



# **AACR- Ocular Melanoma Foundation Career Development Award, in honor of Robert C. Allen, MD**

## **2024 Program Guidelines and Application Instructions**

**American Association for Cancer Research**

615 Chestnut Street, 17th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19106-4404

[www.aacr.org/funding](http://www.aacr.org/funding)

[grants@aacr.org](mailto:grants@aacr.org)

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PROGRAM SUMMARY</b> .....	3
<b>APPLICATION DEADLINE</b> .....	3
<b>APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA</b> .....	3
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT CRITERIA</b> .....	5
<b>LETTERS OF REFERENCE</b> .....	5
<b>EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS</b> .....	5
<b>TOBACCO INDUSTRY FUNDING AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST STATEMENT</b> .....	6
<b>APPLICATION PROCEDURES</b> .....	7
<b>GETTING STARTED IN ProposalCentral</b> .....	8
<b>APPLICATION FORMAT</b> .....	8
<b>SUBMITTING COMPLETE APPLICATION</b> .....	15
<b>CHANGES TO YOUR APPLICATION</b> .....	16
<b>INQUIRIES</b> .....	16
<b>MORE ABOUT THE PARTNERS</b> .....	18

## PROGRAM GUIDELINES

### PROGRAM SUMMARY

The AACR-Ocular Melanoma Foundation Career Development Award, in honor of Robert C. Allen, MD represents a joint effort to encourage and support early-stage investigators to conduct ocular/uveal melanoma research and establish a successful career path in ophthalmology, ocular oncology, uveal melanoma biology, or a similar field. Eligibility is limited to junior faculty who, at the start of the grant term, will have completed their most recent doctoral degree or medical residency within the past 11 years. The research proposed must be translational or clinical in nature and must have direct applicability and relevance to ocular/uveal melanoma.

The grant provides \$150,000 over two years for expenses related to the research project, which may include salary and benefits of the grant recipient and any collaborators, postdoctoral or clinical research fellows, graduate students (including tuition costs associated with graduate students' education and training), or research assistants; research/laboratory supplies; equipment; publication charges for manuscripts that pertain directly to the funded project; and other research expenses.

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

March 21, 2024, at **1:00 p.m.** U.S. Eastern Time

We recommend confirming this time in your respective time zone. To do so, please use a time zone converter.

### NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

**May 2024**

### ANNUAL GRANTEE RECOGNITION EVENT

Grant recipient must attend the Annual Grantee Recognition Event during the AACR Annual Meeting or a similar recognition event to accept their grant. Grant funds may be used to support the grantee's registration and travel to this event.

*In the event of unforeseen scheduling changes, the grantee will be contacted regarding alternative arrangements.*

### START OF GRANT TERM

July 1, 2024

### APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must have a doctoral degree (PhD, MD, MD/PhD, or equivalent) in a related field and not currently be a candidate for a further doctoral degree.

At the start of the grant term on July 1, 2024 applicants must:

- Hold a faculty position with the title of assistant professor, instructor, research assistant professor, or the equivalent
  - If eligibility is based on a future position, the position must be confirmed at the time of application, and CANNOT be contingent upon receiving this grant.

- If the future position is at a different institution than the applicant's current institution, the applicant must contact the AACR's Research and Grants Administration Department (AACR's RGA) at [grants@aacr.org](mailto:grants@aacr.org) **before** submitting their application for information on additional verification materials/signatures that may be required.
- Have completed their most recent doctoral degree **within the past 11 years** (*i.e.*, degree cannot have been conferred **before** July 1, 2013; the formal date of receipt of doctoral degree is the date the degree was conferred as indicated on their diploma and/or transcript).
  - Applicants with a medical degree must have completed their most recent doctoral degree or medical residency (or equivalent) - **whichever date is later** - within the past 11 years.
- Have independent laboratory space as confirmed by their institution.
- Work at an academic, medical, or research institution anywhere in the world.

*There are no citizenship or geographic requirements. However, by submitting an application for this grant, an applicant applying from an institution located in a country in which they are not a citizen or a permanent resident assures that the visa status will provide sufficient time to complete the project and grant term at the institution from which they applied.*

An exception to the 11-year window may be granted for parental leave or other well-justified leave from research for pressing personal or family situations of generally less than 12 months' duration. Applicants whose experience exceeds the maximum of 11 years but who believe they are eligible should contact AACR's RGA **before** submitting an application to verify their eligibility.

