

## **Kidney Cancer Association Young Investigator Award**

Request for Proposals (RFP)

*Entire application process is to be completed only by email*

### **Important Dates**

Grant cycle begins: October 30

Abstract deadline: November 30

YIA eligible candidates notified: December

Application deadline: January 30

YIA grants formally announced: February

Kidney Cancer Association

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The Kidney Cancer Association (KCA) is working to create a world free from death and suffering from kidney cancer by funding research, by sharing knowledge with physicians and patients worldwide, and by supporting initiatives to ensure that all people have access to high-quality cancer care.

The Young Investigator Award (YIA) provides funding to promising investigators to encourage and promote quality research in kidney cancer. The purpose of this research grant is to fund physicians during the transition from a fellowship program to a faculty appointment.

The current grant cycle (for the following year) opens on October 30 of the current year and closes on January 30 of the next year.

**A brief abstract (<350 words) of the research proposal must be submitted by email, prior to completion of the application. Eligible applicants will be advised by the Committee, following evaluation of the abstract. The abstract should be sent not later than November 30 of this year, as the deadline for receipt of the completed application is January 30 of the following year. Awards will be announced in February, with funding installments remitted in June of the same year and the following January.**

This application has been freely adapted from the process established by the Conquer Cancer Foundation of the American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO), but this YIA is separate from grants made by KCA through the Conquer Cancer Foundation.

For information on the Conquer Cancer Foundation's YIA, please visit [www.ConquerCancerFoundation.org](http://www.ConquerCancerFoundation.org).

### **Purpose**

The Kidney Cancer Association Young Investigator Award (YIA) provides funding to promising investigators to encourage and promote quality research in clinical oncology. The purpose of this award is to fund physicians during the transition from a fellowship program to a faculty appointment. The Kidney Cancer Association welcomes application submissions in all oncology/urology subspecialties.

### **Funding Available**

The total award amount is \$50,000 for one year, payable on June 1 and December 1, in two equal installments. The number of YIA grants in each funding cycle is not predetermined by the Kidney Cancer Association. Awards are given based on individual merit and availability of funds.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

The Young Investigator Award is intended to support proposals with a research focus. KCA's definition of clinical research for this award is "hypothesis-driven research that employs measurements in whole patients or normal human subjects, in conjunction with laboratory measurements as appropriate, on the subjects of clinical biology, natural history, prevention, screening, diagnosis, therapy, or epidemiology of neoplastic disease" (*Journal of Clinical Oncology*, Vol. 14, No. 2, 1996 pp. 666-670). In YIA proposals, preclinical *in vitro* and/or animal studies are acceptable if the outcome of these studies would ultimately lead to patient-entented clinical research. Project proposals should have measurable outcomes during the one year grant period.

**Applicants must meet the following criteria:**

The Young Investigator Award (YIA) is a one-year research grant totaling \$50,000, paid in two equal installments to the awardee's institution. Applicants must have attained a doctoral degree (MD, DO, or equivalent) and currently be within the last two years of his/her final subspecialty training at a *U.S. academic medical institution* at the time of grant submission.

Applicants should be planning an investigative career in kidney cancer. Examples of subspecialty training include, but are not limited to, a hematology-oncology fellowship, a surgical oncology fellowship, or a radiation oncology residency. If there are questions regarding whether the potential applicant is at the correct career stage, send an email to [office@kidneycancer.org](mailto:office@kidneycancer.org) for clarification and eligibility verification.

An institutional commitment for a faculty appointment at the time of grant submission is not required, but the applicant should be working in an oncology laboratory or clinical research setting.

Have a mentor in the proposed research field from the sponsoring institution who must provide a letter of support. The mentor must assume responsibility and provide guidance for the research. If the mentor is not a KCA member, a supporting letter from a KCA member from the sponsoring institution must be included.

Be planning an investigative career in clinical oncology/urology.

Be a KCA member or have completed a membership application by clicking "Join" on at [www.KidneyCancer.org](http://www.KidneyCancer.org) prior to the grant application.

Can commit at least 60% of full- time effort in research (applies to total research, not just the proposed project) during the award period.

