

## Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation – RACHLEFF INNOVATION AWARD

*Unrestricted funding opportunity*

**Coordinator:** Connor Cook, Assoc. Director, Foundation Relations  
(connor.cook@emory.edu)

**Website:** <https://www.damonrunyon.org/for-scientists/application-guidelines/innovation>

**Submission Limitations:** None, however, Please contact your RAS unit \*and\* Connor Cook to inform them of your intent to submit

**Foundation Deadline:** **July 1, 2021, 4:00 PM (ET)**

**Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation:** Since 1946, Damon Runyon's unique role has been to identify the most promising scientist early in their careers and provide them with the freedom and resources to pursue the next breakthroughs in cancer research.

**Rachleff Innovation Award:** This award funds extraordinary early career researchers who have an innovative new idea but lack sufficient preliminary data to obtain traditional funding. It is not designed to fund incremental advances. The research supported by the award must be novel, exceptionally creative and, if successful, have the strong potential for high impact in the cancer field.

**Award:** Up to \$400,000 over two years based on stage and scope of research with the opportunity for up to two additional years of funding (*up to four years total for \$800,000*)

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Institutional nominations are not required and there is no limit to the number of applications that can be received from a particular institution.
- Applicants (*including non-U.S. citizens*) must be conducting independent research at a U.S. research institution.
- The applicant must have received an MD, DO, PhD, or MD/PhD degree(s) from an accredited institution.
- Basic and translational/clinical projects will be considered. Applications will be accepted from all scientific disciplines provided that the proposed research meets the selection criteria.
- Applicants with a background in multiple disciplines are especially encouraged to apply.
- Joint submission from two collaborators working in different disciplines will be considered. (*The collaborators will share the award.*) Each collaborator must meet the eligibility criteria.
- Applicants must belong to one of the following categories:
  - Tenure-track Assistant Professors within the first five (5) years of obtaining their initial Assistant Professor position (*Cut-off date: July 1, 2016*).
  - Clinical Instructors and Senior Clinical Fellows (*in the final year of their sub-specialty training*) holding an MD, MD/PhD, DO who are pursuing a period of independent research before taking a tenure-track faculty position. Such individuals must have an exceptional record of research accomplishment, dedicated laboratory space and the support of their institution.
  - Distinguished Fellows with an exceptional record of research accomplishment identified by their institution to pursue an independent research program and who have dedicated laboratory space. These candidates are markedly distinct from traditional postdoctoral fellows. Examples: Whitehead Fellows, UCSF Fellows, Cold Spring Harbor Fellows. [*Research Assistant Professors, Research Associate Professors, Research Scientists and Postdoctoral Fellows are not eligible. If you are unsure about your eligibility for this award program, please contact the Foundation's Award Programs at 212.455.0520.*]
- Applicants are expected to commit a minimum of 80% of their time to conducting research.
- Applicants may apply no more than two times.
- Applicants must demonstrate that they have access to the resources and infrastructure necessary to conduct the proposed research.
- The department must guarantee the Investigator is conducting the proposed research independently.

**Application Components:** Create an account and submit application online at <https://proposalcentral.com/>

- Application cover sheet (*co-applicant cover sheet*) with all required signatures.
- Applicant's NIH Bio-sketch.
- A full bibliography of all published works with hyperlinks. **Bold** three peer-reviewed publications (*published or in press*) that demonstrate the applicant's capacity for innovation and ability to achieve the goals set forth in the proposed research.
- A complete list of other sources of research support with dollar amounts for each grant/award (*including start-up package, if applicable*), a list of pending support, and confirmation that there is no scientific overlap with the proposed research.
- The research proposal, including figures, tables and legends, is limited to **four pages of single-spaced, 12-point type with at least 0.5-inch margins**. No preliminary data are expected; any description of such data (*including figures*) should be included in the four-page proposal. A list of references is **not** included in the 4-page limit.
  - In the proposal, the applicant should include:
    1. the aim(s) of the proposed research project(s)
    2. the significance and potential impact of the research on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment or basic understanding of cancer
    3. the experimental designs, strategies and methods to be used in the conduct of the research

4. an explanation of how the proposed idea and/or approach is innovative and bold yet achievable.
- A one-paragraph description of resources and core facilities available to the applicant for the proposed research.
  - Organization Assurances.
  - The Summary of Research Form, **not** to exceed one page.
  - If applicable, up to three collaboration letters (**NOT REFERENCE LETTERS**).
  - In addition to the 2 required reference letters, **Clinical Instructors** and **Senior Clinical Fellows** (*in the final year of their sub-specialty training*) holding an MD/DO, as well as **Distinguished Fellows**, are required to submit a letter from their mentor or institutional equivalent, guaranteeing that the applicant is conducting the proposed research independently and addressing their exceptional level of research accomplishment and potential to manage a successful, independent research program. Please use our Mentor Reference Letter Form.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Connor Cook ([connor.cook@emory.edu](mailto:connor.cook@emory.edu)) in the Office of Foundation Relations.