*AACR is obligated to comply with U.S. laws and regulations regarding research and related transactions in countries subject to US Government enforcement of economic and trade sanctions for particular foreign policy and national security reasons. If your proposed project involves US Government [sanctioned countries](#) subject to restrictions, please contact AACR's RGA at [grants@aacr.org](mailto:grants@aacr.org).*

Applicants **must** be AACR **Active** members in good standing (dues paid for the current year). Please be informed that AACR offers reduced [membership due rates](#) for applicants from countries with emerging economies based on the World Bank listing. Nonmembers interested in this grant opportunity must submit a satisfactory application for AACR membership by the application deadline. **Nonmembers** can apply for membership [online](#). Please review the [Membership Categories](#) for the category that best fits your qualifications. Nonmembers must obtain a statement of support from a nominator who is an Active AACR member in good standing (dues paid for the current year). Nonmembers requiring assistance with finding a nominator may email [membership@aacr.org](mailto:membership@aacr.org) and include your geographical location to receive a list of members in your area to contact for nominations. For more information check the [membership FAQ](#). **Members** can renew their membership through [myAACR](#). You will need your logon (email address) and password to access the member portal. If you require assistance logging in, please submit a [help form](#). **Lapsed** members must be members in good standing by the application deadline and should contact the Membership Department at [membership@aacr.org](mailto:membership@aacr.org) for assistance.

Investigators may submit only **one** application for the AACR-Ocular Melanoma Foundation Career Development Award, in honor of Robert C. Allen, MD but may concurrently apply for other AACR grants. However, applicants are expected to accept the first grant they are awarded. Individuals may accept and hold only one AACR grant at a time.

Employees or subcontractors of a U.S. government entity or for-profit private industry are not eligible.

Employees or subcontractors of a U.S. government entity or for-profit private industry may serve as Collaborators, but no grant funds may be directed towards these individuals.

Investigators who are currently, or have been, a Principal Investigator on a substantial independent research award (e.g., an NIH R01 award, DP2 award, DP5 award, MIRA award, or the equivalent) are **not** eligible. For the purpose of this grant, a substantial independent research award is defined as a grant that offers at least \$250,000 (direct) per year for more than three years and must have undergone a peer-review process by active researchers and/or physician-scientists. Qualified investigators are invited to apply for AACR grants for independent investigators.

Current AACR grantees may apply only if their current grant ends before the start of the grant term of this funding opportunity (i.e., July 1, 2024). Also, the terms of their current grant must require that the final progress reports be approved by the AACR before July 1, 2024.

Postdoctoral or clinical research fellows or the equivalent who are working under the auspices of a scientific mentor are not eligible to apply. Qualified fellows are invited to apply for an AACR Fellowship.

All applicants with questions about eligibility should contact AACR's RGA at [grants@aacr.org](mailto:grants@aacr.org) before submitting an application.

### **RESEARCH PROJECT CRITERIA**

Research must have direct applicability and relevance to ocular/uveal melanoma and must be translational or clinical in nature. If the research project is applicable to cutaneous melanoma as well, it must be focused primarily on uveal melanoma and its specific biology.

### **LETTERS OF REFERENCE**

Each applicant must have a letter of reference from a nominator accompany the online application. A nominator must be the applicant's department chair, division head, or dean. If the nominator is **not** an active, emeritus, or honorary member of the AACR, the applicant must be endorsed by an active, emeritus, or honorary member of the AACR using the endorsement form. For applicants whose eligibility is based on a future position, the letter of reference must verify that the future position is confirmed, and the title of the new position and start date must be stated. Instructions for submitting the letter of reference and the endorsement form (if applicable) are addressed in Section 7 and Section 11.F., respectively, of the Application Instructions.

### **EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS**

Applications will be peer-reviewed by a Scientific Review Committee comprised of researchers and physician-scientists respected for their own accomplishments in cancer research and viewed as leaders in the field. The President of the AACR will appoint the members of the Scientific Review Committee.

The Committee will consider the following criteria when reviewing applications and determining funding decisions:

- **Investigator.** What training and experience does the applicant have to ensure successful implementation of the proposed project? Does the applicant have demonstrated capacity to carry out independent research? Is there evidence that the applicant is developing a successful track record in cancer research or that they could make a career commitment to the field?

- **Significance.** Is the scientific and technical merit of the proposed project of significance? Is the proposed project of high quality, and what potential does it have to advance the field of cancer research and eventually benefit patients?
- **Approach.** Are the overall strategy, design, and methodology well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project within the grant term? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? Is the budget justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed project?
- **Institutional Environment.** What evidence is provided of institutional commitment for the scientific development of the applicant? What support, equipment, and resources will be available to the applicant and are they adequate to successfully complete the proposed project?

The Committee will consider each year's applicants independent of previously funded proposals or institutions of previous grantees.

