

OBERLEY AWARDS 2026 Request for Proposals
Proposals Due Noon, Friday, October 9, 2026

The Oberley Award, named in honor of the past Deputy Director of the HCCC Larry Oberley, is the primary mechanism by which the HCCC distributes Developmental Funds from the Cancer Center Support Grant to promote promising research from members. We rely heavily on the guidance of Program Leaders for awarding these funds to HCCC members. Full, Associate, Clinical and Affiliate members are eligible to apply for funding to support relevant cancer investigations.

- 1) Proposals are due by Noon on Friday, October 9, 2026. Please submit as a single PDF Document [HERE](#)
- 2) Proposals will be reviewed for scientific merit by Program Leaders and other internal and/or external researchers to identify meritorious projects. Review criteria include 1) scientific merit, 2) alignment with program themes and/or HCCC strategic goals, 3) scientific suitability of the team, 4) potential of the team for significant research funding, and 5) impact on catchment area priorities.
- 3) After scientific review, HCCC leaders including the HCCC Director, Deputy Director for Research, Associate Directors for Basic, Translational, or Population Research, and the Associate Director for COE will make funding decisions. The selections will be informed by scientific review but also by alignment with strategic and/or catchment area priorities. \$150,000 will be distributed equally across the three research programs and an additional \$30,000 will be available to support research that addresses catchment needs identified by COE.
- 4) For 2026, HCCC and Catchment area priorities are as follows:
 - Melanoma and sarcoma research
 - Mechanistic links between obesity and cancer
 - Role of host immunity in cancer development, therapy, and outcomes
 - Collaborative and translational research teams building toward multi-PI grant applications
 - Therapeutics projects focused on drug discovery or preclinical development
 - Projects that combine experimental therapeutics and any aspect of radiation/redox biology
 - Novel drug delivery and/or discovery methods
 - Survivorship, including roles of primary care, caregivers
 - Studies of catchment area priority cancers, particularly breast, prostate, lung, melanoma
 - Cancer Prevention, including the roles of obesity, nutrition, physical activity, radon, tobacco, alcohol
 - Improving clinical trial participation
 - Cancer etiology, especially contributing environmental factors
- 5) Budgets may be requested for up to \$50,000.
- 6) Awardees are required to present research within 1 year of award at an HCCC-wide forum and comply with annual requests for information following from award.

Components of the proposal:

- 1) **Cover Page:** 1 page maximum. The cover page will include: 1) a grant title, 2) names of all team members with HCCC program and UI Department affiliations, and 3) a short description of the role played by each team member.
- 2) **Grant Proposal:** 2 pages maximum. The grant proposal will contain descriptions of 1) scientific rationale and research question, 2) central hypothesis, 3) specific aim(s), 4) experimental procedures, 5) cancer relevance and/or impact, and 6) plan for external funding.
- 3) **References Cited:** Use a format that includes authors and titles.
- 4) **Biosketches:** NIH style Biosketches for PI and all faculty co-investigators must be provided.
- 5) **Budget and Justification:** 1 page maximum. Allowable budget items will be limited to 6 specific budget categories: 1) salaries for research staff, 2) reagents/study materials, 3) animal costs, 4) research participant costs, 5) small research equipment needed for the study, and 6) service fees (core facility, bioinformatics and/or statistical support). A short justification for each of these categories will be required.

Non-allowable budget items include faculty salary support, conference travel (whereas travel needed for the study may be allowed), publication costs, large equipment costs, foreign travel costs (transportation, hotel, meals, etc), honoraria and travel expenses of visiting lecturers, administrative support personnel, tuition costs for students, books and periodicals, dues and membership fees in scientific societies, construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings and laboratories, office and laboratory furniture, office equipment and supplies (including computer hardware and software).

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