible investigators:

DRP-eligible investigators include established and junior investigators (faculty appointment higher than Postdoctoral Fellow or Research Associate). They include faculty who currently lead skin cancer programs but wish to test an idea *clearly distinct from current or pending grants* or may lead programs not directed at skin cancer, but be interested in exploring the applicability of their expertise to skin cancer.

CEP funds are often awarded to faculty within five years of appointment as Assistant Professor. *Previous recipients of SPORE DRP and CEP funds are generally ineligible to be PIs of new projects within 3 years of completion of their previous funding.*

Priority will be given to projects that include *multidisciplinary collaboration* with other Yale investigators (including use of SPORE Core Facilities), and/or with investigators at other institutions (especially other NCI-supported Skin SPOREs including New York University, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of Pittsburgh, and WISTAR Institute/UPenn).

DRP Review Criteria

Applications are evaluated for Significance (relevance to SPORE programmatic needs), Approach (experimental design; translational relevance, impact on multidisciplinary and/or inter-institutional collaborations), Innovation (risk to impact ratio, potential impact on YSPORE and translational cutaneous oncology), Investigators (including commitment to translational cutaneous oncology and probability of the study eventually developing into a proposal competitive for alternative funding (e.g., an R01 grant or equivalent). Applications are additionally prioritized for funding if they a) encompass multidisciplinary collaborative research by Yale faculty; b) employ YSPORE Core facilities; and/or c) involve investigators at other institutions, and especially other SPOREs in Skin Cancer.

CEP Review Criteria

All successful candidates must meet the fundamental requirement that the proposed activities fit with the YSPORE mission of promoting basic research and clinical investigations with short term or medium term translational impact in cutaneous oncology.

Additional review criteria include 1) the candidate's potential for becoming a productive investigator, including quality and impact of previous and planned research activities; 2) candidate's potential, either as an individual or an essential member of a research team, to compete successfully for external funding supporting research in cutaneous oncology; 3) potential for productive and synergistic collaborations at Yale and/or outside institutions (collaboration with other institutions, especially other SPORE's is a high SPORE FOA priority); 4) Magnitude of departmental commitment to the candidate; 5) Quality of the career development plan, including relationships with, and contributions of mentors; 6) Goodness of fit to current YSPORE programmatic needs.

Requirements for FUNDED PROJECTS

1. Research and financial progress reports will be submitted annually, with deadlines provided to the PI when the awards begin.

2. **The Principal Investigator(s)** of funded projects will be required to make **two presentations on the project's progress each year**. One presentation (~4-6 months after initial funding) will be at one of the regularly scheduled SPORE Research-in Progress seminars. A second, shorter (~15 minute) presentation will be given during the Annual Meeting of the SPORE with its Internal and External Advisory Boards.

3. The SPORE Executive Committee is authorized to consider premature termination of the project. Reasons for considering premature termination include: 1) completion of the project and/or receipt of outside funding for similar work; 2) clear evidence that the project's stated goals (including translational goals) are not feasible; 3) clear evidence of inappropriate use of allocated funds. Before a project can be formally terminated, the project investigators will be informed in writing that the Executive Committee is contemplating termination, and the reason(s) for considering this action.

Address questions to David F. Stern, DRP/CEP Director, Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer
df.stern@yale.edu

Developmental Research Program Award

REQUIRED APPLICATION COMPONENTS:

Upload to InfoReady link below as a single PDF file by 11:59 PM August 1, 2024.

<https://yale.infoready4.com/CompetitionSpace/#competitionDetail/1938032>

NOTE: All projects are initially funded for *one year*; extension for a second year will be considered with a competitive renewal application documenting satisfactory progress and a detailed second year research plan and budget. Renewal applications will be evaluated along with new applications; it is likely that projects ultimately recommended for funding will include both new and renewal applications.

1. Title Page: **Title, Abstract** (one-half page). Include “DRP Award Application”
2. **NIH biosketch** for each investigator, including current and pending research support, with % efforts for each, explanation of any scientific or budgetary overlap and how such overlaps will be resolved.
3. **Budget** up to \$50,000 and **Justification** for proposed work to begin **Sept 1, 2024** and end **August 31, 2025**. Budget should describe how funds will be allocated between collaborating investigators/institutions. Allowable expenses include: salary support for investigators and lab personnel, equipment (requests for items costing >\$1000 will be scrutinized particularly closely), supplies, animals/animal care, and patient-related expenses, including necessary lab tests (may include negotiated contracts for such services). *The **Business Manager** from each department with personnel on the project must **sign** the budget page, thereby verifying that the indicated % efforts are/will be available to the investigator.*

IMPORTANT: Final budgets for funded projects will be determined by the SPORE Executive Committee.

4. Project Narrative.

Format is Arial 11; 0.5” margins all around. **A page limit of four pages**, excluding references, will be strictly enforced. Supplementary material will not be accepted.