### **TOBACCO INDUSTRY FUNDING AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST STATEMENT**

Scientific investigators or health professionals who are funded by the tobacco industry for any research project are not eligible for any AACR grant. Grantees who accept funding from the tobacco industry for any research project during the term of an AACR grant must inform the AACR of such funding, whereupon the AACR grant will immediately be terminated.

Tobacco industry funding is defined for purposes of AACR grant applicants and recipients as money provided or used for all or any of the costs of any research project, including personnel, consumables, equipment, buildings, travel, meetings and conferences, and operating costs for laboratories and offices.

It is not defined as money provided or used for meetings or conferences that don't relate to any particular research projects.

Tobacco industry funding includes: funds from a company that is engaged in or has affiliates engaged in the manufacture of tobacco produced for human use; funds in the name of a tobacco brand, whether or not the brand name is used solely for tobacco products; funds from a body set up by the tobacco industry or by one or more companies engaged in the manufacture of tobacco products.

The following do not constitute tobacco industry funding for the purposes of this policy:

- Legacies from tobacco industry investments (unless the names of a tobacco company or cigarette brand are associated with them)
- Funding from a trust or foundation established with assets related to the tobacco industry but no longer having any connection with the tobacco industry even though it may bear a name that (for historical reasons) is associated with the tobacco industry

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

### APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The AACR requires applicants to submit an online application by **1:00 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time on Thursday, March 21, 2024**, using the ProposalCentral website at <https://ProposalCentral.com>.

In order to submit a complete application, applicants need to enter information directly into the online submission platform as well as upload a number of documents. Below are details about information that needs to be entered and the materials that need to be uploaded. The section numbering corresponds with the section numbers in the Application Format below and the application on ProposalCentral.

Information to be Entered Directly into ProposalCentral	Application Format Section	ProposalCentral Section
Project Title and Acknowledgement of Reading the Terms and Conditions	1. Title Page	1) Title Page
Applicant Information	4. Applicant	4) Applicant
Institution and Contact Information	5. Institution & Contacts	5) Institution & Contacts
Collaborator Information (if applicable)	6. Collaborators	6) Collaborators
Lay Abstract	8.A. Lay Abstract	8) Abstracts
Scientific Abstract	8.B. Scientific Abstract	8) Abstracts
Budget	9. Budget	9) Budget
Organizational Assurances	10. Organizational Assurances	10) Organizational Assurances

Templates	Application Format Section	ProposalCentral Section
Research Project Proposal Template	11.A. Application Documents	11) Application Documents
Secured Other Support Template	11.B. Application Documents	11) Application Documents
Pending Other Support Template	11.C. Application Documents	11) Application Documents
Budget Justification Template	11.D. Application Documents	11) Application Documents
Project Milestones Template	11.E. Application Documents	11) Application Documents
Endorsement Form (if applicable)	11.F. Application Documents	11) Application Documents

Additional Materials	Application Format Section	ProposalCentral Section
Letter of Reference (uploaded by Nominator)	7. Letters of Reference	7) Letters of Reference
Applicant's Biographical Sketch	11.G. Application Documents	11) Application Documents
Collaborator Biographical Sketch(es) (if applicable)	11.H. Application Documents	11) Application Documents
Letter(s) of Collaboration (if applicable)	11.I. Application Documents	11) Application Documents
Supporting Documentation (if applicable)	11.J. Application Documents	11) Application Documents
Appendices (if applicable)	11.K. Application Documents	11) Application Documents

Required Signatures	Application Format Section	ProposalCentral Section
Applicant Checklist	11.L. Application Documents	11) Application Documents
Application Signature Page(s)	13. Signature Page(s)	12) Signature Page(s)

## GETTING STARTED IN ProposalCentral

If you are a new user of ProposalCentral, click the “Need an account?” link and complete the registration process. After logging in, complete your Professional Profile before starting an application.

If you are already registered with ProposalCentral, access the site and log in with your Username and Password. If you have forgotten your login information, click on the “Forgot Your Password?” link.

To start an application, select the “Grant Opportunities” tab. A list of grant opportunities will be displayed. The list of applications can be filtered for just this organization by clicking “Filter by Grant Maker” at the top and selecting “American Association for Cancer Research” in the drop-down menu. Find “**2024 AACR-Ocular Melanoma Foundation Career Development Award, in honor of Robert C. Allen, MD**” and click the blue “Apply Now” button in the “Apply” column.

If you have any difficulties registering, logging in, or creating your application, contact ProposalCentral Customer Support at: 800-875-2562 (Toll-free U.S. and Canada), +1-703-964-5840 (Direct Dial International), or by email at [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com). See the ProposalCentral [FAQ](#) section for additional information.

