

MD Anderson Cancer Center TRANSCEND Cancer Initiative 2022 – 2023 POST-GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center TRANSCEND Cancer Initiative (TCI) Post-Graduate Research Fellowship (TCI-Fellow) provides additional support to promising translational research studies within the Surgical Oncology and Gynecologic Oncology departments. This program encourages applicants to take advantage of new research opportunities in a team science atmosphere, which includes novel and creative high risk/high payoff projects with the goal of deriving novel targets to improve therapeutic responses for treatment in patients with cancer, and to develop strategies to intercept and ultimately prevent cancer altogether. Postdoctoral fellow applicants at all levels who have interest in collaborating with faculty who are running high priority trials and studies, and are generating translational research samples, are encouraged to apply. Applications from underrepresented investigators (minority and women) are especially encouraged.

ELIGIBILITY

Qualifications for candidates entering this program include the following:

- Candidates should be postdoctoral and/or T32 fellows in Surgical Oncology and Gynecologic Oncology departments.
- Candidates for this award must have an advanced doctoral degree (Ph.D. or/and M.D.).
- Candidates must provide a summary of research background and interests (1 page) that highlights unique skillsets if applicable, area of research interest, and potential impact in translational science. Team science is strongly encouraged with a mix of established and junior investigators, ideally having some component of trans-departmental collaboration.
- Candidates should provide 2 letters of support towards the application.

REVIEW CRITERIA (Judged by Independent IAB and EAB):

1. Scientific merit, significance and translational potential of the proposed research
2. Innovation
3. Technical feasibility
4. Likelihood for the project to generate preliminary data for a future grant or funding opportunities
5. Proposed use of unique TCI resources, including human tissues and biostatistics cores

TERMS OF FUNDING

Each **one-year** award consists of a maximum of \$5,000 with the possibility of continuing for a second year with additional funds up to another \$5,000 if requested and approved based on acceptable progress. The award is to be used for research activities, including partial salary support for the candidate and research personnel, supplies, other expenses, and/or travel. Award funds cannot be used for the purchase of large equipment.

Awardees will be expected to lead translational research teams to execute approved projects through the TCI. This will be in their area of expertise, and TCI leadership will work them to build teams and to execute projects. Awardees are expected to regularly participate and present in TCI biweekly seminars and bi-annual symposiums. They will be asked to submit a 1-page annual report on progress, publications, and grants awarded.

If a recipient decides to discontinue his or her work in Surgical Oncology or Gynecologic Oncology, the award will be terminated, and prorated unused funds will be returned to the TCI budget. Likewise, if an investigator awardee changes institutions during the funding period, the award will not be transferred and the remaining balance will be returned.

Awardees are discouraged from no-cost extensions request, but these will be considered on an individual basis pending unforeseen circumstances, and if deemed necessary by the investigator, a carry-forward approval will be considered if the awardee submits a written request at least 60 days prior to the end of the funding year. Otherwise, unused funds will be returned to the TCI. If the TCI Principal Investigator terminates an award, the award amount will be prorated for the number of months it was in effect, and the balance will be returned.

Format: The recommended font is 11-point Arial. Margins should be at least 0.50 inches wide on all sides of each page. Final submission should be a single PDF with each of the elements below in the indicated order.

FULL APPLICATION – DUE: June 30, 2022 by 5PM CST

1. **Face Page.** The face page form is at the end of this RFA. It must include an abstract that fits in the provided space.
2. **Research Background and Interest (1-page limit).** Include the following content: (1) Background and Experience; (2) Unique skillsets (if applicable) and (3) Area of Research Interest and Potential Impact.
3. **Selected Publications/Abstracts/Presentations (2-page limit)**
4. **NIH Biographical Sketches (5 pages maximum).**
5. **Letters of Support: (2-Letter Limit)** One letter is required from a research mentor which (1) States continuing support for candidate, including financial resources to perform relevant research studies. (2) Plans and potential for the applicant to develop their translational research skills and to enhance their proficiency in grant writing, manuscript preparation, and presentation skills.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Submit your full application to TCI, TranscendCancerInitiative@mdanderson.org by the due date stated above.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

After an initial administrative review for adherence to format and completeness, each full proposal will be evaluated by the Internal Advisory Board and External Advisory Board. If awarded, progress will be evaluated annually.

SELECTION OF AWARDEES

The Executive Committee of the TCI will make the final decision based on ranking by members of the Internal Advisory Board and External Advisory Board.

REQUIRED CITATIONS

Authors are encouraged to list the TCI in the funding acknowledgements when submitting a manuscript on TCI-Fellow funded research.

KEY DATES

- Full Application Due: **June 30, 2022 by 5PM (CST)**
- Award Announcements: **September 1, 2022**
- Project Start Date: **October 7, 2022**

INQUIRIES

For scientific questions:

Christina L. Roland, MD

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For submission of applications and format questions:

Laura Gibson

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**MD Anderson Cancer Center TRANSCEND Cancer Initiative
2022 - 2023 POST-GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP FACE PAGE**

First Middle Initial Last Degree(s)

Title

Institution Name Department

Complete Mailing Address

Mailing Address

City State Zip Code

Telephone E-mail

For Postdoctoral Applicants, please provide name and signature of Laboratory PI

Proposal Title

Please provide the aims for your research experience.

Large dashed rectangular box for providing research aims.

Applicant's Signature Date

Department Chair's Signature Date