PRE-R01

Siteman Investment Program
Research Development Awards

Program Overview
The Siteman Investment Program (SIP) provides funding to support innovative, high-impact cancer research across the continuum of discovery, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. This program is designed to advance promising ideas with strong potential for future external funding and meaningful clinical or community impact.

Purpose and Scope of SIP RDA
- Advance the most promising ideas that will allow physicians to predict, prevent, diagnose, treat, or cure all types of cancers more effectively and with fewer or no side effects, for example, by tailoring therapies to a patient's individual genetic makeup or the biology of their disease.
- Accelerate discoveries to test and verify pioneering options for fighting cancer and translate clinical findings into groundbreaking, practical applications
- SIP RDA has a strong interest in funding recently well scored, but unfunded, NIH applications.
    - SIP RDA is meant to fund projects that have excellent potential for NIH/NCI funding (e.g., R01, SPORE, PPG) but need additional data
- Projects directly responsive to addressing health disparities in SCC's catchment area are encouraged and will receive strong consideration

Available Funding Categories

Category	Primary Focus	Funding
Pre-R01 – General	Pilot, secondary analysis, technology development, and other hypothesis-driven research projects with prelim. data.	Up to $200,000 over 2 years
Pre-R01 – Prevention and Control	Research addressing cancer prevention, survivorship, implementation science, policy, genetics, and cancer control in the catchment area.	Up to $200,000 over 2 years
Pre-R01 – University of Missouri Collaboration	Collaborative Pre-R01 projects between WashU and University of Missouri faculty.	Up to $200,000 over 2 years
Pre-R01 – Head and Neck	Translational or clinical research focused on head and neck cancers.	Up to $200,000 over 2 years
See individual RFAs for other SIP RDA categories below on the SIP RDA website.		
Team Science	Multi-project collaborative programs preparing for NIH/NCI submissions within 12–24 months (P50, P01, U54).	Up to $800,000 over 2 years
Clinical Trial	New institutional investigator-initiated, interventional trials unable to secure external funding	Up to $300,000 over 3 years
Genome Integrity Development Award (GIDA)	Pilot projects in genome integrity conducted with Center for Genome Integrity (CGI) collaborators.	Up to $100,000 over 2 years
Partner Prevention & Control Interventional Clinical Trial	Prevention and control intervention trials conducted with at least one SCC catchment-area health system partner.	Up to $100,000 over 2 years
COE Supplement	Community-engaged research addressing cancer burden in the SCC catchment area.	Up to $50,000 over 1 year
Martin Glioblastoma Research Fund Awards	Glioblastoma research across disciplines.	Up to $50,000 over 1 year

SIP RDA is supported by a variety of sources including: The Cancer Frontier Fund at The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital, which includes gifts from Pedal the Cause's annual bike challenge, The Foundation's annual Illumination Gala, and donations throughout the year; the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Research Fund; Swim Across America – St. Louis; and various philanthropic gifts via Siteman Cancer Center.

PRE-R01

Siteman Investment Program
Pre-R01 Category
2026 Cycle 2 Request for Applications (RFA)

A. Overview

Available funding: Up to $200,000 over 2 years

Timeline:

Date of Announcement	**July 23, 2026**
REQUIRED Statement of Intent due by 4:00 PM CST	**August 20, 2026**
Full Applications due by 4:00 pm CST	**September 24, 2026**
Project Start Date	**January 2027**

B. Purpose of Pre-R01 Category and Expectations

- Provide funding for cancer-related research, including, but not limited to: discovery, diagnosis, imaging technology, treatment, and prevention and early detection in clinical and community settings.
- Ideal projects will catalyze discoveries by building bridges among disciplines and researchers.
- Projects directly responsive to addressing health disparities in SCC's catchment area are encouraged and will receive strong consideration.
    - The full list of catchment area priorities based on community feedback and cancer burden includes the following: breast, prostate, lung, colorectal, tobacco cessation, HPV, and cancer survivorship.
    - For details on the cancer burden and social determinants of health for the catchment area, please consult the Community Dashboard, part of the Siteman Cancer Center DASHboards (Data and Statistics Hub).
    - For additional guidance on the needs and priorities of the catchment, please reach out to Dr. Bettina Drake, Associate Director of Community Outreach & Engagement, at drakeb@wustl.edu.
- Accelerate dissemination and implementation research that moves evidence-based cancer practices into clinical and community settings.
    - For more information about research collaborations with community partners within the catchment area, please contact Katie Hoey, Program Manager of External Partnerships at hoey@wustl.edu
- **Assumptions:** All projects should further SCC's research and scientific mission through responsible stewardship of philanthropic funds. Total awards are dependent upon available philanthropic dollars. The number of awards and the award amount may increase or decrease each cycle dependent upon SCC philanthropic dollars received. Total awards are dependent upon scientific merit. The number of awards and the award amount may increase or decrease each cycle dependent upon scientific merit of the projects submitted for review. Siteman Cancer Center priorities (e.g., Catchment Area) are considered in final funding decisions.

