BACKGROUND

Established in 2016, the Cancer Research Advocacy Group (CRAG) is a group of cancer advocates supporting the fundamental, translational, and clinical science at the Cancer Center at Illinois. Its main purpose is to promote interactions between cancer patients, survivors, researchers, and clinicians. To ensure proper representation of different cancer types, ethnicities, and genders, inclusion and diversity are important aspects of CRAG. Cancer patients and survivors, immediate family members, friends of cancer victims, community representatives, research scientists, and clinicians are all encouraged to participate in CRAG. In its role, CRAG aims to influence fundamental scientific research, clinical trials, outreach, and education of researchers and patients within the Cancer Center. CRAG welcomes collaborative travel grants from an array of disciplines and areas. The aim is to increase involvement of patient in cancer-related research across the university.

FUNDS USAGE

Funds from this award will be used to send an Illinois faculty investigator and a cancer research advocate to a scientific conference or an advocate-training workshop. This will establish a record of collaboration that will be helpful for future proposal submissions requiring advocacy involvement (i.e., DOD, Susan G. Komen, American Cancer Society). Funds for this award are from a Patient-Centered Outcome Research Institute (PCORI) award to CRAG. Travel grants may be used to cover registration fees, lodging, and transportation costs associated with attending the meeting or workshop.

FUNDING LEVEL

Teams comprising of an Illinois faculty researcher and a cancer research advocate may apply for up to $5,000 in travel to a scientific conference or advocate training workshop. The PI and/or advocate must be present at the conference. This is not a requirement if the PI and advocate are proposing to attend a training workshop. Awards will be useable/valid until May 2019.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

NOTE: Investigators not already working with an advocate should send an email to cancer-crag@illinois.edu to be paired with an advocate.

1. Lead investigators must be a faculty researcher, postdoctoral associate, or graduate student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
2. The advocate must be a member of CRAG. The advocate should be either a cancer survivor, or someone with a close connection to cancer. They should have knowledge of the patient or caregiver’s perspective from diagnosis through treatment.
3. Faculty may not submit more than one proposal.
APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- **Format:** Proposals should not exceed 2.5 pages (single-space, 0.5-inch margins, Arial, minimum 11-point font size).

- **Coversheet:** Project title, investigator name, affiliation, and contact information; the name of the advocate on the proposal; name of the conference or training workshop; dates; and the funding amount requested.

- **Scientific Project Abstract:** Please provide the scientific abstract you intend on using for the conference (1/2 page).

- **Lay Abstract:** This abstract should be understandable by the public and should be developed collaboratively with a cancer research advocate (1/2 page).

- **Advocate Involvement Plan:** Please provide a short (1/2 to 1 page) plan on how your research group will integrate a cancer research advocate in future research projects or dissemination of completed research.

- **Travel Budget:** Provide a budget estimate and narrative that includes the major expense categories: registration fees, lodging, and/or transportation (not more than 1/2 page).

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated by CRAG members for clarity, scientific merit, and how an advocate will be involved in present and future research projects.

DEADLINE

Proposals are due on **April 30, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. CST.**

AWARD NOTIFICATION

Investigators will be notified of their award status in May.

CONTACT US

Please send an email cancer-crag@illinois.edu.