## APPLICATION FORMAT

The following information is required to submit a complete application. Numbers correspond to the application sections found on the left side of the ProposalCentral website.

- 1. TITLE PAGE.** Enter the title of the research project. The title is limited to no more than 75 characters (including spaces). Do not use abbreviations. A project title must be entered and saved before additional sections may be accessed.

**Terms and Conditions of the Grant.** In order to ensure that the applicant is informed of the terms and conditions of the grant should they be selected as a recipient, applicant must acknowledge that they have read the Terms and Conditions and have shared them with their institution by typing in their name and date in the box provided.

The terms and conditions of this grant may be modified or amended by AACR prior to execution of the Grant Agreement. In addition, the grant recipient’s institution may only request revisions to sections VII.F.; XII.; XIII.F.; and XIV.A. of the Grant Agreement prior to execution. Only in special circumstances will revisions be considered to sections other than those noted above.

- 2. DOWNLOAD TEMPLATES & INSTRUCTIONS.** The Program Guidelines and Application Instructions, Terms and Conditions, Applicant Checklist, and all templates can be downloaded from this page.

See Section 11 of the Application Instructions for how to complete and upload the templates. This application also requires additional attachments for which template are not provided (Applicant’s Biographical Sketch, Biographical Sketch(es) of Collaborator(s) [if applicable], Letter(s) of Collaboration [if applicable], Supporting Documentation [if applicable], and Appendices [if applicable]).

- 3. ENABLE OTHER USERS TO ACCESS THIS PROPOSAL.** Optional.

- 4. APPLICANT.** Enter information for the applicant. Applicants must include their contact information, including e-mail address, phone number, mailing address, and AACR membership information.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to have an ORCID iD and include this identifier with their application.

- 5. INSTITUTION & CONTACTS.** Enter information regarding the applicant's institution, nominator, endorser (if applicable), and signing official.
- 6. COLLABORATORS.** Optional. Enter information for your collaborators (if applicable). Collaborators are independent researchers who have an integral role on the proposed project. Do not enter information for fellows or research assistants working on the proposed project as they are not considered collaborators. While collaborators are allowable, note that co-Principal Investigators are **NOT** permitted.
- 7. LETTER OF REFERENCE.** Enter the e-mail address of the nominator submitting a letter of reference. Enter the e-mail address again to confirm and click the "add" icon. If the nominator's e-mail address is in the ProposalCentral system, you will be prompted to "Send E-mail" to the nominator. **The e-mail will contain instructions and a link to upload the letter of reference directly to the application.** If the nominator's e-mail address is not in the ProposalCentral system, you will be prompted for the nominator's first and last name before being prompted to "Send E-mail".

If the nominator is not an active, emeritus, or honorary member of the AACR, please download the endorsement form from Section 11 of the online application and follow the instructions provided in Section 11.F. to complete and submit this form. If your nominator is an active AACR member, the endorsement form will not be accepted.

The letter of reference is uploaded directly from the nominator to the ProposalCentral application. Applications cannot be submitted without a Letter of Reference. Applicants can view letter submission status in Section 7 of the online application.

- 8. ABSTRACTS.**
  - A. Lay Abstract.** Limited to 3,000 characters (including spaces), which provides a clear, concise, and comprehensive overview of the proposed research project in language suitable for a non-scientific audience. Do not use abbreviations unless absolutely necessary.
  - B. Scientific Abstract.** Limited to 3,000 characters (including spaces) and must provide a brief summary of the proposed research project.

If funded, these Abstracts will become public information; therefore, do not include proprietary or confidential information.

From the lists provided, select the research areas that are most applicable to this project (*select no more than two*), select the tumor site that is most applicable to this project (*select only one*), and indicate how you found out about this grant opportunity.

- 9. BUDGET.** Enter expenses for the term of the grant. Applicants must submit a budget in the amount of \$150,000, which may include the salary and benefits of the grant recipient, postdoctoral or

clinical research fellows, graduate students (including tuition costs associated with graduate students' education and training), and research assistants, or collaborators; research/laboratory supplies; equipment; publication charges for manuscripts that pertain directly to the funded project; and other research expenses. The percentage of salary requested may not exceed the percent effort the applicant and other personnel will dedicate to the project. See terms and conditions of the grant for information on publishing in AACR journals. Budget requests for equipment that exceed 10% of the total budget must be accompanied by a detailed justification.

The grantee **must** attend the Annual Grantee Recognition Event at the AACR Annual Meeting, or a similar recognition event to formally accept the grant. Grant funds up to \$2,000 may be used to support the grantee's registration and travel to this event. Travel funds are for the grantee **ONLY**. No other travel is permitted.