C. Description of Sub-Categories

- General Pre-R01
  Made possible by Pedal the Cause
    - Used to support a discrete, specified hypothesis-driven research project.

- To provide support for a variety of cancer-related types of projects, including: secondary analysis of existing data; small, self-contained research projects; development of new research technology; prevention and control studies, etc.
- Applicants may request up to the full amount ($200,000 over 2 years) and there is no minimum amount required.
- There are three subcategories for the General Pre-R01 Cateogry. Any projects that do not fall into the following subcategories would be considered "General pre-R01" applications.
  - Prevention and Control Focused Projects
    - The intent is to support projects focused on addressing prevention and control within the catchment area, including but not limited to: reducing disparities, health policy, tobacco control, maximizing benefits of cancer genetics research, survivorship, and implementation and dissemination of evidence-based cancer control initiatives.
  - University of Missouri-Columbia Collaborative Projects
    - The intent is to support collaborative Pre-R01 projects between WashU and University of Missouri-Columbia faculty. Effort between co-PIs from both institutions must be comparable and both co-PIs must contribute to the overall project in similar magnitude. Budgets from each institution must be comparable. Projects not meeting these guidelines will not pass administrative review or be scientifically reviewed.
  - Head and Neck Focused Projects
    - The intent is to support a discrete, specified hypothesis-drive translational science or clinically-focused research project on head and neck cancer, with the potential to lead to major funding (e.g. R01) thereafter. This can include any of the following:
      - Mucosal cancers of the upper aerodigestive tract (excluding lung, esophagus, etc), salivary tumors, thyroid cancers, skin cancers, and other rare head and neck tumors.

D. Eligibility

- **Faculty Appointment**: The PI must have a full-time faculty appointment at the Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor level* WashU (WU), Saint Louis University (SLU), or University of Missouri-Columbia (MU). Faculty from SLU and MU are required to have a WU Siteman Cancer Center faculty member as co-PI. Effort between co-PIs from different institutions must be comparable and both co-PIs must contribute to the overall project in similar magnitude.
  - ***NEW:** Faculty members at the Instructor level are no longer eligible to submit to SIP RDA. Instructors are encouraged to pursue funding from the ACS IRG (American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant) and the Siteman Travel Awards.
- **Siteman Membership**: The contact PI submitting the application must either a) be an approved Siteman Cancer Center member or b) have submitted an acceptable Siteman Cancer Center membership application by the application deadline.
  - Questions regarding membership should be directed to sitemanmembership@wustl.edu.
- **SCC Research Program**: The contact PI may be a member of ANY research program at Siteman Cancer Center
- **5% Minimum Effort**: The contact PI AND Co-PI(s) (if applicable) must each have a minimum of 5% effort dedicated to the project. Any proposed effort lower than 5% should be discussed with SCC administration prior to application submission. Salary does not have to be included in the budget (i.e. may be cost-shared), but the PI and co-PI(s) must have protected time available to dedicate to the SIP RDA project
- **Info for Current SIP RDA Awardees**: A faculty member currently funded in the role of contact PI by a SIP RDA is not eligible to submit an application as contact PI unless (1) their current award will end by the scheduled start date or (2) their current award is in a no-cost extension.

