The Geographical Management of Cancer Health Disparities (GMaP) Program in Region 1-South (North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee) is focused on advancing cancer health disparities research and training in our region by supporting the development of cancer researchers. The administrative home for GMaP Region 1-South is the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center with co-leadership by the Hollings Cancer Center at the Medical University of South Carolina and the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Region 1-South Stimulus Awards is to support a range of cancer research development activities, from the purchase of research-related resources and conduct of pilot research studies to attending virtual trainings and workshops. Applications are strongly encouraged from cancer investigators at all stages in development who are underrepresented in the biomedical sciences according to NIH guidelines for underrepresented populations or researchers who conduct cancer disparities research. We welcome applications from any discipline and institution across the Region 1-South region (NC, SC, and TN). The goal of the Stimulus Awards is to stimulate new research, all funds must be spent by November 30, 2020. Available funding per project will range from $1,000 to $10,000, depending on project need and budget justification.

Examples of research activities that will be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Research that generates new information relevant to cancer regardless of whether the context of the discovery is the laboratory or the field and has the potential to inform a larger grant application as preliminary findings.
- Costs associated with the processing/assaying of biospecimens
- Purchase of secondary data or assembly of data/analytic datasets
- Publication costs
- Literature reviews and summary
- Support to supplement an existing research study by adding a research aim
- Research support personnel (biostatisticians, biomedical informaticians, qualitative analysts, other experts)
- Travel necessary to perform the research (not attend conferences)
- Professional development workshop/training
- Incentives for research participants
- Transcription costs
- Non-computer equipment such as research supplies, software and core lab costs
- Trainee stipend and research expenses for mentored-trainee project

Stimulus Award funding may not be budgeted for (1) salary support for the awarded investigator, (2) office supplies or computers, and (3) meals or conferences.
This article is a useful reference for thinking about pilot research titled “Recommendations for Planning Pilot Studies in Clinical and Translational Research.”

II. Eligible Investigators

This award mechanism is open to all developing cancer researchers who are members of Region 1-South (i.e., students, pre-docs, post-docs, early-stage faculty) who are underrepresented in the biomedical sciences or studying cancer health disparities. All non-faculty applicants must include a faculty research mentor. The faculty research mentor does not have to be a member of GMaP Region 1-South. If you are not a member of Region 1-South, join here.

III. Award Information

Stimulus Awards will be awarded as a service agreement to your institution. All funds must be expended by November 30, 2020. GMaP Region 1-South staff will work with funded projects throughout the funding period to monitor progress and provide assistance where necessary. A final report of outcomes will be required. Additionally, GMaP Region 1-South expects the applicant to acknowledge this funding opportunity in all outcomes achieved due in part or in full from the GMaP Region 1-South Stimulus Award.

IV. Review Criteria

Applications should be presented in a clear and logical fashion, make a convincing case for the significance of the work or clear justification for how the funding will stimulate your research or development as a researcher, and describe the proposed methods in sufficient detail so that an adequate evaluation of the application can be made.

The following review criteria will be considered (not exhaustive given the variety of projects to be considered):
1) Significance of the work or justification for the funding request.
2) How will the requested stimulus research funding advance the candidate’s research development?
3) Novelty/innovation of the research
4) Potential for the project to lead to future external funding or a publication
5) Soundness of the proposed methods (if relevant)
***Caution: Projects that will require a new, full human subjects application for review will not be considered due to the funding time window. However, projects that will require IRB modification or are expected to be exempted (e.g. for a secondary data analysis) will be considered. Include where applicable clear evidence of how the application meets the review criteria.
6) Feasibility of accomplishing the stated project goals by November 30, 2020

V. Application Procedure

Applications must be submitted using the Qualtrics based application. The application sections are:

1) **Abstract:** A summary of the application (250 word maximum).
2) **Career Impact:** Briefly describe the likelihood for your project/funding request to influence your development as a researcher (50 word maximum).
3) **Research Impact** (if applicable): How will the funding advance the science?
4) **Research Plan (if appropriate):** The Research Plan should include Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation, Approach, and Project Timeline. Projects that will require a new full human subjects application for review will not be considered due to the funding time window. However, projects that will require IRB modification or are expected to be exempted (e.g. for a secondary data analysis) will be considered. Include where applicable clear evidence of how the application meets the review criteria. 1.5 line spacing, font Arial 11 pt., and 1-inch margins all around. (5 page limit, including tables and figures. References do not count towards the page limit.)
5) **Cited References** (No page limit)
6) **Budget:** The total budget may range from $1000 to $10,000.
7) **Budget Justification:** Include sufficient detail for reviewers to assess the appropriateness for the funding
relevant to your development or your research.

8) **Human and/or Animal Subjects:** Indicate whether or not your project will require or already has human subjects research. If project is funded, then a copy of IRB approval or exemption will be required before the release of funds.

9) **NIH Biosketch (Faculty applicants) or Curriculum Vitae (All non-faculty applicants).**

10) **Letter from Research Mentor (optional)**

To apply, click here.