Indirect costs, travel (other than to the AACR Annual Meeting noted above), professional membership dues, and any other research-related expenses not directly related to this project are **not** allowable expenses. For the purposes of this grant, any general office supplies or individual institutional administrative charges (e.g., telephone, other electronic communication, utilities, IT network, etc.) are considered to be part of indirect and are **not** allowable budget line items. In addition, no grant funds may be directed towards salary or benefits of any individuals from a U.S. government entity or for-profit industry, nor for any research expenses related to the project that are incurred by these individuals.

**A detailed budget justification explaining the allocation of the grant funds must accompany the application.** See Section 11.D. for Budget Justification template instructions.

**10. ORGANIZATIONAL ASSURANCES.** Select the appropriate assurances options for your proposed research and complete the Approved or Pending Date field as appropriate (i.e., mm/dd/yyyy, N/A, or None). The assurances/certifications are made and verified by the signature of the institutional official signing the application. If a grant is awarded, IRB and IACUC approval (if applicable) must be submitted in writing to AACR's RGA.

## **11. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS.**

*Formatting Instructions.* Applicants must adhere to the following instructions in completing the templates. Failure to observe type size specifications and page limits will result in the return of the application without review.

- **Type size.** Must use 12-point Times New Roman for the text, and no smaller than 9-point type for figures, legends, and tables.
- **Single-spaced text.** Single-spacing is acceptable, and space between paragraphs is recommended.
- **Margins.** The page margins must be no less than 0.75 inches on each side.
- **Page numbering.** The Proposal Narrative must be numbered consecutively; do not use section designations such as "3A" or "3B."
- **Tips and techniques for inserting images in documents.**
  - Reduce the file size of documents with images by "inserting" the image (as opposed to "cutting" and "pasting"). Save graphical images as JPG or GIF files. Insert the image into the document by selecting "Insert – Picture – From File" from the MS Word menu.

- Insert only GIF or JPG graphic files as images in your Word document. Other graphical file formats are either very large or difficult to manipulate in the document.
- Do not insert Quick Time or TIFF objects into your document.
- Anchor the images you embed in your document.
- Once you have anchored the inserted image, you can format text to wrap around the image.
- Do not edit your images in Word. Use a graphics program.
- Do not embed your images in tables, text boxes, and other form elements.
- Do not add annotations over the images in Word. Add annotations to the images in a graphics program.

**When a template is provided, the template MUST be used. Prepare and upload the following documents into your application in portable document format (PDF):**

- A. Research Project Proposal.** *Applicants are required to use the template available from the ProposalCentral website. The information must be presented in this order:*
- I. Contents Page.** Complete the Table of Contents by indicating the appropriate page numbers for each section. The Table of Contents page must not exceed one page.
  - II. Proposal Narrative.** Limited to six pages, including figures and tables. The Contents Page, Facilities, and References sections do not count against this page limit. The information must be presented in this order and should include these subheadings: (A) Title of Research Project; (B) Introductory Statement, Background, Preliminary Data, and Rationale; (C) Specific Aims; (D) Research Design and Methods\*; and (E) Significance and Statement of Relevance.  
**\*Note that the AACR strongly encourages the authentication of cell lines intended for use in the proposed research project.** If use of cell lines is proposed, it is encouraged that information related to cell line authentication is included in the Research Design and Methods section of the proposal. For a list of cell line authentication services, please visit: <http://aacrjournals.org/content/cell-line-authentication-information>
  - III. Statistical Analysis Plan.** Limited to one page. Please provide a brief description of the statistical analysis plan for the proposed project.
  - IV. Facilities.** Limited to two pages. Please provide a description of the research facilities, resources, and equipment that are available to the applicant and that will allow successful implementation of the proposed research program.
  - V. References.** Limited to three pages. AACR reference style follows that of the [Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals](#). Note that the *Uniform Requirements* specify that for articles with more than six authors, the names of the first six authors must be listed, followed by "et al." For articles with six or fewer authors, all authors should be listed.
- B. Secured Other Support.** *Applicants are required to use the template available from the ProposalCentral website.* In the table provided, list all **existing** support (institutional, federal, etc.) that has been **secured** and will be used in whole or in part by the applicant during the term of this grant (07/01/2024 – 06/30/2026). Only funding sources that provide support specifically for the applicant should be listed, which includes grants for which the applicant is not the Principal Investigator. This may include support for different projects. For each grant or funding source, please provide:
- Name of Principal Investigator

- Name of Grant/Funding Source
- Funding Agency
- Grant Term
- Amount of Funding
- Percent Effort of Applicant
- Title of Project
- List of Specific Aims as Stated in Grant Proposal (summaries will NOT be accepted)