- **Multiple SIP Submissions per Cycle**: A faculty member may submit only one application as contact PI per cycle unless their prospective project is a MU/WU Pre-R01 project or a submission to the Clinical Trial mechanism AND the science is distinct. A PI is allowed to be a co-investigator, or consultant, on any number of submissions.
    - Any faculty member may submit an application under the Pre-R01 or Clinical Trial categories and participate as a co-PI/project PI/leader on a Team Science application, as long as the projects are scientifically unique. A project submitted on a Team Science application will not be considered for funding as a Pre-R01 or Clinical Trial application in the same cycle.
- **Distinct Science**: Please note that SIP RDA will not fund the same science multiple times. If a faculty member has received SIP funding previously (or any other internal funding from Siteman Cancer Center such as a Catalyst Award), they must clearly demonstrate that the science of the proposed project is new and distinct from the previously funded project(s).
- **NEW: Preliminary Data Required:** SIP RDA is meant to fund projects that have excellent potential for NIH/NCI funding (e.g., R01, SPORE, PPG) but need additional data. Projects without any preliminary data are better suited for the SCC Scholar Catalyst Awards (if applicants are Assistant or Associate Professors).

E. Terms of the Award

- Full terms will be detailed in the notice of award. The following are general expectations.
    - Siteman expects that the grantee will completely utilize the full amount of funding during the term of the award. No-cost extensions are discouraged but will be considered with compelling justification. All unspent funds at the end of the grant period will be returned to the sponsor.
    - All awardees will be expected to adhere to progress reporting requirements.
    - No funding will be released prior to receipt of appropriate institutional compliance approvals (e.g. PRMS, IRB, IACUC, etc.). **Projects without necessary regulatory approvals in place 180 days following receipt of the Notice of Award will be reviewed by SCC leadership.** This may result in a change of award terms or forfeiture of SIP RDA funding. No aspect of the project can begin (including non-human subject research components) without documentation of all required approvals.
    - **NEW:** If the applicant had a pending NIH application at the time of SIP RDA submission that results in funding AND is determined to be overlapping science, 100% of the SIP RDA award must be returned.
    - Awardees may request adjustments to their SCC role/responsibilities, percent effort, or award period for personal or family situations including, but not limited to, parental leave, child care, elder care, medical conditions, or a disability.
    - All PIs and co-PIs on a proposal are required to participate in Pedal the Cause (PTC) in the form of fundraising, riding, and/or volunteering. PTC is one of the largest donors to SIP RDA and their organization exists solely to fund cancer research grant applications at Siteman Cancer Center and Siteman Kids at St. Louis Children's Hospital. Please visit http://pedalthecause.org for more information.
    - PIs and co-PIs are also strongly encouraged to engage with The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital in fundraising activities such as speaking engagements, interviews or video recordings related to your research, small group gatherings, and other events.

F. Budget

Expenditures Allowed:

- Salary support for investigators and other relevant faculty collaborators or staff. The current NIH salary cap must be used where applicable. This funding mechanism is designed primarily to support staff, not

faculty, effort. While a modest amount of faculty support is allowed and may be supported, faculty effort may be reduced/eliminated when final funding assessments are made

- Research supplies
- Per diem charges for patients if part of a clinical study, not reimbursable by standard payment terms
- Technical assistance
- Graduate student/postdoctoral stipends if relevant to the project with detailed justification
- Domestic/foreign travel necessary to carry out proposed project based on institutional travel policies
- Other expenses such as lab and core fees, pathology, imaging, data analysis, etc.
- Consultant costs
- Publications costs not to exceed $2,000 across the total project period

Expenditures NOT Allowed:

- Secretarial/administrative personnel salary support
- Office equipment and supplies
- Computer (including software) and equipment maintenance fees
- Tuition
- Travel and/or registration/related fees for conferences and
- Travel not essential to carrying out the proposed research
- Purchasing and binding of periodicals and books
- Dues and membership fees in scientific societies
- Recruiting and relocation expenses
- Administrative or institutional charges for services normally considered overhead (e.g. space rental, utilities, building maintenance)
- Non-medical or personnel services to patients
- Sub-contracts to institutions not affiliated with Siteman Cancer Center and pre-award costs
- EAB/IAB honorarium and meeting expenses
- Budgeting for the purchase of equipment is unallowable without prior approval from SCC administration. Non-office equipment and/or technology with the intent to design, test, or facilitate a new device must be required for completion of the project and must not be reasonably accessible elsewhere on campus. All requests must include a detailed justification.

