



Grant Amount	\$75,000/year
Grant Term	3 Years
Start of Grant Term	7/1/2020
Application Deadline	2/15/2020 11:59 P.M. ET
Expected Number of Funded Grants	1

ASTRO-PCF Career Development Award to End Prostate Cancer

Purpose:

The **ASTRO-PCF Career Development Award (CDA)** is a joint effort to advance the field of radiation oncology in novel ways through the support of talented early-career scientists performing radiation oncology-related and prostate cancer research. The aim of the CDA is to support the next generation of researchers and to significantly improve outcomes and quality of life for prostate cancer patients.

The award will provide up to **\$75,000 per year for 3 years** to be combined with matching funds or in kind contribution from the applicant’s institution. Neither ASTRO nor PCF will pay indirect costs as part of this award. One award will be funded.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicants (PhD, MD, MD/PhD, DO) must have no more than 5 years in a faculty appointment (no higher than Assistant Professor) at the start of the grant term on July 1, 2020. Residents, early-stage postdoctoral fellows or other trainees will not be eligible to apply. However, if at the time of application submission, the trainee has secured documentation of an independent faculty position not dependent on funding from this mechanism, the application will be accepted for review.
- Applicants must be employed by a recognized U.S. research institution at the time the application is submitted.
- The applicant must be an ASTRO member in good standing.
- Transdisciplinary collaborations are encouraged but must include at least one radiation oncologist, radiation or cancer biologist or physicist.
- Applicants must designate a mentor, preferably one at the same institution, who will provide guidance and support for the successful completion of the proposed research project. Mentors should be senior investigators with a minimum of R01 or equivalent level funding and provide a letter of support detailing their oversight and support.
- Because of the focus on progression to independence as a researcher, applicants should propose a period of study and career development consistent with his/her previous training and suited to their career development needs.
- The goal of this grant is to provide funds to establish a research career. Therefore, we encourage those without extensive extramural funding (i.e., NIH R01 funding) to apply. Those who have received other career development awards at the R01 or similar funding level are eligible to apply.

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- The recipient is required to contact ASTRO immediately if any problems are encountered that would prevent them from successfully completing the project.
- Recipients must attend at least one ASTRO Annual Meeting and the PCF Annual Retreat and present the findings of this research study at the meeting.

Commitment from the Applicant's Institution

- The institution must be recognized as providing a rich environment for career development.
- A responsible figure from the institution/department and the mentor must demonstrate, in writing, a commitment to the development of the applicant as a productive, independent investigator.
- A responsible figure from the institution/department and the mentor must demonstrate, in writing, intent for at least 50 percent of the recipient's full-time professional effort to be devoted to research.
- Mentors chosen by the applicant may form an advisory committee to assist with the career development program.
- The host department will act as the fiscal intermediary. The institution will pay the stipend to the winner and be responsible for satisfying tax withholding, deposit and/or reporting requirements applicable to the payment of the award. The winner will be responsible for individual income taxes.
- ASTRO and PCF do **NOT** pay institutional Facility and Administrative costs.
- The institution will be required to provide sufficient additional funds to supplement salaries or supplies as needed for the research.
- Any change in institution, mentor and chair or in the applicant's position that might affect their ability to successfully complete their training should be communicated as soon as possible to ASTRO and PCF so that appropriate action can be taken.
- When a mentor at the grantee institution is to be replaced, the institution must submit a letter from the proposed mentor documenting 1) the need for substitution 2) the new mentor's qualifications for supervising the program and 3) the level of support for the applicant's career development. The letter must also document that the specific aims of the research program will remain within the scope of the original peer reviewed research program.

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General timeline

September 15, 2019	Release of RFA
February 15, 2020	Applications due at 11:59 p.m. Eastern time (GMT -5). ProposalCENTRAL application site closes
February - April, 2020	Review of application
June 30, 2020	Notification of award status
July 1, 2020	Awards begin

Application Guidelines

Applications must be submitted online at proposalCENTRAL:

<https://proposalcentral.altum.com/GrantOpportunities.asp?GMID=105>

Deadline for submission is: **11:59 p.m., Eastern Time (GMT -5), Saturday, February 15, 2020**

Formatting

All materials **MUST** be prepared in English, single spaced with normal spacing between letters and words, using a font style (size 10-12) that is easy to read such as Arial or Times New Roman. A minimum of one-half inch margins must be used on all page borders.

