



IBC Network Foundation Request for Grant Applications - 2018



About the IBC Network Foundation

The IBC Network Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization that was established in 2012 with a clear mission - to fund research into inflammatory breast cancer (IBC). Until recently, IBC has been an orphaned form of breast cancer, with very minimal research performed despite the disproportionate death rate. Complementary to this goal is IBC research advocacy and up-to-date education to the public and medical professionals about IBC and its treatments. The organization, based out of Friendswood, Texas, is run by an all-volunteer board, and spearheaded by Terry Arnold, a survivor of triple-negative IBC. To date the organization has invested >\$1 million into IBC and TNBC research at 5 major institutions in the US. While building its reputation as a reliable source of funding for IBC research, the organization hand-selected researchers to fund and used a specific project of interest as interim fundraising goals. Now that the organization has 5 solid years of history behind us, we are beginning yearly open calls for grant applications as described below.

Description of Grant Opportunity

The IBC Network funds a spectrum of breast cancer research from relatively basic through to clinical trials (or correlative science complementing an existing therapeutic trial). Research can be either directly focused on IBC, such as preclinical studies with IBC models or clinical trials for IBC patients uniquely. Alternatively, research on other aggressive subtypes such as metastatic triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) is also of interest due to the overlap in biology between TNBC and IBC.

Funds Available

The IBC Network grant will be for up to 2 years, with the second year of funding contingent on the receipt of an acceptable progress report submitted at the end of year 1. Each grant will be for up to \$100,000/year in total costs (including salary, materials and supplies and travel up to \$1,500/year). Salary cannot exceed 20% of the total budget. Equipment cannot be purchased with these funds. An overhead rate of 5% will be allowed.

Eligibility

The principal investigator (PI) must have a doctoral degree (such as M.D., Ph.D., D.V.M. or D.P.H.) and must have a faculty appointment at a US institution with a research infrastructure in place. Environment will be considered in the review process. Eligible candidates must be US citizens or permanent residents, and all research must be conducted in the US. It is preferred that the investigator already be actively involved in breast cancer research, but previous publications in IBC are not required. Investigators with novel ideas that may apply to IBC are encouraged to apply.

Submission Instructions and Timelines

The application process will be in 2 stages - an initial letter of intent to apply will be due by February 1st, 2018. This will be a 1 page summary of the overall proposal including the topic and broad overview of approach and potential benefit to a patient with IBC. These letters will be reviewed and proposals deemed suitable for full applications (i.e. scope within the goals of the IBC Network Foundation) will be invited to submit a full proposal by February 15th, which will be due by April 15th. Applicants will be notified of the results by May 30th and the grant term will start no later than July 1st, pending all regulatory approvals are active and current. All deadlines are 11:59pm CT on the dates listed.

LOI due	February 1, 2018
Invitations for full proposals sent out	February 15, 2018
Full proposals due	April 15, 2018
Grant start date	July 1 2018

Full application requirements:

Please submit a single PDF file with the following components to grants@theibcnetwork.org

1. Title page containing the proposal title and PI
2. Table of contents with page numbers
3. 1 page public/lay abstract
4. 1 page scientific abstract
5. Research plan (5 page limit)
6. Budget
7. Pathway to R01 statement
8. Biosketch for PI and any other key personnel with current funding section
9. Any supplementary information such as letters of support from collaborators

Public/Lay Abstract:

Please describe the project aims and likely impact to patients if the research is successful. This statement is intended to convey the science to the general public (including our donors), and will be shared on our website if your grant is selected for funding. Where appropriate, explain the potential clinical applications, benefit and caveats for IBC clinical management. If the research is basic, explain how the completion of this research is significant to future patients with IBC.

Scientific Abstract:

The scientific abstract is similar to the Specific aims page on an NIH grant. Using clear technical terminology, briefly describe the background, hypothesis, specific aims, study design and potential impact of the study on the field of IBC research.

Research Plan:

There is not a mandatory format for this. However please include enough information regarding scientific background to the scientific question(s), significance of the research, any preliminary data you have, and scientific approach. Please provide sufficient detail regarding the methods, model systems (if appropriate), and address caveats/alternative approaches. Also identify critical milestones that may be used to assess progress towards completion of the research. The references list does not count towards the 5-page limit.

If using vertebrate animals, provide a brief but succinct overview of the protocol including the species, sex, strains and number of animals used. Proof of IACUC approval will be required prior to release of funding. If using human subjects or human samples, briefly justify such use and describe the clinical protocol. All research involving human subjects must follow conventional guidelines for the ethical treatment of humans. A memo documenting IRB approval of the protocol will be requested prior to release of the funding.

Use Arial, Times New Roman or Helvetica font, black color and a font size of 11 or greater. A symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters. The margins should be at least 0.5 inches on all sides. Please number the pages.

Budget:

Please complete the budget form found on our website at <https://www.theibcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/IBC-Network-RFA-Budget-Template-1.docx> and provide brief justification for the expenses where indicated.

Pathway to R01 Statement:

The IBC Network Foundation realizes that the funds provided may not be sufficient to take an idea from conception through to clinical application, and realizes that long-term federal funding is necessary for a lab to continue functioning. However, by providing such seed funding for promising ideas, we hope to facilitate the successful submission of competitive IBC grants to larger funding agencies such as NIH. We aim to only fund research projects that show promise of improving the standard of care for IBC treatment. Therefore, we would like the applicant to outline how the results from the RFA will be leveraged to secure a larger R01-type of grant. This criterion will be weighed equally with the merit of the scientific plan during the review process.

In preparing the proposals we encourage the incorporation of experienced patient advocates, and the review panel will include advocates as well as scientist reviewers.

Requirements for Awardees

The awardees will be asked to submit a progress report at the end of year 1 to receive the second year of funding. At the end of the 2 years, a final progress report will be required. If the research is not yet complete and funds are remaining, one 6-month no-cost extension will be allowed upon request. Please notify us no later than 1 month prior to the close-out if you need this extension to complete the work.