G. Application Guidelines

- Submission of the Statement of Intent (SOI) form is required and due by 4:00pm CST on the due date listed on Page 1. The SOI form can be accessed via the SIP RDA website or by clicking here. The SOI is not formally reviewed and approval to submit a full application is automatic; PIs should not expect or anticipate any further correspondence from Siteman Administration following submission of the SOI.
- Use Arial 11 point font for text.
- Use the NIH PHS 398 forms, unless otherwise indicated. Applicants must follow the NIH guidelines when completing the forms included below. NIH forms can be found at: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html.
- Applications must include all appropriate components (see section H below).
- Combine all documents into one PDF document and submit the application via proposalCENTRAL. The signature page generated by proposalCENTRAL is not required. It is best to **print to PDF** each document versus saving to PDF.
- Late and/or incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- **NEW GUIDANCE:** Please ensure that your proposal is written in such a way that it is easily understood by scientists outside of your specific field to maximize understanding and enable reviewers to provide

helpful feedback. The SIP RDA review committee is made up of a pool of reviewers within the SCC community with a wide range of scientific expertise.

H. Application Components

1. **SIP RDA Application Cover Sheet** (Updated July 2026)
    - SCC requires a description of your research project written in plain language. The purpose of the plain language summary is to provide a clear overview of the research in straightforward, non-technical language to be shared with the sponsors, donors, the general public, and the media. As an example, the general public does not know what a kinase is. They do know that proteins must modify or change other proteins. Please steer clear of scientific words in your plain language abstract.
        - The Becker Library offers a variety of services and resources to assist applicants with making written materials easier to understand. For more information, visit the Becker Health Literacy and Communication webpage at: https://becker.wustl.edu/services/health-literacy-communication/
2. **SIP RDA re-submissions only: response to prior SIP RDA critique** (1 page maximum)
    - Resubmissions are encouraged and require a response to prior SIP RDA critiques.
    - **NEW:** It is very important that applicants detail how they have responded to prior critiques. Reviewers will have access to previous critiques and the applicant's response.
3. **Introduction (if applicable; 1 page maximum)**
    - If this SIP RDA proposal is in response to a submitted, but unfunded, NCI/NIH application, an Introduction is required. The Introduction should summarize substantial additions, deletions, and changes to the application and respond to the issues and criticism in the NIH summary statement. In addition, please include the NIH/NCI Summary Statement as a supporting document in the appendix.
4. **Project Summary and Key Personnel** (PHS 398 Form Page 2)
5. **Budget Pages** (PHS 398 Form Page 4 and 5)
    - **Budget Justification:** A detailed budget justification is required. For a list of allowable / unallowable costs, see pages 3 and 4.
    - **For MU/WU Collaborations:** Applications involving a collaboration with a partner institution (i.e. MU) must complete Form Pages 4 and 5 for each institution (i.e. Form Page 4 and 5 for WU expenses and Form Page 4 and 5 for MU expenses). Budgets from each institution must be comparable.
    - **Facilities and Administrative (F&A)/Indirect Costs:** Do not include indirect costs at time of submission. Based on the funding source, indirect costs may be added post-award.
6. **NIH Biosketch for All Key Personnel**
    - **NEW:** May submit the new SciENcv Common Form OR the previous NIH Biosketch format to satisfy this requirement.
7. **Specific Aims and Research Strategy**
    - **Specific Aims** (1 page maximum)
        - State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that results from the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology.
    - **Research Strategy**
        - **Pre-R01 Category Page Limit: 6 pages maximum**

- Start each section with the appropriate section heading – Significance, Innovation, Approach. Cite published experimental details in the Research Strategy section and provide the full reference in the Bibliography and References Cited section (references section NOT included in the page limit).

I. Significance

- Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
- Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
- Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

II. Innovation

- Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
- Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches/methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

III. Approach

- Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted.
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
- If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work.

