

American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant

Research Plan

(6 pages maximum plus an additional 300 (or fewer) words to describe statistical considerations)

The research plan should include sufficient information needed for evaluation of the project, independent of any other document. No appendices allowed.

- **Specific Aims**
List the broad, long-term objectives and what the specific research proposed in this application is intended to accomplish. State the hypotheses to be tested.
- **Research Strategy**
- **Background and Significance**
Briefly sketch the background leading to the present application; critically evaluate existing knowledge, and specifically identify the gaps which the project is intended to fill. State concisely the importance and health relevance of the research described in the application by relating the specific aims to the broad long term objectives.
- **Preliminary Studies**
For new applications, use this section to provide an account of the principal investigator's preliminary studies pertinent to the application information that will help establish the experience and competence of the investigator to pursue the proposed project.
- **Research Design and Methods**
Describe **how** you will do the research. Describe the research design and the procedures to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted. Describe any new methodology and its advantage over existing methodologies. Discuss potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and alternative approaches to achieve the aims. Provide a tentative sequence or timetable for the project. Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and the precautions to be exercised.
- **Statistical Considerations***
Describe how the data will be analyzed and used to make inferences regarding the Specific Aims. A justification of sample size should be included for animal studies and any aims that include human tissue samples, patients, or healthy volunteers. **An additional 300 words (approximately a half page) is allowed for this section beyond the 6 page limit. If more than 300 words are needed, the statistical considerations section can extend into the 6 page proposal.**
- **Literature Cited (not included in the page limitation)**
List all references. Each reference must include the title, names of all authors, book or journal, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. The reference should be limited to relevant and current literature. Select only those references pertinent to the proposed research.

**Applicants are strongly encouraged to include a biostatistician collaborator as part of the proposal to assist with design and statistical methods. If assistance is needed in identifying a biostatistician, please contact Dr. Hill, PhD, (hille@musc.edu), as soon as possible but no later than September 21, 2017.*