



CASE  
COMPREHENSIVE  
CANCER CENTER

## ACS IRG PILOT PROJECT GRANTS

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** Who may apply? What is “assistant professor or equivalent”?

**A:** IRG pilot project grants are intended to support independent, self-directed investigators early in their careers, *for whom the institution must provide research facilities, resources or space customary for an independent investigator*. These individuals (usually assistant professor or equivalent) must be eligible to apply for independent national competitive research grants, but may not currently hold such a grant. Applicants for the pilot project grants should be within six years of their first independent research or faculty appointment. Senior investigators or postdoctoral fellows within another PI’s laboratory are not eligible.

**Q:** What is the reason for the letter of intent (LOI)?

**A:** The LOI is not a screening mechanism—it is a way to plan for reviewer assignments. If you submit an LOI, we expect you will submit a grant application. **You will not receive an evaluation of your LOI or a separate invitation to submit a full application.**

**Q:** I am an assistant professor, and my initial nationally peer reviewed research grant was not renewed. Can I apply to my institution for an IRG?

**A:** Yes. Individuals whose initial grant was not renewed and who are still at the level of assistant professor may apply for an individual IRG--provided they are within the first 6 years of their independent faculty (or equivalent) appointment and have not received funds from the IRG previously.

**Q:** What about personnel grants that are primarily intended for the junior investigator's salary, such as the NIH K series?

**A:** As long as the applicant meets all other criteria, holders of personnel awards are eligible to receive pilot project money from the IRG. However, this does not apply to investigators with the K99/R00. These individuals already are receiving funding to help support an application for an independent research grant. Thus, an IRG pilot project grant would be more beneficial if awarded to an applicant who has no external support.

**Q:** I have a small grant from the local Division of the American Cancer Society, or a small foundation grant. Am I eligible for an individual IRG award?

**A:** As long as the grant is not the result of a national peer-reviewed competition and is for support of a different project, you may still apply for an IRG award.

**Q:** I am an assistant professor with an R01 award, but want to initiate a project in a totally different area. May I apply for an individual IRG Award?

**A:** Probably not. The IRG is intended for new investigators without an active (i.e., NIH, NSF, ACS) nationally competitive research grant. If your R01 is cancer-related, you may not apply for an individual

IRG award. If your R01 is unrelated to cancer, you *may* be eligible. Please contact us before submitting.

**Q:** Is an individual eligible for more than one pilot project grant?

**A:** An individual grantee may receive a second year of funding for the same pilot project only. The award is contingent upon the local IRG committee's review and approval of a progress report as well as the availability of funds beyond those necessary to fund meritorious first-time submissions. An individual may NOT receive a second grant to initiate a different pilot project.

**Q:** How do I apply for the Special Interest Award in Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Research?

**A:** Use the same application forms as for the general cancer research proposal. However, your project title should begin with "AYA: ...". AYA proposals must focus on an adolescent or young adult (ages 15-35) cancer, not on cancers that are nearly exclusively in children or older adults. For example, melanoma research is appropriate if the research utilizes samples/models/population data obtained from young adults whereas prostate cancer research is unlikely to be within the scope of the AYA funding mechanism. The applicant must justify the choice of cancer and the impact of research on the adolescent and young adult patient population. The applicant is also encouraged to discuss their project with John Letterio, the leader of the AYA initiative.

**Q:** When will I know if my application has been funded?

**A:** The Case Comprehensive Cancer Center IRG Review Committee, through the Cancer Center Administration, typically issues notices of award 60-90 days after the application deadline.

**Q:** Who should I contact with additional questions?

**A:** Please direct additional questions to [casecccpilots@case.edu](mailto:casecccpilots@case.edu).