



Program Overview

The Mark Foundation Endeavor Awards support collaborative research projects that bring together investigators with diverse areas of expertise to tackle challenges in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. These grants are awarded to teams of three or more investigators to generate and integrate data from diverse lines of research and transform those insights into advances for cancer patients that could not be achieved by individual efforts.

The submission window for Letters of Intent will open on January 6, 2021. Additional information will be available at that time.

Webinar

Registration is now open for a webinar with additional information and details about the Endeavor Program, including an overview of the program, eligibility requirements, the application process, and a Q&A period. Attendance at the webinar is optional – all information presented will be posted on the Endeavor website in December. All three webinar sessions will cover the same information, so we request that you only register for one session.

[Webinar dates \(click on the link to register\):](#)



Eligibility

Institutional Eligibility:

- Open to non-profit academic/research institutions.
- Open to institutions worldwide.
- Teams may comprise investigators from a single institutions or multiple institutions.
- There is no requirement to include a US-based institution as part of the team.
- Institutions may submit more than one application; however, no more than one proposal per institution will be advanced to the finalist phase.

Investigator Eligibility:

- There are no restrictions on citizenship or geography.
- Must have an independent faculty research appointment (tenure-track or equivalent) at a non-profit academic institution.
- Investigators may be co-PI or collaborator on more than one proposal but may only serve as Principal Investigator on one proposal.

Project Eligibility:

- Basic, translational, and clinical projects are eligible.
- The project must seek to address an overarching, urgent scientific question.
- Sub-projects should be designed to elucidate various aspects of the overarching question, theme, or focus.
- The output of the individual team members (data, samples, hypotheses, compounds, etc.) must be integrated and/or shared in a way that makes the impact of the project as a whole larger than the sum of its parts.
- Proposed projects must not be supported by other sources of funding. Finalists will be asked to discuss any potential overlap with other current or pending awards.

Team Composition:

- Teams must be composed of one PI, and between 2-8 co-PIs (see “Team Roles” section for definitions).
- Inter-institutional collaborations are permitted and encouraged.
- Teams are encouraged to consider diversity in terms of discipline, seniority, gender, race, ethnicity, and any other parameters that will enhance the team’s ability to approach challenging problems from fresh perspectives.
- The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, or any other legally protected characteristics.

Team Roles

Principal Investigator (PI) – 1 per team

- Serves as the single point of contact with MFCR during the application process.
- The LOA will be executed solely with the PI’s institution.
- PI must meet all criteria of a co-PI listed below.
- PI does not need to be the most senior member of the team.

Co-Principal Investigator (co-PI) – 2 to 8 per team

- Lab receives at least 10% of the total grant budget.



Collaborator – *optional*

- Lab receives 0-10% of the budget.
- Can provide resources, perform experiments, analyses, etc.
- Serves as a project consultant or advisor rather than a team leader.

LOI Stage Application

Principal Investigator name, institution, title, contact info

Project Title

Project Summary/Abstract – limit 350 words

Project Description – limit 5 pages, including figures and tables but excluding literature references

- Specific Aims
- Introduction, background, and description of unmet need
- Research plan broken into Aims, with each Aim having:
 - Clear objective
 - Preliminary studies if applicable
 - High-level description of the experimental approach
 - Milestones and timelines
- Future directions – if the research plan is successful, what is the 5-10-year vision for expansion of the project?
- Literature cited (does not count against page limit)

Team Description

- List all co-Principal Investigators (co-PIs), and collaborators (name, institution, title, contact info)
- For the PI and co-PIs, provide the following:
 - 1-3 sentences describing their role in the project.
 - NIH-format biosketch (preferred) or CV. Limit 5 pages per investigator.
- List any existing collaborations between co-PIs, including existing funding support for collaborative projects.

Collaborative Science Statement – limit 1 page

- Why is this project a team science project? Describe how the output of the individual investigators (data, samples, hypotheses, compounds, etc.) will be integrated and/or shared in a way that makes the impact of the project as a whole larger than the sum of its parts.
- How will the team work together? Describe the plan for team structure, communications, and shared resources.

Budget overview – On the template provided.

Submission Process

Key Dates

- **January 6, 2021: Letter of Intent Online Portal Opens**
- **March 1, 2021: Letters of Intent Due**
- **May 2021: Applications Invited**

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- December 2021: Signed Agreements Due
- January 1, 2022: Grant Start Date

Award Terms

- Applicants may request funding to support a total budget of up to \$1,000,000 per year for a total of three years.
 - The budget and duration requested for the grant must match a realistic estimate of the cost and timeline for the proposed work.
 - The requested funding should be divided amongst team members in a manner proportional to the actual cost of the work carried out by each investigator for the project.
 - The budget limit includes both direct and indirect costs, with indirect costs not to exceed 10% of the direct costs.
 - The third year of funding will be contingent on sufficient scientific progress as presented at the 18-month project review.
- Award start date will be January 1, 2022.

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