Each section must be loaded into ProposalCENTRAL. Applicants can stop at any point and save the application to be completed by the deadline.

Submission Content

All applications must contain the following:

1. **Title Page:** Complete the grant application face page including the title, principal investigator name and contact information, human subject status, proposed dates of support, project costs, organization name and type, DUNS number, administrative official and signing official. Sign and date the application face page.
2. **Scientific Abstract:** Brief abstract (<750 words) that concisely describes the background, rationale, specific aims, experimental approach including model system and statistical approach, anticipated outcomes and impact of the project is required.
3. **Public Abstract** (will be posted on the ASTRO and PCF websites): A brief abstract (<500 words) aimed at a public audience that concisely describes the project and impact on understanding or treating prostate cancer is required.
4. **Research Proposal:** Proposal to include a narrative text and any preliminary data to justify a 3 year proposal, **limited to 10 pages maximum**, is required. Proposal should include within the 10 page limit the following sections:
 - Background
 - Significance
 - Preliminary data and figures (if applicable, but not required)
 - Specific aims
 - Experimental design/methods
 - Statistical Analysis plan

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- Anticipated outcomes
- Potential pitfalls and alternatives
- Future directions

References must be included but will not count toward the 10-page limit.

5. **Mentoring plan:** A detailed mentoring plan signed by the mentor that outlines courses, lectures, meetings and other ways to support the applicant and help increase likelihood of success should be included. This can be included in the letter of support from the mentor and/or included as a separate, signed document.
6. **Biosketches:** The applicant and lead mentor must each submit a biosketch including a list of relevant publications and currently funded research projects (5-page limit). DoD and NIH formats will be accepted.
7. **Budget pages:** Submit a detailed budget (can be prepared using the NIH budget form like PHS39) with a breakdown of annual estimated costs and budget justification. ASTRO and PCF will cover only direct costs, no facilities and administrative (F&A) costs will be covered.
8. **Letters of support (2):** Upload 2 letters of support. One must be from your mentor and must outline the mentorship plan.
9. **Institutional letter of support:** Upload a letter of support from the institution or department. This letter must indicate the level of commitment through matching funds or in-kind contribution from the Institution to this award.

Applications lacking the required materials or in the incorrect format will be considered ineligible for review.

Application Review Information

All grant applications will be subject to peer review. Reviewers are members of the ASTRO Research Grants Evaluation Committee, representatives from PCF, and statisticians. A study section consisting of researchers with expertise in the areas and topics of each grant will review the application for scientific merit and appropriateness for funding. Final decisions will be subject to the approval of the ASTRO and PCF Boards of Directors.

Each grant will be evaluated based on several individual criteria scores. The final score will consider the overall impact and strength of the application, as well as individual criteria scores.

Individual scoring criteria are as follows:

1. **Impact** - The likelihood of the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved. (5%)
2. **Significance** – The significance of the proposed work to the research and/or the practice of radiation oncology and the treatment or prevention of prostate cancer. (15%)
3. **Investigator** – The Applicant’s strengths as an independent researcher, taking into account publications, training and experience. (25%)
4. **Project Plan** – The level of novelty and innovation of the proposed project, its feasibility of being completed within the grant timeline, the proposed statistical analyses and the overall strength of the proposed plan. (30%)
5. **Environment** – The level of commitment of resources, mentorship plan, time and resources that the applicant’s home institution can provide. (10%)

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6. Mentorship plan – The efforts to be taken to help mentor the applicant and increase their potential success as a researcher. (10%)
7. Statistical plan – The statistical approach to data analysis. (5%)

In addition, the study section will consider the following factors, though they will not factor directly into the score:

1. The commitment of the applicant to a career in academic radiation oncology and prostate cancer research.
2. The budget of the proposed research plan is feasible to complete the aims outlined.

Selected proposals will have strong scientific merit and impact in the understanding or treatment of prostate cancer, possess an innovative and transformative approach, and demonstrate potential for progression to the clinic.

Funding decisions will be made through peer and programmatic review.

Questions can be directed to research@astro.org or 703-839-7368