8. **Bibliography and References Cited**
9. **Biostatistical Plan** (2 pages maximum)

- A formal statistical plan must be included with the proposal. Applicants can reach out to the Siteman Biostatistics and Qualitative Shared Resource (BQSR) at the following link for grant writing resources: https://publichealthsciences.wustl.edu/biostatistics-shared-resource/
- Applicants should work with a statistician to provide the statistical plan. The detailed statistical considerations should be clearly described in this section.
- Appropriate statistical considerations may include, but are not restricted to:
  - Specification of the study design and the endpoints.
  - Justification of sample size, including power calculations needed to achieve significant differences between the study groups. If a formal power calculation is used, the authors should describe the primary outcome on which the calculation is based, all the quantities used in the calculation (such as effect size, alpha level and power) and the resulting target sample size per study group.
  - A proper analysis plan for data collected, including rationale for the selection of specific statistical tests.
  - Identification of the responsible party that will be overseeing the implementation of the statistical plan throughout the project to ensure appropriate statistical support and collaborations in place.

- Description of the blinding procedures for the personnel doing assessments. If some observations are impossible to blind – i.e., a drug that has an obvious phenotypic impact on the treated animals – the implications should be described.

10. **Multi-PI Leadership Plan** (if applicable; 2 page maximum)
    - For applications designating multiple PIs, a leadership plan is required. The rationale for choosing a multiple PI approach should be described, including the added benefit of this approach. The governance and organizational structure of the leadership team and the research project should be described, including communication plans, process for making decisions on scientific direction, and procedures for resolving conflicts. Each PI must bring key scientific knowledge and responsibilities. The roles and administrative, technical, and scientific responsibilities for the project or program should be delineated for the PIs, including responsibilities for human or live vertebrate animal subject studies as appropriate. Do not submit a leadership plan if you are not submitting an application with multiple PIs.
11. **Plans for Subsequent Funding** (1 page maximum)
    - Discuss how the findings from your project will be used to write a proposal for subsequent NCI/NIH funding.
    - **NEW:** It is very important that applicants list potential aims for a NIH proposal. Applicants should be as specific as possible and clearly demonstrate how the SIP RDA project will lead to a successful, future NCI/NIH proposal. This section is an important criterion for award selection.
12. **SCC Shared Resource/Core Utilization** (1 page maximum)
    - Describe SCC shared resource usage. Project(s) should utilize at least one SCC Shared Resource (Core), unless core services are not relevant to your project. If no shared resources are utilized for the project, please include a page stating not applicable. https://siteman.wustl.edu/research/shared-resources-cores/
13. **Compliance Document(s)**
    - Include a page indicating the status of all applicable compliance approvals as listed on the cover sheet (e.g., IACUC, IRB, PRMC) or, if the approvals are already in place, include copies of the approval letters. Funds will not be allocated and no aspect of the project can begin (including non-human subject research components) without documentation of required approvals. If no compliance is needed, please include a page stating approvals are not applicable.
        - **NEW:** An optional **Protection of Human Subjects** section (1 page max) may be included for projects that propose human subjects research and require IRB approval. This section should include a brief description of the involvement of subjects, assessment of risks, protection against risks, potential benefits, and the importance of the knowledge to be gained. This page should be included as an appendix document.
14. **Letter(s) of Support**
    - Applicants must include a letter from the director(s)* for each Siteman Shared Resource you will be using in your research, as well as a letter indicating commitment to provide any compounds/drugs from a pharmaceutical company, if applicable. You may also include other letters of support for the project from appropriate sources (department chair, division chief, collaborators, mentor, etc).

      * **NEW:** Letters of support from the Biostatistics and Qualitative Research Shared Resource (BQSR) may come from the director(s) unless there is a study statistician involved, in which case the letter should be provide by the statistician.

Note: Appendix materials are not allowed unless specifically requested above.

PRE-R01

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I. Review Process

- **Pre-R01** proposals will be reviewed on scientific merit, innovation, significance and impact, and approach, in accordance with the RFA, and using adapted NIH guidelines for scoring. Please note that the SIP RDA Study Section review is run similar to an NIH Study Section, and while its score drivers are similar, there is an important distinction: the SIP RDA exists to support projects that need vital data to become competitive for an R01 or similar award. For this reason, an IMPORTANT score driver in the SIP RDA Study Section review is the potential for future funding.
    - **The PI MUST lay out how the SIP RDA funds will ensure a competitive future application** and answer questions that will drive the science forward. One page is dedicated to this purpose and that page is carefully evaluated during the Study Section meeting and by Siteman Senior Leadership when making funding decisions.

For any questions, please contact:
Steve Baer, Program Manager
Email: Steve.Baer@wustl.edu