

HERA Ovarian Cancer Foundation

Request for Outside-the-Box (OSB) Seed Grant Applications

Mission: The HERA Ovarian Cancer Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to stop the loss of women from ovarian cancer by promoting Health, Empowerment, Research, and Awareness. For more information, visit: www.herafoundation.org. The purpose of the OSB grant is to improve prevention and prognosis through innovative scientific research and to foster a strong long-term commitment to research in the field of ovarian cancer.

This Request for applications will provide \$20,000 to fund research project(s) at Johns Hopkins University that are basic, translational, and/or clinical in nature. The ovarian carcinoma projects should include, but are not limited to, those that study etiology, pathogenesis, and **novel approaches** to early detection and targeted therapy. Submission deadline is **January 31, 2018**.

HERA's goal is to encourage "outside-the-box" thinking and solutions by providing seed money for such projects. Chemotherapy has been in use for many years, but, the overall survival is minimally improved. New approaches are needed for understanding and treating this disease which is of primary interest to the HERA Ovarian Cancer Foundation.

Eligibility: Applicants must hold either a Ph.D. and/or an M.D. degree, and be either a **post-doctoral research fellow or clinical fellow**. A previous research background in ovarian cancer is not essential, as the HERA Ovarian Cancer Foundation seeks to encourage new young investigators to enter the field. However, candidates should demonstrate the relevance of their previous research background to the proposed work, and indicate a strong long-term commitment to research in the field of ovarian cancer.

Evaluation criteria: Key criteria are the importance of the problem to be addressed, the originality of the approach and concepts, feasibility of the methodology, passion to enter/stay in the ovarian cancer field, and the research experience and qualifications/potential of the candidate. The review is performed by scientists, gynecologic oncologists, and patient advocates.

Format of application: The following items 1-5 should not exceed 3 pages total of single-spaced 12-point type.

Title page: Include your name, department, e-mail address, your advisor/mentor's name, title of project, and a checklist of all the items (1-8) below (**incomplete grant applications will not be reviewed**).

- (1) A 500-word layman's summary of the proposed research.
- (2) A statement of specific research objectives—explain what you expect to accomplish within the year. If the proposed experiments overlap with other applications, please explain.
- (3) A concise description of the methodology to be employed.
- (4) A description of the significance of the proposed work, i.e. how the ovarian cancer research contributes to prevention, treatment, early detection, or improved quality-of-life of ovarian cancer patients.
- (5) A statement demonstrating the relevance of the candidate's previous research background to the proposed work.
- (6) A brief summary of the budget, i.e. specifically how the funds will be utilized. The budget should be for \$20,000 or \$10,000. The HERA Foundation does not support indirect costs or costs for meetings or travel.

- (7) The candidate's biosketch with a personal statement in NIH format (not exceeding 2-pages).
- (8) A letter of support/commitment for you and your project from your mentor.

Submit application in a single PDF document to Jill Slansky: Jill.Slansky@mac.com. Paper submissions will not be accepted. Awards will be announced by Feb 28, 2018. Contact Jill with questions on the application requirements.

Recipient(s) of the OSB Grants for 2018 will be asked to submit a summary of their project, along with a JPG photo of themselves, which can be posted on the HERA Ovarian Cancer Foundation website. The summary should be clear to patients, donors, and scientists.

Post-award requirements: A one-page final report must be submitted to HERA within one month after the expiration of the award period, **March 31, 2019**. The report should:

- (1) State the findings of the work performed and the impact that the research has on our current understanding of ovarian cancer.
- (2) Describe your future research goals in the ovarian cancer field.
- (3) List any publications and conference presentations of the work performed.
- (4) Include a short personal statement of how the work funded by the HERA Ovarian Cancer Foundation has enabled your professional growth.
- (5) The HERA Ovarian Cancer Foundation must be acknowledged on any published material—papers, posters, presentations at scientific meetings, etc. We ask that the HERA OSB Grant from the HERA Ovarian Cancer Foundation be included on the successful applicant's CV under Awards. Publications with acknowledgements to HERA will be posted on the website and shared with donors. Please forward a PDF file of the publication(s) with the HERA acknowledgement, regardless of the time after the award.

To read about past recipients and their work, visit:

www.herafoundation.org/programs-research/science-grants/past-investigators/.