The Wisconsin Head & Neck Cancer SPORE Grant is soliciting applications:

Career Enhancement Program (CEP)

The ultimate objective of the Wisconsin Head and Neck SPORE Grant (PI: Paul Harari, MD) is to advance translational research to improve the outcome for Head and Neck Cancer (HNC) patients. The University of Wisconsin holds one of three funded H&N SPORE Grants in the United States. The **UW SPORE Career Enhancement Program** seeks to support junior investigators, including physician scientists, to meet the challenge for innovation in methods to prevent, diagnose and advance treatment options for patients with Head and Neck Cancer (HNC).

The CEP represents an essential component of the Wisconsin Head & Neck SPORE's overarching goal to advance translational research in head and neck oncology. Intensifying translational research requires expansion of the pool of independent investigators who possess the knowledge and training to promote research from bench to bedside. The University of Wisconsin offers an environment that is rich with expertise and resources to train the next generation of HNC translational scientists. This program will foster the development of knowledge, skills, professional attitudes, and experience required for successful academic careers in HNC translational research. For more information regarding the goals of the Wisconsin H&N SPORE grant projects, programs and cores, as well as HNC resources available to investigators, please see https://hn-spore.wisc.edu.

PROJECT PERIOD: Aug. 1, 2018 – Jul. 31, 2019

LOI: **March 9, 2018**
Application: **April 6, 2018**
Please submit a PDF of your application through your department's grants management office to smpiasko@wisc.edu. Please include subject line "CEP_2018_Application" for consideration.

FUNDING LEVELS (1-2 Years): Applicants may apply for $10K, $25K or $50K awards. The CEP Review Committee will carefully consider the scope and potential of each application to recommend funding support levels. Highly successful progress from awardees during Year 1 may be resubmitted for consideration of competitive renewal for a 2nd year of funding.

ELIGIBILITY: Funds from this program will support independent junior investigators at the University of Wisconsin who wish to develop their careers in translational research in Head and Neck Cancer.

The University of Wisconsin is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. The SPORE program places special emphasis on recruiting qualified women and minorities. Final recommendations for funding will be made by the HN SPORE CEP Review Committee.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Assistant Professor
- Have minimum of 1 day/week protected time dedicated to translational HNC research
- Have no current or previous NIH R01 or equivalent funding in HNC research
- Have UW mentor(s)[1] with a research focus in HNC

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[1] *To emphasize translational research career development,* ***dual mentorship is welcome,*** *for example one mentor a basic scientist and another mentor a HNC clinician.*

LETTER OF INTENT (due to Shari Piaskowski (smpiasko@wisc.edu) by March 9, 2018):

- Please include 1-2 sentence description of proposal to assist in reviewer selection.

APPLICATION FORMAT (11pt Arial Normal, ½ inch margins):

- **Cover Page** (see template at https://hn-spore.wisc.edu/cep/)
- **Scientific Abstract** (350 word maximum)
- **NIH format Biosketch** for applicant, mentor(s), co-investigators
- **Research proposal** (limit 4 pages)
  - Specific aims
  - Background and significance
  - Innovation and approach
  - Anticipated results and implications
- **Literature Cited**
- **Applicant Career Goals & Interests** in HNC Translational Research (500 word maximum)
- **Budget** (see template at https://hn-spore.wisc.edu/cep/ for restrictions)
- **Budget Justification**
  - Specific description of how the $10K, $25K or $50K award will be used.
  - If full project costs exceed $50,000, please indicate how remaining costs will be covered (matching funds or otherwise).
- **Resources and Environment** (1 page)
- **Letters of Support** (Minimum of two, with at least one Mentor letter required)
  - Mentor(s): must include a statement from the mentor providing:
    1) information on his/her research qualifications and previous experience as a research supervisor;
    2) a plan that describes the nature of the supervision and mentoring that will occur during the proposed award period;
    3) a plan for career progression for the candidate to move from the mentored stage of his/her career to independent research investigator status during the project period of the award; and
    4) a plan for monitoring the candidate's research, publications, and progression towards independence.
  - Department Chair or Department Research Director
    - Detail the support, resources, protected time and uniqueness of the candidate for this program
- **Protocol Assurances:** Relevant IRB and Animal care protocol documentation (required)
  - Please refer to the cover page to indicate the status of protocols for vertebrate animals, human subjects and research involving recombinant DNA technologies.
  - Protocol does not need to be approved at time of submission, but must be approved before funds can be released.
  - If you are proposing research using vertebrate animals or human subjects, please contact Shari Piaskowski during application process to discuss protocol timelines.

Thank you for your interest and involvement with the Wisconsin H&N SPORE Grant. Please visit our new website to find more information regarding HNC research projects, previously awarded HN SPORE pilots, and resources available from the HN SPORE Biostats and Pathology/Biospecimen Cores at https://hn-spore.wisc.edu.

Please direct inquiries to Shari Piaskowski, the HN SPORE Administrator:
smpiasko@wisc.edu, (608) 263-6686

SCORING CRITERIA: Proposals must be focused on H&N Cancer to be eligible for funding support. Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

1) Overall Impact
2) Significance
3) Innovation
4) Approach
5) Environment
6) Investigator and Mentor
7) Potential for Translation

AWARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Upon receipt of an award, awardees will receive an overview of all program obligations and agree to satisfy the requirements of the program prior to release of the award. Specifically, applicants will be required to:

- Develop a curriculum plan with advice from their mentor(s) that describes their planned HNC research and education activities that may include educational courses, meetings, lectures, etc. to expand their knowledge and ability to perform translational HNC cancer research.
- Present a research summary once per year at a meeting with their mentor(s) and the SPORE CEP Executive Committee to evaluate progress.
- Submit an annual progress report.
- Present a research update at the Wisconsin H&N SPORE annual retreat.

Program-Relevant Seminars and Meetings:

Awardees are encouraged to attend H&N SPORE and other HNC-related forums to gain knowledge and build collaborations. Contact Shari Piaskowski for meeting times and locations.

- ***HNC SPORE meetings*** **- monthly SPORE translational research meeting (2nd Thursday of each month from 4:30pm-5:30pm), annual HNC SPORE retreat (June 7-8, 2018).**
- *UW Head & Neck Oncology Tumor Board* – This weekly multidisciplinary meeting includes prospective case discussions as well as educational presentations.
- *UW Head & Neck Disease Oriented Team (DOT*) – reviews HNC clinical trial activity, provides ongoing planning for new investigator-initiated trials and determines trial priorities.
- *Grand Rounds* – UWCCC and the Department of Surgery each sponsor a weekly grand rounds lecture series. Sessions focused on HNC should be attended.
- *Journal Clubs and Other Seminar Series* – (ICTR Lunch and Learn, Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar, McArdle Cancer Biology Series, Immunology Seminar Series) as relevant to their research and the broader field of HNC or translational research topics.