Yosemite-American Cancer Society Award
2024 Request for Applications

Submission Timeline: March 1, 2024 (open) – May 10, 2024 (deadline)

TOPIC #1
AI has the potential to revolutionize biotechnology and healthcare delivery. Technologies are revolutionizing how we can predict protein folding, gene expression, how patients are diagnosed at the point of care, and more. Broadly accessible tools like these have the ability to transform drug discovery and development, diagnostics and prognostics, clinical care delivery, and healthcare administration. The Yosemite-American Cancer Society Award supports projects pioneering the application of transformative AI models to make novel discoveries with the potential to impact how we care for cancer patients. We believe AI will continue to accelerate the pace of innovation in healthcare and broaden the reach into communities to reduce health inequities. Many of these discoveries will come from top researchers thinking deeply about how new tools in the space may unlock insights in their own work.

Project proposals should fit into one of two broad categories:

- Advancing the AI technology stack for biotechnology and healthcare delivery
  - Research that supports model development, data storage and transmission, orchestration, observability, security, and validation
  - Health system, pharma, or payer administrative efficiency. Examples include:
    - Health system - Hospital operations, staffing and scheduling, billing and revenue cycle management, referral management and scheduling, and prior authorization
    - Payers - Payer operations efficiency research, including improvements to claims processing, payment integrity, fraud, waste and abuse, network contracting and management, and prior authorization
    - Pharma - Accelerating research, clinical trial optimization, supply chain optimization

- Applications of AI tools in ways that can impact cancer patients, including:
  - Novel pathways / target discovery
  - Drug design across any modality
  - Tumor microenvironment and immune cell phenotypes
  - Screening and early detection
  - Therapeutic decision support
  - Digital pathology
  - Symptom management

TOPIC #2
We have seen an incredible pace of innovation in immuno-oncology and various cell therapy approaches, all of which would benefit from innovation in tumor microenvironment modulation, including:

- Removing the immunosuppressive microenvironment
- Removing deleterious cell types in the TME
- Bolstering helpful cell phenotypes
- Novel TIL approaches
- Targeting angiogenesis
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ADDITIONAL DETAILS
The Yosemite-American Cancer Society Award supports innovative research to develop methodologies, establish feasibility, or pilot high risk/high reward projects to advance the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of cancer as outlined above in topic #1 or #2. Preliminary data are not required. Priority will be given to projects that are highly innovative, feasible within a two-year maximum timeframe, and are poised to make an impact on cancer prevention, treatment, and healthcare delivery.

ELIGIBILITY
Investigators at any career stage with a faculty appointment or full-time employment position at one of the Invited Institutions (see below) are eligible to apply.

TERM AND BUDGET
Yosemite-American Cancer Society Award grantees are funded at up to $300,000 direct costs for one or two year projects. Indirect cost of 10% are included with a maximum allowable budget of $330,000 total costs for a two-year project period. These grants are not renewable or transferable to a different institution.

Applications should not exceed six pages (one page for Specific Aims). Page limits do not apply to biosketch or references. Budgets submitted must be realistic estimates of the funds required for the proposed research.

APPLY NOW
Applications must be submitted via https://proposalcentral.com/. To request application link and instructions, please contact Yosemite@cancer.org

INVITED INSTITUTIONS

Cambridge University  The Rockefeller University
Columbia University  University of Oxford
Cornell University  University of California at San Francisco
Duke University  University of Pennsylvania
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  Stanford University
Harvard University  Technion-Israel Institute of Technology
Johns Hopkins University  Tel Aviv University
MD Anderson Cancer Center  Washington University, St. Louis
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  Weizmann Institute of Science
Mayo Clinic  Yale University
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center