

CALL FOR LETTERS OF INTENT

2017 BRCA 1,2 RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE GRANTS

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. The Foundation is 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.

V Foundation Special Focus area: In this call for letters of intent, V Foundation is interested in any cancer type that is associated with inherited BRCA mutations. The Foundation is 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. The Foundation hopes this call for applications stimulates novel, innovative new areas of research beyond typical categories.

GRANT CATEGORY:

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.

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.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:

Grant applicants must be nominated by their Cancer Center Director or designee. 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. V Foundation does 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:

- Convergence Team Award: \$2,100,000 grant, paid in increments of \$700,000 for each of three years.
- Translational Award: \$600,000 grant, paid in increments of \$200,000 per year for each of three years.
- These awards support a maximum of 10% indirect cost (within the award amount).
- One Lead PI will be nominated in each grant category to submit an application on behalf of the team.
- NIH salary caps are observed.

LETTER OF INTENT:

Letters of Intent (not to exceed 3 pages; minimum font size 11) are due May 19, 2017 in a single PDF to winshipgrants@emory.edu. Please save the cover page as page zero of your 3 page Letter of Intent. Page 1-2: Describe what your research is and the impact it will have. Page 3: Describe the People, Expertise and Research Environment for the project.

TIMELINE:

Winship Letter of Intent Deadline:	5:00 PM EST on Friday, May 19, 2017
Winship Announcement of Nominee Selection:	Friday, June 2, 2017
V Foundation LOI Review and Selection:	July 2017
Full Applications Due to V Foundation:	September 2017