**C. Pending Other Support.** *Applicants are required to use the template available from the ProposalCentral website.* In the table provided, list all **pending** support (institutional, federal, etc.) that will, **if secured**, be used in whole or in part by the applicant during the term of this grant (07/01/2024 – 06/30/2026). Only funding sources that will provide support specifically for the applicant should be listed, which includes grants for which the applicant is not the Principal Investigator. This may include support for different projects. For each pending grant or funding source, please provide:

- Name of Principal Investigator
- Name of Grant/Funding Source
- Funding Agency
- Grant Term
- Amount of Funding
- Percent Effort of Applicant
- Title of Project
- List of Specific Aims as Stated in Grant Proposal (summaries will NOT be accepted)

**NOTE:** If at any time prior to selection and notification an applicant is awarded any funding that may overlap with the 2024 AACR-Ocular Melanoma Foundation Career Development Award, in honor of Robert C. Allen, MD, the applicant must notify AACR's RGA immediately.

**D. Budget Justification.** *Applicants are required to use the template available from the ProposalCentral website.* Limited to three pages. Applicants must submit a budget in the amount of \$150,000 over two years. Percent effort of the applicant on the proposed project must be indicated. Applicant must also indicate their salary and, if any part of their salary is requested, the percentage of salary requested may not exceed the percent effort the applicant will dedicate to the project. In addition, identify by name and title any additional personnel, their specific responsibilities, and the percentage of salary requested during each year of the proposed project. Include details on any research/laboratory supplies; equipment; travel to the required AACR Annual Grantee Recognition Event; publication charges for manuscripts that pertain directly to the funded project, and other research expenses (See terms and conditions of grant for information on publishing in AACR journals). Note if individual is a postdoctoral or clinical research fellow. For positions that are not yet filled, indicate "**TBD**" in the name field. Detailed justification is required for budget requests for equipment that exceeds 10% of the total budget.

Travel expenditures cannot exceed \$2,000 for travel to the Annual Grantee Recognition Event at the AACR Annual Meeting **ONLY**. Travel funds are for the grantee **ONLY**.

- E. Project Milestones.** *Applicants are required to use the template available from the ProposalCentral website. Please submit the Milestones Template with only **Column A** completed.* The Milestones Template is meant to list the various steps necessary to complete your research goals and the estimated time it will take to complete each step. Please list your name and the specific aims for the proposed project at the top of the template. Underneath each time period, identify the steps that will be needed to accomplish the aim(s) in that time period. For each step, note the corresponding aim in parentheses. Rows may be added/deleted to the template as needed. For the purposes of submitting the template with your application, **only the information requested above entered into Column A is needed**. Reporting progress towards milestones using this template will be incorporated into the reporting requirements for the project if funded.
- F. Endorsement Form.** *Applicants are required to use the template available from the ProposalCentral website.* If the nominator is **not** an active, emeritus, or honorary member of the AACR, an endorser must complete and sign the endorsement form on the applicant's behalf. The endorser **must** be an active, emeritus, or honorary member of the AACR. The signed form must be uploaded directly by the applicant to the online application. If the nominator is an AACR member, the endorsement form will **not** be accepted.
- G. Applicant's Biographical Sketch.** Applicants are required to use the **Non-fellowship Biosketch** template available to download from the [NIH's Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions and Samples](#). Please refer to the Instructions and Non-fellowship biosketch sample under **Biographical Sketch Format Page (non-fellowship)**. The biographical sketch must be in English.
- H. Biographical Sketch(es) of Collaborator(s).** Collaborators are required to use the **Non-fellowship Biosketch** template available to download from the [NIH's Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions and Samples](#). Please refer to the Instructions and Non-fellowship biosketch sample under **Biographical Sketch Format Page (non-fellowship)**. The biographical sketch must be in English.
- I. Letter(s) of Collaboration.** A Letter of Collaboration must be uploaded for every collaborator listed in Section 6. The letter should confirm the scope of the collaborators' involvement in the proposed research.
- J. Supporting Documentation.** An example of acceptable supporting documentation is a letter of commitment from a clinician, drug manufacturer, or any individual/organization providing data or materials necessary for the proposed research. Supporting Documentation should state a commitment to provide stated data/materials or confirm applicant's access to said data/materials. Supporting Documentation should be included only to provide information on the ability to provide for a research need, and should not comment on the applicant or research environment. **Any documentation deemed by AACR's RGA to be an additional letter of reference for the applicant is not considered supporting documentation and will be removed**

**from the application.** Each supporting document is limited to one page and must be presented on the appropriate institutional or company letterhead.

