The goal of the Career Enhancement Program (CEP) of the Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer (YSILC) is to educate the next generation of investigators committed to translational research in lung cancer. The CEP will provide support of up to $50,000 to promising junior investigators and/or established investigators who have not previously conducted lung cancer focused research. Proposed pilot projects should be innovative and be focused on a broad spectrum of research, and/or technology development applicable to human lung cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment.

**Award Amounts:** Up to $50,000 for one year commencing August 1, 2024.

**Purpose:** To provide support to foster the CEP of the next generation of lung cancer translational researchers. The aims of the CEP are to support promising early career stage lung cancer investigators and to enhance the careers of established investigators who have newly defined interests in pursing translational research in lung cancer. The purpose is also to generate preliminary data or evidence of collaboration for new NCI grant applications.

**Eligibility:** Open to investigators at an academic institution who can be described by one of the following categories:

1. Junior faculty holding appointments
2. Candidates for junior faculty appointments, (e.g., advanced postdoctoral fellows)
3. Established investigators, who are committed to re-focusing a substantial component of her/his research on thoracic oncology and the study of risk prevention, diagnosis, prognosis or treatment of human thoracic malignancies

**Women and minority investigators are strongly encouraged to apply.**

**Requirements:** If a grant is awarded, the P.I. and mentors must agree to abide by the attached Grant Guidelines (page 5) and to participate in the DRP/CEP Symposium to be held at Yale in May 2025 (tentative date).

**Application Timeline:**

Letters of intent (LOI) are due

no later than **11:59 PM April 19, 2024**

Applicants who are invited to submit a full application will be notified by **May 1, 2024**

Full applications are due no later than **11:59 PM on June 21, 2024**

LOIs and full applications should be submitted at online at:

<https://yale.infoready4.com>

Incomplete applications or those received after the deadline will not be considered.

**Review Criteria and Process**

These awards are intended to support to help generate more lung cancer translational researchers. Projects should be innovative with a significant translational research component focused on a broad spectrum of areas applicable to human lung cancer. Data or evidence of collaboration generated from these pilot projects should be used for new, peer-reviewed grant applications. The major review criteria will be the research potential of the candidate for a future career in lung cancer translational research and the translational potential, scientific excellence, and the likelihood that the proposed project will result in submission of a larger grant application, such as a K-award or R21, R01at the conclusion of the CEP award funding period. Proposed projects should meet the NCI’s definition of translational research as follows: **translational research** **uses knowledge of human biology to develop and test the feasibility of cancer-relevant interventions in humans and/or determines the biological basis for observations made in individuals with cancer or in populations at risk for cancer**. Applications will be subjected to a study section-style review by the executive committee of the YSILC and the YSILC advisory boards.

**Types of Expenditure Allowed**

* Salary support for investigators, lab personnel (no more than 25% effort (salary and fringe) for any personnel working on this research project)
* Contracted services
* Laboratory supplies and expenses, including animal costs and patient-related lab-tests
* Costs associated with use of YSILC Biospecimen Core and/or Biostatistics/Bioinformatics Core
* Publication costs

**Types of Expenditures NOT Allowed**

* Secretarial/administrative personnel
* Office equipment and supplies; Office and laboratory furniture
* Tuition
* Registration fees for scientific meetings
* Purchasing or binding of periodicals and books
* Dues and membership fees in scientific societies
* Purchasing equipment
* Travel expenses

**applications for this grant do not need to be sent to**

**the office of sponsored projects**

**LOI are to include:**

1. A one-page letter of intent: listing mentors (at least one mentor required, however, two mentors are preferred), a brief outline of the mentorship plan and a concise description of the rationale, specific aims, research strategy, and impact of the proposed study.

**Full Applications are to include:**

1. A face page including the name and title of the P.I., institution, department, contact information, and title of the application. In addition, list mentors and their titles and contact information.
2. A one-half page technical abstract of the proposed research (500 words maximum).
3. A one-half page lay language summary of the proposed research that will be reviewed by YCC Community Advisory Board
4. An NIH-style narrative description of the project (6-page limit for Specific Aims, Rationale, Preliminary Results, and Research Strategy).
5. A detailed budget, appropriately justified for proposed work (attached, page 5). This page must be signed by the P.I.’s business office.
6. Letter of support from the candidate’s departmental/section chair
7. Letter of support, including a **detailed mentorship plan** from the 1-2 proposed mentors. The plan should cover the frequency and nature of mentor-mentee interactions and specific details on how the mentor will support the research and career development of the candidate.
8. Career development plan discussed with the mentor/s.
9. NIH-style biosketch from the P.I., mentor(s) and other co-investigators (if applicable).
10. Other Support page for the P.I., including all active and pending support, and calendar months.
11. The status of Human Subject protocols.  Protocols need not be approved prior to submission, but funding may not be made available until they are. Provide protocol number, approval date, approval period, and title.
12. The status of Vertebrate Animal protocols.  Protocols need not be approved prior to submission, but funding may not be made available until they are. Provide protocol number, approval date, approval period, and title.
13. Identification of any proposed or potential collaborative associations with YSILC investigators, including anticipated utilization of YSILC Core Resources.
14. Identification of any links of participating investigators to commercial entities; if such associations exist, the individuals involved must provide written assurance that these interactions will uphold the principles of academic freedom, including their ability (and the ability of those associated with this work) to freely collaborate, including unrestricted exchange of research materials, and also that they will adhere to the intellectual property rights of the YSILC under NIH funding agreements and Bayh-Dole Act requirements.

NIH format restrictions apply (Arial 11 font; margins one-half inch all around). References are not included in the page limit. Supplementary appendix material will not be accepted.

**Grant guidelines**

In order to responsibly manage funds, we have instituted the following guidelines regarding our grant programs. **Acceptance of an award indicates agreement to abide by these guidelines.** Failure to abide by these guidelines will jeopardize eligibility for future grants.

**1. All publications resulting from research supported by this grant should contain an acknowledgement such as, “This research was supported in part by a Career Enhancement Program Grant from the Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer (P50CA196530).”**

2. Written progress reports are required and must be provided by the specified

deadline(s). Grantees will be notified at least two weeks prior to the deadline.

3. After the submission of progress reports, any additional publications or grants resulting from the grant must be promptly reported.

4. It is expected that the funds will be expended in full during the one-year duration of the grant. Spending will be monitored and unspent funds may be reclaimed if spending lags significantly.

5. Given that the intent of this funding mechanism is to result in an application for external funding, within one year, no cost extensions are not allowed.

6. All grant recipients must respond promptly to requests for information about their grant from the YSILC scientific leadership and administrative staff.

7. During the funding period, recipients may be asked to participate in a progress update meeting to describe their research, and are expected to accommodate these requests.

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| COMPOSITE BUDGET FOR INITIAL BUDGET PERIODDIRECT COSTS ONLY | FROM | THROUGH |
| 8/1/2024 | 7/31/2025 |

 List PERSONNEL *(Applicant organization only)*

Use Cal, Acad, or Summer to Enter Months Devoted to Project

 Enter Dollar Amounts Requested *(omit cents)* for Salary Requested and Fringe Benefits

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