Narrative should include NIH-style **Specific Aims, Background, Preliminary Results, Experimental Design** (with a projected timetable for conducting the proposed studies) and **References**.

In addition, **the narrative must briefly address the project’s translational potential** (i.e., how and when the project might reasonably be applied to human skin cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis or treatment).

5. Additional components required for application (outside page limit)
 - a. Current status of IACUC and/or HIC approval for proposed research.
funding of approved projects is contingent on granting of relevant approvals
 - b. Reasons why a Developmental Research Program Award is essential to the proposed research
 - c. Identification of any proposed or potential collaborative associations with other investigators at and/or outside of Yale.
 - d. Identification of any links of participating investigators to commercial entities; if such associations exist, the individuals involved must provide written assurance that these interactions will uphold the principles of academic freedom, including their ability (and the ability of those associated with this work) to freely collaborate, including unrestricted exchange of research materials, and also that they will adhere to the intellectual property rights of the SPORE under NIH funding agreements and the Bayh-Dole Act requirements.
 - e. **Letter of endorsement** from the applicant’s Department Chair *if the applicant does not have a track record of R01 or equivalent funding.*
 - f. **Names and contact information**, including e-mail addresses, of 4 individuals, at least two of whom must be from outside Yale, who are capable of providing informed, unbiased evaluations of their applications.

Career Enhancement Program Award

Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer is committed to maintaining a diverse trainee and mentor environment

REQUIRED APPLICATION COMPONENTS:

Upload to InfoReady link below as a single PDF file by 11:59 PM August 1, 2024.

<https://yale.infoready4.com/CompetitionSpace/#competitionDetail/1938038>

NOTE: All projects are initially funded for *one year*; extension for a second year will be contingent upon receipt of a competitive renewal application documenting satisfactory progress and a detailed second year research plan and budget. Renewal applications will be evaluated along with new applications; it is likely that projects ultimately recommended for funding will include both new and renewal applications.

1. Title Page: **Title, Abstract** (one-half page). Include “CEP Award Application”
2. **NIH biosketch** for each investigator, including current and pending research support, with % efforts for each, explanation of any scientific or budgetary overlap and how such overlaps will be resolved.
3. **Budget** up to \$50,000 and **Justification** for proposed work to begin **Sept 1, 2024** and end **August 31, 2025**. Budget should describe how funds will be allocated between collaborating investigators/institutions. Allowable expenses include: salary support for investigators and lab personnel, equipment (requests for items costing >\$1000 will be scrutinized particularly closely), supplies, animals/animal care, and patient-related expenses, including necessary lab tests (may include negotiated contracts for such services). *The **Business Manager** from each department with personnel on the project must **sign** the budget page, thereby verifying that the indicated % efforts are/will be available to the investigator.*

IMPORTANT: Final budgets for funded projects will be determined by the SPORE Executive Committee.

4. Project Narrative.

Format is Arial 11; 0.5” margins all around. **A page limit of four pages**, excluding references, will be strictly enforced. Supplementary material will not be accepted.

Narrative should include NIH-style **Specific Aims, Background, Preliminary Results, Experimental Design** (with a projected timetable for conducting the proposed studies) and **References**.

In addition, **the narrative must briefly address the project’s translational potential** (i.e., how and when the project might reasonably be applied to human skin cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis or treatment).

5. Additional components required for CEP application (no page limit)

a. **Career enhancement description.** Description of candidate’s earlier career and training, long-term goals, and planned CEP activities including research, formal elements of training possibly including coursework, proposed mentors and their specific roles in career development, and apportionment of training and career activities in the context of ongoing clinical and research responsibilities. *Career enhancement planning will extend beyond the proposed duration of funding.*

b. Reasons why a Career Enhancement Research Program Award will support full development of the applicant’s career as a translational cancer scientist.

c. Applications must include a letter from the sponsoring Departmental or Section Chair describing commitments to the candidate, and two additional letters of recommendation.

d. Current status of IACUC and/or HIC approval for proposed research.

funding of approved projects is contingent on granting of relevant approvals

e. Identification of any proposed or potential collaborative associations with other investigators at and/or outside of Yale.

f. Identification of any links of participating investigators to commercial entities; if such associations exist, the individuals involved must provide written assurance that these interactions will uphold the principles of academic freedom, including their ability (and the ability of those associated with this work) to freely collaborate, including unrestricted exchange of research materials, and also that they will adhere to the intellectual property rights of the SPORE under NIH funding agreements and the Bayh-Dole Act requirements.

g. **Names and contact information**, including e-mail addresses, of 4 individuals, at least two of whom must be from outside Yale, who are capable of providing informed, unbiased evaluations of their applications.

Note: *the SPORE Executive Committee may choose to further evaluate CEP applicants with an interview*