

The Wisconsin Head & Neck Cancer SPORE Grant is soliciting applications:

Developmental Research Program (DRP)

The ultimate objective of the Wisconsin Head and Neck SPORE Grant (PI: Paul Harari, MD) is to advance translational research to improve the outcome for Head and Neck Cancer (HNC) patients. The University of Wisconsin holds one of the few [H&N SPORE Grants](#) in the United States. HNC is the sixth most common cancer worldwide with over 600,000 new cases diagnosed annually. The US alone has ~60,000 newly diagnosed HNC patients each year. These patients frequently bear a disproportionate burden from their cancers based on the critical anatomic location of their disease. HN tumors and treatment often compromise speech, swallow and breathing function, in addition to creating significant changes in physical appearance and social interactions. Efforts to improve cure rates must be carefully balanced with efforts to reduce treatment morbidity to enable improved overall outcome for HNC patients.

Please visit our [website](#) to find more information regarding HNC SPORE research projects, [previously awarded HN SPORE pilots](#), and unique resources available from the HN SPORE Biostats and Pathology/Biospecimen Cores.

The **Developmental Research Program** of the Wisconsin Head and Neck SPORE seeks to **fund pilot project applications** that will:

- Attract experienced investigators to the field of Head and Neck Cancer (HNC)
- Promote basic, clinical, and translational HNC research
- Result in preliminary data to support successful competitive national grants (R01 or equivalent)

Proposed **translational research** is expected to address one or more of the following:

1. Diagnosis, prevention and/or treatment of HNC
2. Improved understanding of underlying biological mechanisms of HNC
3. Identification of novel biomarkers and/or imaging modalities in HNC

PROJECT PERIOD: Aug. 1, 2022 – Jul. 31, 2023 (with potential for competitive renewal)

DEADLINES: **LOI: May 5, 2022**
 Application: June 1, 2022

FUNDING LEVELS: \$25,000-\$50,000 over 1 year (*contingent on NIH funded HN SPORE Renewal Award*). Depending on the success of the pilot, a competitive renewal application may be submitted for a second year of funding.

ELIGIBILITY: Funds from this program will support the faculty (including Assistant, Associate and full Professor).

The SPORE program places special emphasis on recruiting qualified women and minorities. Final recommendations for funding will be made by the DRP leadership and HN SPORE executive committees.

LETTER OF INTENT ([submit online](#) by May 5, 2022)

Simple online form which requests a 1-2 sentence description of your proposal theme to help SPORE group identify reviewers with relevant expertise. Your LOI title and list of collaborators can be revised in the final application.

APPLICATION FORMAT ([submit application](#) online by June 1, 2022)

- **Scientific Abstract**
- **Lay Abstract**
- **NIH Biosketch** for PI(s) and key personnel
- **Protocol Assurances (Biosafety, Vertebrate Animals, & Human Subjects):**
 - Indicate the status of protocols for vertebrate animals, human subjects and research involving recombinant DNA technologies.
 - Protocols do not need to be approved at time of submission but must be approved before funds can be released.
 - If vertebrate animals or human subjects research is involved, contact Shari Piaskowski during application process to discuss additional requirements and timelines.
- **Budget** (template found at <https://hn-spore.wisc.edu/drp/>)
- **Budget Justification**
 - Specific description of how the \$25K or \$50K award will be used.
 - If full project costs exceed \$50,000, please indicate how you will cover remaining costs (matching funds or otherwise).
- **Research Strategy** (limit 4 pages)
 - Specific aims
 - Background and significance
 - Innovation and approach
 - HN SPORE Biostats Core is available for biostatistical support
 - Anticipated results and implications
- **Bibliography**
- **Description of Project Structure** and how it will fulfill the HN SPORE mission*, including anticipated timeline for completing the project within 1-2 years
- **Resources and Environment** (limit 1 page)
- **Verification of Department Support**
 - Simple verification on web application, noting your home department is aware of and supports your application with the appropriate resources and protected time to fulfill the aims of the project
- **Letter(s) of Support** (optional)

**The Wisconsin Head and Neck SPORE seeks to identify and translate new scientific discoveries into significant and durable treatment advances for patients with HNC. These advances strive to increase HNC cure rates and diminish normal tissue toxicities.*

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The HN SPORE Developmental Research Program targets applications that:

- Attract experienced investigators to the field of Head and Neck Cancer (HNC)
- Promote basic, clinical, and translational HNC research
- Result in preliminary data to support successful competitive national grants (R01 or equivalent)

Proposals must be focused on H&N Cancer to be eligible for funding support. Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- 1) Overall Impact
- 2) Significance
- 3) Innovation
- 4) Approach
- 5) Environment
- 6) Investigator
- 7) Potential for Translation

AWARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Upon receipt of an award, awardees will receive an overview of program obligations and agree to the terms of the program. Specifically, applicants will be required to:

- Attend relevant HNC SPORE meetings, such as
 - monthly HNC SPORE translational research meeting
 - normally schedule the 2nd Thursday of each month, 4pm (WebEx)
 - HNC SPORE retreat (Time and Location TBD)
- Submit an interim (Jan 31st) and annual (May 1) progress report.
- Present a research project update at the Wisconsin H&N SPORE annual retreat.

Thank you for your interest and involvement with the Wisconsin H&N SPORE Grant. For more information regarding the goals of the Wisconsin H&N SPORE grant projects, programs and cores, please see <https://hn-spore.wisc.edu/>.

Inquiries should be directed to:

Shari Piaskowski
HN SPORE Administrator
(608) 263-6686
smpiasko@wisc.edu