

**Prostate Cancer Foundation and Bayer Announce:  
2023 Bayer-PCF Health Equity Research Awards  
For Health Equity Implementation Research for Patients with Prostate Cancer  
LETTERS OF INTENT / FULL APPLICATIONS**

**IMPORTANT: Applying for a Bayer-PCF Health Equity Research Award involves a 2-stage process. A Letter of Intent (LOI) is first required, followed by full application submission upon our invitation. See page 2 for details.**

The Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) and Bayer are pleased to announce a Request for Team Science Applications for Bayer-PCF Health Equity Research Awards for novel health equity implementation research projects with the goal of reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the diagnosis and treatment of advanced prostate cancer. These awards will be funded depending on the level of innovation in applications received. PCF and Bayer seek high-risk, **currently unfunded projects from academic institutions in the United States (U.S. only).**

**Bayer-PCF Health Equity Research Awards:**

- Composed of a team of at least three (3) investigators from qualified academic research centers in the U.S., including one young investigator (see Health Equity Research Award Team requirements below).
- Support novel health equity implementation research projects with the goal of reducing prostate cancer racial and ethnic disparities, over a duration of two years.
- Provide up to a total of \$200,000 per team over two years. Approximately \$500,000 USD will be designated for this award mechanism.
- Cover only direct research costs and travel to the Annual PCF Scientific Retreat.
- Clinical trial costs are not allowed; however, correlative research to support high impact clinical trials for advanced prostate cancer is encouraged. IRB submission and preferably approval is desired at time of application.
- Comprehensive statistical plans and power calculations are required.
- Community-health based research projects are encouraged, however the Principal Investigator of the study must have a primary appointment at a qualified academic institution.

**Research Proposals:**

- This RFP seeks proposals for novel health equity implementation research projects with the goal of reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the diagnosis and treatment of advanced prostate cancer.
- Investigations may be in the following topic areas:
  - Strategies to provide equitable access to standards of care (diagnostics, prognostics, or treatments) or clinical trials for prostate cancer.
  - Validation of existing biomarkers and predictive tools routinely used in prostate cancer management within racially and ethnically diverse populations.
  - Development of novel biomarkers or clinical management strategies to improve diagnosis, prognostication, and treatment selection for Black patients with advanced prostate cancer.
  - Ancestry-based research to assess global epidemiology of advanced prostate cancer incidence and outcomes.
  - Development of laboratory resources or methods that will promote equitable representation of racial and ethnic minority groups in basic, translational, and clinical prostate cancer research.
- Clinical trial costs are not allowed; however, correlative research to support high impact clinical trials for advanced prostate cancer is encouraged. IRB submission and preferably approval is desired at time of application.

**The Bayer-PCF Health Equity Research Award Team:**

- Should be composed of at least 3 investigators capable of providing unique scientific expertise to the solution of this significant problem in prostate cancer research.
- May be assembled from one institution, or several institutions, located in the U.S.
- Must embed at least one young investigator as an integral contributor to the team. The young investigator may hold the title of Postdoctoral Fellow, Instructor, Research Associate, Assistant Professor, or equivalent and should be within six-years following completion of a professional degree (MD, DO, PhD, MD-PhD, DSc, ScD, DDM, DDS, DMD, MBBS, or equivalent) or subsequent mentored academic or clinical training program. He or she should not have been granted commitments for more than \$300,000 in direct research funding from all sources including institutional funds at the time of this application.
- Applicants who are under-represented in biomedical research are highly encouraged to apply.

**Eligibility:** Investigators representing qualified academic research centers in the U.S. are eligible to apply for Bayer-PCF Health Equity Research Awards. Investigators from for-profit companies and government-sponsored institutions, with the exception of the VA, are ineligible.

## **Bayer-PCF Health Equity Research Award Application Guidelines**

### **Letter of Intent (LOI) Guidelines:**

**A Letter of Intent is now required in advance of full application submission.**

- 1) Download the **Letter of Intent** PDF form at <https://pcf.org/open-rfas/>. Included in the form are fields for a proposal title, short statement of impact and innovation, abstract (3700 characters, ~ 500 words), team member details, 2-page proposal, and organization details. All fields require completion. The default text size is 9 pt. Arial font.
- 2) The Primary Investigator appends a PDF of their NIH biosketch to the back of their completed LOI form by combining PDFs. Rename the PDF as follows: ***(Your Last Name\_First Name)\_2023 Health Equity LOI***. Do not append additional supporting materials to your LOI form.
- 3) Submit your completed LOI form by emailing it to [LettersOfIntent@pcf.org](mailto:LettersOfIntent@pcf.org) using the following subject line: ***(Your Full Name): 2023 Health Equity LOI***. You will receive a confirmation email from LettersOfIntent@pcf.org within 24 hours (Mon-Fri only). Please allow emails from this sender.