A United States-trained MD, PhD is eligible if both degrees are completed prior to the start of the grant period. For foreign-trained physicians, eligibility for those currently enrolled in PhD programs will be determined on a case-by-case basis, please contact [office@kidneycancer.org](mailto:office@kidneycancer.org) for eligibility verification.

Eligible physicians can hold only one grant from the Kidney Cancer Association at a time.

If at any time during the application or review process you have a career plan change or leave your current position, please notify KCA staff at [office@kidneycancer.org](mailto:office@kidneycancer.org).

The Kidney Cancer Association Grants Selection Committee reserves the right to evaluate and determine applicants' eligibility based on the information and justifications included in the application materials.

**Application Process**

All applications must be submitted in accordance to the requirements and instructions of this Request for Proposals (RFP). All application materials must be in English and must be submitted in electronic PDF format by email only. Paper applications or applications sent by fax will not be accepted.

An abstract must be received not later than November 30, and the full application must be submitted not later than January 30. Applicants are encouraged to submit early.

**A brief abstract (<350 words) of the research proposal must be submitted by email, prior to completion of the following steps. Eligible applicants will be advised by the Committee, following evaluation of the Abstract.**

Applications must include the following mandatory components:

Contact Information

Project Information (includes Abstract, IRB and Animal Use Assurances)

Specific Aims

Personal Statement  
Applicant's Biosketch  
Research Strategy  
Cited References  
Project Timeline  
Budget and Justification  
Mentor's Biosketch  
Mentor's Letter of Support  
Institutional Letter of Support from Department Chair or Dean Institutional Approval Face Sheet Signed by the Institutional Approver  
The following are optional components:

Clinical Protocol (strongly encouraged to attach this document)  
Prior Publications (maximum of two publications)  
Supporting Documentation (such as letters documenting the feasibility of the project)  
Sponsor's Biosketch (**required** if mentor is not a KCA member)  
Sponsor's Letter of Support (**required** if mentor is not a KCA member)

**Include:**

Contact Information

Name

Institution

Department

Degree(s)

Final Subspecialty Training Completion Date Faculty Appointment Start Date

KCA Member ID (available when you login to your account at [www.KidneyCancer.org](http://www.KidneyCancer.org))

Address (at least one primary)

Phone (at least one primary)

Email (at least one primary)

Project Information

Project title

Subject area

Research focus area(s)

Assurances for use of human and/or animal subjects in the research proposal

Abstract - a brief abstract of the research proposal must be entered (<350 words, the same as previously submitted)

**Specific Aims** List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology. The specific aims should state concisely and realistically what the research intends to accomplish and/or what hypothesis is to be tested, and should list measurable objectives for the proposed project.

**Personal Statement Questions** Please answer the following as briefly as possible. Each question has a maximum limit of 350 words.

What is the applicant's career plan?

How would receiving this award affect the applicant's career?

What is the percentage of time the applicant spends on research activities?

What is the applicant's role versus the mentor's role in the proposed research study?

What are the sources of salary support?

Who will collect and analyze the data?

What is the clinical potential of this research project?

Was this research proposal submitted and/or will be submitted to other funding agencies/organizations?

**Applicant Biosketch** Applicants may use their current NIH biosketch if they have one available. The biosketch must have no more than four (4) pages.

**Research Strategy** The research strategy should be limited to four (4) typewritten, single-spaced pages, with one-inch margins and using an 11 point Arial font type. ALL pertinent tables, pictures, and graphs MUST be included within the 4-page limit.

The Research Strategy must contain the following information:

Significance and Background:

Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or critical practice in one or more broad fields.

Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will change if the proposed aims are achieved.

Innovation:

Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.

Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

Approach:

Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.

Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.

If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work. Please include appropriate detail and/or documentation in the Supporting Documentation section to assure a reviewer that your project is feasible in the timeframe of the grant. Examples include: a letter confirming you will have access to an experimental therapy or an approval letter from CTEP or a cooperative group.

**NOTE:**

Applicants may send supporting letters regarding feasibility (e.g., proof of receipt of drug from a company, IRB approval, etc.) to [office@kidneycancer.org](mailto:office@kidneycancer.org).

Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised.

Clearly state the applicant's role in the project (i.e. writing of protocol, performing the assays, etc.). When human subjects are involved, the precautions to ensure patient safety and confidentiality and the relevance or implications for patient care should be explained.

