PURPOSE OF AWARD:
The V Foundation is pleased to announce a new grant opportunity. The BRCA Foundation and the Basser Initiative at the Gray Foundation have challenged The V Foundation to seek contributions to fund BRCA-related cancer research. If the entire challenge is met, $6 million will be invested in this research. In preparation for this funding, a special call for applications for the 2017 BRCA Research Collaborative Grants is now issued. We are seeking grant applications for high risk, high reward multi-disciplinary convergence research and innovative translational research.

BRCA1 and BRCA2 are human genes that produce tumor suppressor proteins. These proteins help repair damaged DNA and, therefore, play a role in ensuring the stability of the cell’s genetic material. When either of these genes is mutated, or altered, such that its protein product either is not made or does not function correctly, DNA damage may not be repaired properly. As a result, cells are more likely to develop additional genetic alterations that can lead to cancer.

Specific inherited mutations in BRCA1 and BRCA2 increase the risk of female breast and ovarian cancers, and they have been associated with increased risks of several additional types of cancer. Together, BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations account for about 20 to 25 percent of hereditary breast cancers and about 5 to 10 percent of all breast cancers. In addition, mutations in BRCA1 and BRCA2 account for around 15 percent of ovarian cancers overall. Breast and ovarian cancers associated with BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations tend to develop at younger ages than their nonhereditary counterparts.

In this call for letter of intent, we are interested in any cancer type that is associated with inherited BRCA mutations. We are interested in a broad range of research questions. For instance, but not preferred, research in areas such as mechanisms of cancer causation, therapy resistance, prevention or gene-environment interactions would be within the scope. We hope this call for application stimulates novel, innovative new areas of research beyond typical categories.
WHO MAY APPLY?

Each invited institution may nominate one applicant to apply for one of these award types:

Convergence Team Award: To support research projects that leverage novel collaborations between biomedical scientists and other researchers that might be brought into the field to work together across disciplines to drive our understanding and treatment of BRCA 1,2 related cancers. Each team must include experts in multiple disciplines to create a research plan and drive BRCA 1/-2 cancer research into new and innovative areas. The research may be basic, translational, clinical, or epidemiological in nature. We encourage collaborations within and between research institutions. If the award is made to a collaborative team across multiple institutions, the grant will be made to the institution that nominated the lead PI and that lead institution will manage any sub-contracts with collaborating institutions. The Convergence Team Award is a $2,100,000 grant, paid in increments of $700,000 for each of three years.

Translational Award. Translational projects should move a novel strategy from the laboratory into a human clinical trial or use specimens from a clinical trial to develop biomarkers or mechanisms. The research should apply in some direct way to human beings within the time frame of less than 5 years. A plan for biomarker validation, if applicable, must be included in any proposal. The endpoint of the project should be the planning or initiation of a new clinical trial. The Translational Award is a three-year grant of $200,000 per year.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Eligibility Criteria for Nominated Applicants:

Grant applicants must be nominated by their Cancer Center Director or designee (see below). Nominated applicants who will lead the research team must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible to submit an application:

- The nominee must be nominated by their Cancer Center Director if the research institution is a cancer center. If the research institution is not a cancer center, then the provost, dean or other senior research administrative official who is responsible for the internal nominee selection process may make the nomination. We do not review unsolicited applications.
- Applicant must be employed at a US non-profit research institution (e.g. 501c3, Section 170).
- By the Due Date of the Application, applicants who will lead this research team must have all the following:
  - Be scientists who hold a faculty position at their cancer research institution. Non-promotable, adjunct, affiliated, temporary, part-time or acting faculty positions are not eligible for Principal Investigator nomination to lead the Translational Research Team. Applicants must be either US Citizens or have a legal permit to work in the USA (either temporary or permanent).

About the Awards:

- A maximum of 10% indirect costs (within the award amount) are supported by these awards.
- Each institution may nominate one Lead PI in each grant category to submit an application on behalf of the team.
- NIH salary caps are observed.

NEXT STEPS TO NOMINATE YOUR APPLICANT:

Complete the attached Nomination Information Form for your Lead PI and email BOTH Nomination form and LOI to koweye@jimmyv.org by 5:00 PM EDT on June 12, 2017. The nomination form includes the signature of the Cancer Center Director (or similar high ranking research official if there is no cancer center director) who is responsible for the nomination and ensuring that the candidate meets all eligibility requirements. Along with the Nomination form, please also email a Letter of Intent, 3 pages maximum, minimum 11 font size, from your nominee. Page 1-2 should explain what the research is and what impact it will have. Page 3 should describe the people, expertise and research environment. See attached LOI form for details.
LOI review and Full Application process: After initial scientific review, PIs from the highest rated LOI proposals will be invited to submit full proposals. Applicants will be issued log in credentials to submit their full applications on-line.

IMPORTANT DATES:
Nomination form and LOI Due Date: by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on June 12, 2017
Please email nomination forms and LOIs to kowoeye@jimmyv.org.

Timeline:
LOI review and selection of full applicants completed: July 2017.
Full Applications due: September 2017.
Review process completed: December 2017.
Grant Start dates: February 2018.

If you have any questions about the nomination process, please contact me or Kameko Owoeye, Grants Coordinator for assistance. We are delighted to extend this invitation and look forward to receiving your nominations and letters of intent.

Best Wishes,

Carole

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