SPORE IN BRAIN CANCER

Application for Brain Tumor Career Enhancement, Developmental Research, and Neuro-Oncology T32 Program Grants

Due Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Principal Investigator/Applicant Eligibility

Career Enhancement Program (CEP):
Eligible candidates include junior faculty or established investigators who wish to enhance or refocus their careers on translational research in brain tumors. This program is not a training program and does not support pre- or post-doctoral fellows, either pre- clinical or clinical. However, advanced post-doctoral or clinical fellows who provide a letter from an institution stating that the candidate will be joining its faculty within the year are eligible for this program. Investigators supported by NCI career development awards (K series) may also be eligible for support through this program.

Developmental Research Program (DRP):
Eligible candidates include faculty members. We particularly encourage multidisciplinary collaborations and successful researchers in other fields to focus their expertise toward innovative translational approaches to brain tumor treatment and related clinical problems. Sufficient expertise from parent departments or collaborations in or outside of the SPORE community must be demonstrated to show potential for a new major theme or research project related to brain tumors. Applicants must have demonstrated sufficient scientific maturity to serve as a potential leader or co-leader for a major SPORE project.

Neuro-Oncology Translational Research Training Program (NOTR-TP):
The UCLA NOTR-TP Training Program is an comprehensive, multidisciplinary translational T32 research program consisting of (1) a core curriculum of educational courses across a broad range of disciplines and scientific programs at UCLA; (2) research rotations and training in 2 or more neuro-oncology focused laboratories at UCLA; (3) participation in weekly brain tumor board meetings; (4) attendance and presentation at regular intramural (e.g. SPORE) and extramural scientific and educational meetings, and (5) immersive and concentrated research in a laboratory or laboratories focused on translational neuro-oncology research. Applicants must (1) be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, (2) be post-doctoral trainee with an MD, PhD, DDS, or equivalent doctoral degree, (3) be performing research broadly related to brain tumors (4) have protected time to dedicate 100% effort towards their research project, (5) have future plans to submit extramural grant applications, and (6) be sponsored by an approved UCLA faculty mentor. Selection is based on academic performance, research experience, research potential, and commitment to an independent academic career.

Full Name	
Academic Title	
Department	
Address	
City, State, ZIP Code	
Email	
Office phone	
Fax	
Mentor (only CEP/ NOTR-TP)	

Project Title

Abstract

Must include hypothesis, its importance to brain cancer, the specific aims of the project, and the proposed experimental approach; Maximum 250 words.

Special Reporting Requirements

Human Subjects

- ☐ No human subjects or human materials are involved in this study.
- ☐ Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval received
- ☐ IRB approval pending
- ☐ Other

Vertebrate Animals

- ☐ No vertebrate animals are involved in this study.
- ☐ Animal Research Committee (ARC) approval received
- ☐ ARC approval pending
- ☐ Other

Biohazards

- ☐ No biohazards are involved in this study.
- ☐ Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) approval received
- ☐ IBC approval pending
- ☐ Other

Select Agents

- ☐ No select agents are involved in this study.
- ☐ Approval received.
- ☐ Approval pending.
- ☐ Other

Applications will not be funded until approval is obtained from the appropriate committees overseeing animals, radiation, human subjects, and hazardous materials.

Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)

Does this project involve human embryonic stem cells?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, identify the hESC Registration number(s) from the NIH Registry:

☐ As the Principal Investigator, I certify that I will be responsible for performing the research described in this proposal.

Please attach the following application components to this PDF file. All components must be attached to the completed PDF application template and submitted as **one single PDF**.

Application Components

1) A Project Outline (may not exceed 4 pages (Arial font, 11 pt; 0.5" margins))

- Specific aims (1/2 page)
- Significance(1/2 page)
- Background/preliminary data (2 pages)
- Methods (1 page)
- References (not included in page limit)

2) Budget (NIH PHS 398 Form Pg. 4 "Detailed Budget for Initial Period" with budget justification)

Career Development Program: One-year awards of $50,000 (direct costs) will be granted beginning 8/1/2026.

- Awards to investigators affiliated with UCLA will provide direct cost plus institutional F&A costs.
- Funds can be used to support research activities including partial salary support for the candidate, research personnel, supplies, travel, and other expenses.

Developmental Research Program: One-year awards of $50,000 (direct costs) will be granted beginning 8/1/2026.

- Awards to investigators affiliated with UCLA will provide direct cost plus institutional F&A costs.
- Funds can be used for technical support or supplies. Principal investigator salaries or purchase of equipment are not allowed.

NOTR-TP: Budget not required

3) Vertebrate Animals
An additional Vertebrate Animals page should be included to address plans for vertebrate animals. No specific form is required. Consult the NIH PHS SF424 (R&R) - Version I application guide for additional details. *(Not required for NOTR-TP)

4) Human Subjects
Additional pages (Protection of Human Subjects; Inclusion of Women and Minorities, Inclusion of Individuals Across the Lifespan) should be included to address plans for human subjects. No specific form is required. Consult the NIH PHS SF424 (R&R) - Version I application guide for additional details. *(Not required for NOTR-TP)

5) Biographical sketches for PI/Applicant and Key Personnel/Mentor (NIH Biographical Sketch Common Form and NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement)

6) NIH Current and Pending (Other Support) Common Form *(Not applicable for NOTR-TP)

7) Further required documentation (only for CEP/NOTR-TP applications)

7a) Junior faculty
Candidates should include the name of their mentor, three letters of recommendation, including one from the chairman outlining commitment of the department to the candidate's development as well as commitment of resources

7b) Senior faculty
Applicants are not required to submit letters of recommendation. Instead, they should detail plans for their change in direction for research to brain cancer.

7c) Exceptional postdoctoral fellows with plans to transition to a faculty position within a year may also apply, but must submit documentation outlined in 7a) and a letter from their institution supporting their transition to faculty.

7d) NOTR-TP: 2 letters of recommendation (one letter must be from the preceptor/research mentor).

Award Requirements/JIT information

- Applicable approval notice (IRB, IACUC, IBC, radiation certificate). The approval must list (or be amended to list) the UCLA SPORE in Brain Cancer award P50 CA211015.
- Targeted/Planned Enrollment Table.
- Human Research - Biomedical Researchers & Staff training certification for all Key Personnel listed in proposals that include human subjects research.
- Animal Care Training Certification for all Key Personnel listed in proposals that include vertebrate animals.