There is no limit to the number of supporting documents that may be provided. However, documents that do not satisfactorily meet the description of supporting documentation provided above, or uploads such as tables, charts, articles, and other inappropriate additional materials will be removed.

- K. Appendices.** Appendices are not required and may **ONLY** be used for the following materials. Appendices are not to include figures, tables, or other data that otherwise should be contained within the Proposal Narrative. The following materials are permitted:
- Clinical Trial Protocols
  - Unpublished Manuscripts. (Manuscripts that have been published should not be attached as appendices. Instead, please list the citation on the References page.)
  - Large size versions of figures and/or detailed legends presented in the Proposal Narrative.
    - The use of this appendix is in no way intended to increase the Proposal Narrative page limit. Use of this appendix is restricted to no more than one page of figures and/or legends. This appendix is to be used when reducing the size of the figure or legend to fit within the proposal narrative would significantly compromise the quality of the image. In no case should there be more than one page of text in this appendix. **Overuse or misuse of this appendix may result in your application being rejected or your appendix being removed from your application.**
- L. Applicant Checklist.** To ensure each applicant's eligibility, this checklist is required for all applicants. The checklist **MUST** be downloaded from the ProposalCentral site, completed, and signed by all required parties. Electronic/digital signatures are permitted. These signatures transmitted by electronic means shall have the same force and effect as original signatures. Please note that if eligibility is based on a future position, the position must be confirmed at the time of application, and **CANNOT** be contingent upon receiving this grant.

The **signed Applicant Checklist** must be uploaded to your online application in the Application Documents section.

- M. Signed Signature Page.** In order to ensure that the applicant, nominator, and institution have approved the application, applicants must obtain all required signatures on page one of the Signature Pages. Electronic/digital signatures are permitted. These signatures transmitted by electronic means shall have the same force and effect as original signatures. Downloading the Signature Page(s) is described in Section 13 below.

The **signed Signature Page** must be uploaded to your online application in the Application Documents section.

**Uploading the attachments into your application.** Once you have converted your attachments to PDF files, the next step is to upload the files to your online application. *Only PDF attachments are permitted for this application submission.*

- Open your online application and go to the section for attaching files. Click the blue “Attach Files” button.
- Select the appropriate type of attachment from the drop-down list.
- Enter your own description of the file in the “Describe Attachment” field.
- Click on the “click here to browse” link to select the file from your computer or drag and drop. Click on the “Upload and Continue” button. You will get a confirmation message on your screen that the file was uploaded successfully. You will also see that your file is now listed in the “Current list of uploaded attachments” section of the screen. Clicking the “Back” or “Upload and Return” button allows you to go back to the main page of this section where the uploaded documents should now be listed. **Click the download icon next to the file name to open and view your uploaded documents.** To delete the file, click on the trashcan icon to the right under the “Delete” column.

In the section for attachments, all the required attachments are listed in the middle of the screen, just below where you upload your files. This list of required attachments helps you track completion and uploading of your required attachments. Once you upload a required attachment, that attachment type will be removed from the required list and will be displayed in the "Current list of uploaded attachments."

If you wish to modify the attached file, make the revisions to your *original* file on your computer, convert the file to PDF, and use the same process as above to attach the new file. **Delete any previously submitted versions of the file before submitting your application.**

## SUBMITTING COMPLETE APPLICATION

- 12. PI DATA SHEET.** Please verify the applicant’s gender, race, and ethnicity. This is automatically populated based on the applicant’s Professional Profile within ProposalCentral. Changes to the selections on this screen will be reflected in your Professional Profile. The information is handled separately from the application and will not be provided to the Scientific Review Committee.
- 13. SIGNATURE PAGE(S).** Use the “Print Signature Pages” button to download the Signature Pages. Signatures are only required on the first page. This page can be printed, original signatures obtained, and then uploaded to your online application. Electronic/digital signatures are also permitted and shall have the same force and effect as original signatures. Do not upload the Application Contacts, Abstracts, and Budget pages with the signed Signature Page.

**NOTE:** Data entered in the online application are automatically included in the Signature Pages. If information is missing in the Signature Pages, it could be because you have not entered the information in one of the online application sections **OR** the information is not required for this grant program. If the institution’s Employer Identification Number (EIN) is not completed on the Signature Page, please request your institution to provide that information in their ProposalCentral profile.