List and describe the facilities and resources available to conduct the study, including a description of industry support for any clinical trials.

#### Statistical Analysis.

A statistical consideration section is required for **all** applications. For clinical and *in-vivo* studies this section should include the primary objective/hypothesis and primary endpoint of the study, justification of the proposed study sample size, procedures for data analysis, and appropriate statistical considerations.

Laboratory-based *in vitro* research proposals should also include the primary objective/hypothesis and primary endpoint of the study, procedures for data analysis, and appropriate statistical details that describe the summary measures that will be used to meet the objectives of the study. Applications will be reviewed by a biostatistician and it is highly recommended that you consult with a biostatistician before you submit your application.

#### Cited References

A list of cited references in the Research Strategy should be included as a separate document. Institutional Letter of Support

A letter from the Department Chair or Dean at the sponsoring institution where the applicant's research project will be conducted must be provided. This letter must include a statement of institutional support that will enable the applicant to perform the proposed research. If the mentor is the Department Chair, the Institutional Letter of Support must come from the Dean.

#### Clinical Protocol (optional)

If your project involves a clinical protocol, you are highly encouraged to include a copy of the protocol in the Includes section.

#### Prior Publications (optional)

Up to two prior publications may be included. The applicant must be a co-author on these publications. Please include a copy of each publication.

#### Supporting Documentation (optional)

This section may be used to include any necessary additional information required to properly review the application (i.e. a letter from a drug company that they will provide the investigational drug, a letter of collaboration from another laboratory providing expertise for this project, etc.). Applicants are encouraged to provide a letter of support for any investigational agents. Due to the limited time given to the reviewers, include of any documents that are not critical to the review of the proposal or any additional publications is not allowable.

#### Project Timeline

Enter major milestones for your project, the expected completion date, and if there is an associated deliverable. A deliverable is something that can be included in a progress report, such as a publication or an approval letter. You are not required to have deliverables. However, the timeline should make it clear what outcomes will be achieved during the grant award period.

#### Budget and Justification

The award funds will be directed to the sponsoring institution and should be used towards salary support, supplies, equipment, travel, etc. necessary for the pursuit of the recipient's research project. Award funds may not be applied to patient care costs that are reimbursable by a third-party payor, to the applicant's KCA membership dues,

or to tuition or fees for academic courses. The budget must be directly entered into the budget section of the application. Budget justification must be entered for each line item requested.

The budget guidelines are as follows:

#### Total Award

The total award amount is \$50,000 for one year, payable on June 1 and January 1 in two equal installments. The proposed budget must not exceed the total award amount.

#### Research support

At least \$46,000 should support costs directly related to the research project such as personnel salary, supplies, equipment, and other expenses. Budgeted items must be consistent with available institutional facilities and resources. Patient care costs that are reimbursable by a third-party payor, and tuition and fees for academic courses are unallowable costs.

#### Travel

Up to \$1,500 should be allotted specifically for the applicant's travel to the US Kidney Cancer Association International Kidney Cancer Symposium and for any other travel essential to conducting the study. Attendance is mandatory at the Kidney Cancer Association US International Kidney Cancer Symposium which will typically take place during the fall of the year.

#### Indirect costs

Up to \$2,500 (or 5% of the total award amount) may be applied to overhead or facilities and administrative costs of the recipient's institution in administering the recipient's research project.

#### Publications (optional)

Up to two prior publications may be included. The applicant must be a coauthor on these publications. Please enter the publication information in this section including the title, the year published, and the type of publication. You should have also included a copy of the publications on the Includes section.

#### Mentor's Biosketch and Letter of Support

Please identify a mentor from your sponsoring institution. The mentor's contact information including name, phone number, email address, and KCA ID (or N/A) must be entered in the application. Please have all of this information available before entering your mentor. When the "Notify" button is clicked, an email will be sent to the mentor containing login information and a message indicating that the following supporting documents must be included for the application:

#### Mentor's Biosketch

Mentors may use their current NIH biosketch if they have one available or they may use the biosketch template provided in the application. The biosketch must have no more than four pages.