The LOI submission deadline is **Friday, May 5, 2023**. A team of advisors will review LOIs to determine the strength of each submitted proposal and alignment with the Bayer-PCF Health Equity Research Award mission. You will receive a status notification email from [LettersOfIntent@pcf.org](mailto:LettersOfIntent@pcf.org) by **Friday, May 12**. Applicants whose LOIs have been approved will be invited to submit a full application.

### **Full Application Guidelines (Invitation Required):**

- **Application Form:** To be completed online by the Principal Investigator under their name at <https://pcf.smartsimple.com>. Names and contact information for all team members listed in the Research Proposal must be added to the online application. Collaborators who are not team members but will collaborate on the project, wrote letters of recommendation, or otherwise contributed to the application must also be listed on the online application.
- **Research Proposal:** The following sections are required for application to the Bayer-PCF Health Equity Research Award. With the exception of the Abstract (fill-in field), the Research Proposal and all supporting documents listed below should be uploaded as separate PDF files. Please note that item 6 should be submitted only if your project involves a clinical trial and item 7 is optional.
  1. **A scientific abstract** concisely describing the background, rationale, specific aims, experimental approach and anticipated outcomes and impact of the project is required (fill-in form field).
  2. **Statement of Originality (1-page limit):** This statement delineates why the work is first-in-field, original, and currently unfunded. PCF and Bayer seek new and never-before tested ideas, not derivatives of ongoing investigations or incremental research.
  3. **Research Proposal:** The narrative text and any preliminary data supporting a 2-year research proposal, limited to **10 pages**, plus a list of references cited (references not to be counted toward the 10-page limit). For investigations that involve clinical trials, inclusion of a statistician and a clear statistical plan to justify the size of the study population is mandatory.
  4. **NIH Biosketch:** Please submit a NIH Biographical Sketch for each investigator (5-page max), including a list of relevant publications and currently funded research projects (include award or grant type, project title, funding source, amount, and beginning and end dates of funding). NIH Biosketches for all investigators on the team award proposal should be combined and uploaded as a single PDF document.
  5. **Budget page(s):** Please include an annual budget breakout grid and budget justification for the proposal. This award mechanism will cover only direct costs (no overhead). The budget can be prepared using NIH Budget forms like PHS 398; however, use of these forms is not mandatory. All Bayer-PCF Health Equity Research Award PIs and Co-PIs must use funds from the Award to cover travel and registration expenses to attend the Annual PCF Scientific Retreat. Attendance by at least one member of the team each year is required for the duration of the award. The Retreat will be held in Carlsbad, CA.
  6. **Clinical trial protocol and a timeline for activation of the clinical investigation:** If applicable.
  7. **Supplemental Information (Optional):** Supplemental information in support of the application such as previous highly relevant publications or accepted manuscripts, letters of collaboration and letters of support can be uploaded as a single PDF document.

If applicable, at the time of the award, an IRB-approved protocol ready for activation is required for all human-related studies, including specimen acquisition. In addition, documentation of the availability of the experimental agent to be studied is required.

**Full applications received from investigators who have not been invited will be automatically declined.**

**Funding decisions will be made following peer and programmatic review. Representatives from Bayer will be included in the review processes and have access to LOIs and full applications. Reporting results and the budget process will be discussed at the time of announcement of the awards.**

Visit <https://pcf.smartsimple.com> on or after Friday, May 12, 2023, to complete the online full application form and attach the PDFs.

**The deadline for full application submissions is **Monday, July 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)****

**\*\*\* In fairness to all there will be no exceptions to this deadline. \*\*\***

**Key Dates:**

- **May 5, 2023:** Submission deadline for Letters of Intent (by email to [LettersOfIntent@pcf.org](mailto:LettersOfIntent@pcf.org))
- **May 12, 2023:** Applicants notified of their status via email / Portal opens for full application submission
- **July 10, 2023:** Submission deadline for invited Full Applications (online at <https://pcf.smartsimple.com>)

Please direct questions to [applications@pcf.org](mailto:applications@pcf.org).

Howard R. Soule, PhD  
Executive Vice President  
Chief Science Officer  
Lori and Michael Milken Chair  
Prostate Cancer Foundation