While the “Print Signature Pages” option allows applicants to download the Signature Page, Application Contacts, Abstracts, and Budget; the AACR **strongly encourages** applicants to also use the “Print Signature Pages with Attachments” option. This option can be used if your institution

wishes to review the full application but also should be used by the applicant to ensure that your attachments loaded properly. The following application materials will **not** be present when using this option: Pending Other Support, and the Letter of Reference. Absence of these materials should **not** be considered an error. If your institution requires all components of the application for review, the above documents need to be printed individually by the applicant and added; however, as the Letter of Reference is uploaded directly by the nominator, the applicant will be unable to access this letter.

Errors may occur when the uploaded PDF files are assembled by the system. Please check to ensure that all pages of every document included appear in the “Print Signature Pages with Attachments” option. If you are having any issues with this option, please contact ProposalCentral customer support at: 800-875-2562 (Toll-free U.S. and Canada), +1-703-964-5840 (Direct Dial International), or by e-mail to [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com).

**14. VALIDATE.** Validate the application on ProposalCentral. This is an essential step. An application that has not been validated cannot be submitted. “Validate” checks for required data and attachments. You will not be able to submit if all the required data and attachments have not been provided.

**15. SUBMIT.** After successfully passing the validate check, click the “**Submit**” button. An e-mail will be sent to you confirming your submission.

Once your application is submitted you may view it by selecting “Submitted” from the “Proposal Status” drop-down menu under the ‘Proposals’ tab, then clicking the “View” button under the Edit column. The status column will show “Submitted” and the date submitted. You may need to refresh your browser screen after submitting the application to see the updated status.

#### **CHANGES TO YOUR APPLICATION**

**Withdrawal of Application.** Please advise AACR’s RGA promptly, in writing, should you decide to withdraw your application for any reason. Your correspondence should include your name, the grant opportunity to which you applied, the project title, and the reason for withdrawal.

**Change of Address.** Notify AACR’s RGA in writing of any changes of address, e-mail, or phone number, following the submission of an application. Include your name and the ProposalCentral identification number. The e-mail address provided with your application will be used for all official communication about your submission including the recipient selection results; therefore, your Professional Profile in ProposalCentral must be kept up to date.

**Change of Institution or Position.** If you change your institution or professional position, contact AACR’s RGA to determine whether your application is still eligible for review.

#### **INQUIRIES**

Inquiries or technical issues regarding ProposalCentral and the online application process should be directed to customer support at: 800-875-2562 (Toll-free U.S. and Canada), +1-703-964-5840 (Direct Dial International), or by e-mail to [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com).

Inquiries about the program guidelines, eligibility requirements, and application materials can be directed to AACR's RGA at [grants@aacr.org](mailto:grants@aacr.org).

## MORE ABOUT THE PARTNERS



The Ocular Melanoma Foundation (OMF) supports scientific research and awareness of eye melanomas and provides education and support to patients and caregivers. Today, OMF is the top destination for ocular/uveal melanoma information online with over 80,000 visitors annually and provides a wide range of patient support programs including financial assistance for treatment-related travel, ocular prosthetics, and eye exams. OMF works in close collaboration with groups such as the Rare Cancer Research Foundation (RCRF), the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) to fund breakthrough uveal melanoma research, stimulate scientific community collaboration and get us closer to a cure.

The AACR-Ocular Melanoma Foundation Career Development Award is funded by OMF in honor of Robert C. Allen, MD. Dr. Allen is the former Chairman of Ophthalmology at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia and co-founder of OMF.



Founded in 1907, the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) is the world's first and largest professional organization dedicated to advancing cancer research and its mission to prevent and cure cancer. The AACR has more than 54,000 members in 130 countries and territories around the world; thirty-two percent of members live outside the United States. Twenty-two percent of AACR's international members are located in countries with emerging economies. The AACR offers seven categories of membership to support each aspect of our members' professional development and enhancement in cancer research. In support of the professional development of early-career researchers, no annual dues are required for Associate membership. The AACR marshals the full spectrum of expertise of the cancer community to accelerate progress in the prevention, biology, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer by annually convening more than 30 conferences and educational

workshops, the largest of which is the AACR Annual Meeting with more than 22,500 attendees. The AACR's Virtual 2020 Annual Meeting attracted over 74,000 attendees. In addition, the AACR publishes ten prestigious, peer-reviewed scientific journals and a magazine for cancer survivors, patients, and their caregivers. The AACR funds meritorious research directly as well as in cooperation with numerous cancer organizations. As the Scientific Partner of Stand Up To Cancer, the AACR provides expert peer review, grants administration, and scientific oversight of team science and individual investigator grants in cancer research that have the potential for near-term patient benefit. The AACR actively communicates with legislators and other policymakers about the value of cancer research and related biomedical science in saving lives from cancer. For more information about the AACR, visit [www.AACR.org](http://www.AACR.org).