#### Letter of Support

This should include the following information:

Training plan for the applicant, including intended structure of the mentor/investigator interaction during the proposed investigation

Confirmation that the applicant is currently in the last two years of his/her final subspecialty training at an academic medical institution at the time of grant submission

A critical review of both the applicant and the research proposal

The role(s) or anticipated role(s) the applicant holds (will hold) at the institution

The level of institutional commitment to the applicant's career development as an independent clinical investigator

Assurance that the applicant's sponsoring institution will provide adequate facilities and support for performance of the proposed work

*A mentor is strongly encouraged to have no more than two mentees applying for the Young Investigator Award and/or Career Development Award for this funding cycle. No more than two mentees from a single mentor will be funded in a given year.*

When the mentor has included the required supporting documents, an email will be sent to the applicant confirming that this task has been completed. The applicant will not be able to view these documents. All supporting documents must be received before the applicant will be able to submit the application.

If the mentor is a KCA Member, the applicant is not required to select a sponsor from the sponsoring institution.

#### Sponsor's Biosketch and Letter of Support

If the mentor is NOT a KCA Member, a sponsor who is a KCA Member must be selected. The sponsor contact information including name, phone number, email address, and KCA ID must be listed in the application. Please have all of this information available before entering your sponsor. There is no cost to join KCA, but the sponsor must be registered at [KidneyCancer.org](http://KidneyCancer.org) (click "Login" to create an account or to retrieve the KCA ID). The following supporting documents must be contained in the application:

Sponsor's Biosketch. Sponsors may use their current NIH biosketch if they have one available or they may use the biosketch template provided in the application. The biosketch must have no more than four pages.

#### Letter of Support.

This should include the following information:

Confirmation that the applicant is currently in the last two years of his/her final subspecialty training at an academic medical institution at the time of grant submission

A critical review of both the applicant and the research proposal

The role(s) or anticipated role(s) the applicant holds (will hold) at the institution

The level of institutional commitment to the applicant's career development as an independent investigator

Assurance that the applicant's sponsoring institution will provide adequate facilities and support for performance of the proposed work

**Institutional Approval.** The Authorized Official representing the institution of the applicant must approve the completed application (both the project proposal and the budget) before submission. This official is normally from the institution's Office of Sponsored Research.

The completed and approved application must be received on or before the deadline of January 30.

## **Selection Process**

The Kidney Cancer Association Grants Selection Committee will select the recipient based on the following criteria:

Significance and originality of the proposed study and hypothesis

Appropriateness, feasibility, and adequacy of the proposed experiment and methodology

Quality of the mentor and the plan for mentoring interactions with the applicant

The qualifications and experiences of the applicant. Factors considered include the quality and extent of past education, scientific training, research experience, research originality, productivity, potential for independent investigation, and commitment to a career in clinical oncology research.

A focus on patient-oriented or translational and, ultimately, clinical research

Availability of institutional resources to support the proposed project

Potential favorable impact on career development of the applicant

## **Award Notification**

All communication will be sent to the primary email address for the applicant. Please make sure that this email address is correct. Please add the domain kidneycancer.org to your safe senders list and/or check your spam folder if you are not receiving communications such as document submission notifications, application submission confirmation, etc. Applicants can expect to be notified in February, by email to their primary address.

For questions, please email [office@kidneycancer.org](mailto:office@kidneycancer.org)

## **Checklist: Young Investigator Award**

### Mandatory Components

Contact Information - including KCA Member ID number (found in your account at KidneyCancer.org)

Project Information - including Abstract (< 350 words), IRB, and Animal Use Assurances Specific Aims Personal Statement

Applicant's Biosketch (4 pages maximum)

Research Strategy (4 pages maximum including tables, pictures, graphs, single spaced, 1 inch

margins, Arial, font size 11) Cited References

Project Timeline

Budget and Justification

Mentor's Biosketch (4 pages maximum)

Mentor's Letter of Support

Institutional Letter of Support (from Department Chair or Dean)

Institutional Approval Sheet Signed by the Institutional Approver

Optional Components Clinical Protocol (It is strongly encouraged to attach this document)

Prior Publications (maximum of 2; applicant must be one of the authors)

Supporting Documentation (for example, letter from a company that will provide an experimental agent)

Supporting Documents from the Sponsor (**required** if Mentor is not a KCA member)

Biosketch (4 pages maximum)

Letter of Support