

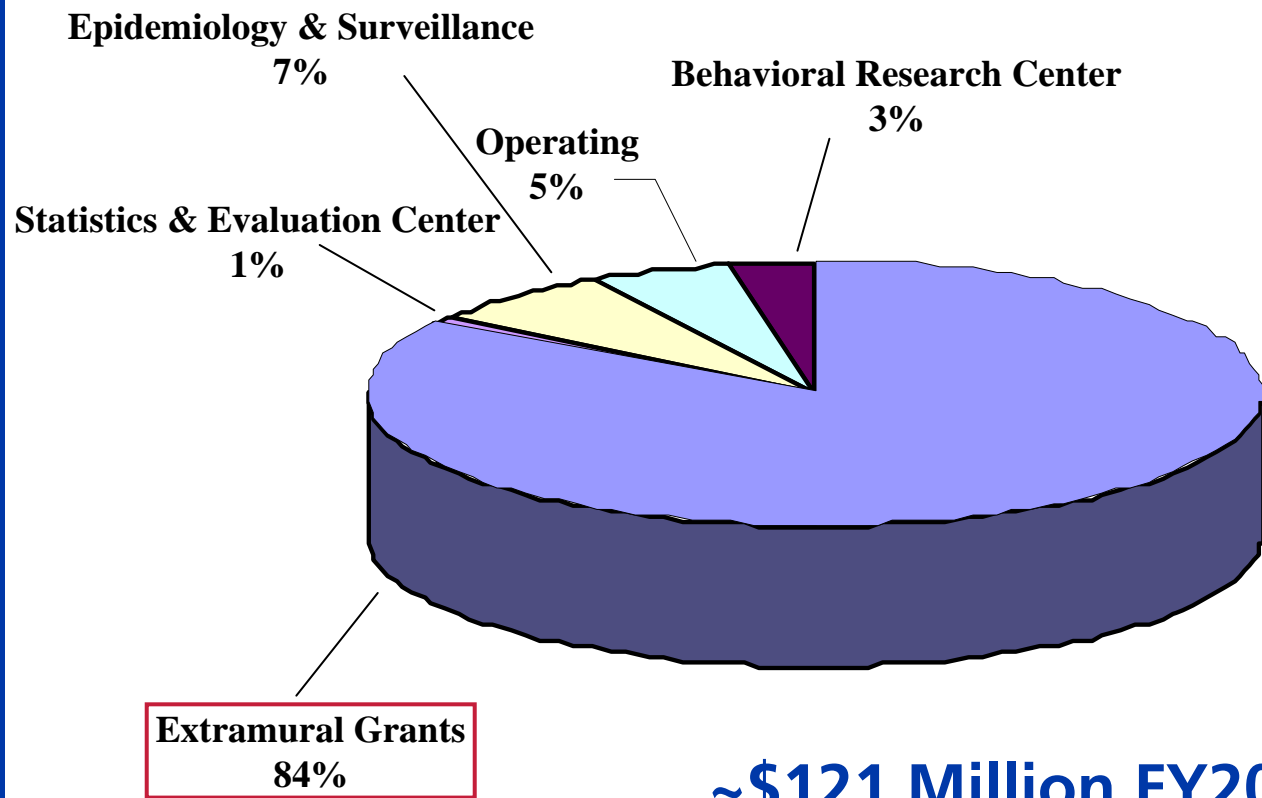
American Cancer Society Grants For Cancer Research and Training

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**“Maximizing Resources Via Collaborative Research”
The 2nd Annual Cancer Grant Writing Workshop**

The American Cancer Society Research Program



~\$121 Million FY2005-06



The American Cancer Society Research and
Training Program

**Research Advisory Workgroup:
Strategic Recommendations**

Basic research should continue to focus on **beginning investigators** and should remain investigator-initiated, primarily non-targeted.

Increase targeted **non-basic research** with a goal of more balanced funding of basic and non-basic applied research.

What Is Our Focus in Extramural Research?

**Beginning
investigators**

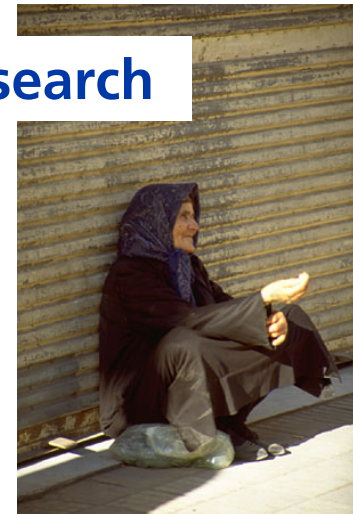


**Blue Ribbon
Committees**

Balanced portfolio

Targeted research

**ACS Research
Professors**



Extramural and Intramural Funding
in Selected Priority Areas*

FUNDING BY AREA OF RESEARCH - 2005-06	\$ AWARDED
Prevention	9,878,000
Detection	7,157,000
Treatment	14,913,000
Psychosocial and behavioral	20,096,000
Poor and underserved	11,445,000
Health policy/health services	4,994,000
Childhood cancer	5,068,000
Environmental carcinogenesis	888,000
Epidemiology	8,986,000
Cause/etiology	12,938,000

The American Cancer Society Research and Training Program

Research Grants

- Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Mentored Research Scholar Grants in Applied and Clinical Research
- Institutional Research Grants
- Research Scholar Grants in Cancer Control:
 - *Psychosocial and Behavioral Research*
 - *Health Services and Health Policy Research*
- Research Scholar Grants in Basic, Preclinical, Clinical, and Epidemiology Research



The American Cancer Society Research and Training Program

Health Professional Training Grants

- **Cancer Control Career Development Awards for Primary Care Physicians**
- **Physician Training Awards in Preventive Medicine**
- **Doctoral Training Grants in Oncology Social Work**
- **Master's Training Grants in Clinical Oncology Social Work**
- **Doctoral Degree Scholarships in Cancer Nursing**
- **Master's Degree Scholarships in Cancer Nursing**

Special Research Initiatives

Targeted Grants for Research Directed at Poor and Medically Underserved Populations

- Research on prevalence, early detection, prevention, and treatment of cancer in poor and underserved populations.
- Proposals may address a variety of behavioral, epidemiological, policy, health delivery, clinical and basic science issues.
- Applications for Research Scholar Grants***, Mentored Research Scholar Grants, and Postdoctoral Fellowships are accepted.
- Independent investigators at *any* stage of their research careers may apply for the RSG.



Requests for Applications

- **Research to investigate the incidence, etiology and new treatments for secondary lymphedema**
- **Studies in the tools and technologies for developing strategies for the early detection of cancer.**
- **Pilot and exploratory research studies to test interventions, develop research methodologies, and explore novel areas of research in palliative care.**
- **The role of healthcare and insurance in improving outcomes in cancer prevention, early detection and treatment.**

Extramural Grants: Research Funding Mechanisms

	POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP	MENTORED RESEARCH SCHOLAR GRANT	RESEARCH SCHOLAR GRANT
Who	New PhD or MD (0-5yrs)	Clinical/Applied Research	Independent investigator
When	Following completion of terminal degree	1 st 4 years of faculty appointment	1 st 6 years of independent appointment
Duration	Up to 3 yrs	Up to 5 yrs	Up to 4 yrs
Award	\$40-44K/yr + \$4K allowance	\$135K/yr + 8%	\$150-200K/yr +20%
How many	~ 60/yr (9%)	10 -15 (5%)	~100 (70%)

American Cancer Society Peer Review Process

Applications: Two deadlines per year: April 1 and October 15

Two levels of peer review:

- **Peer Review Committees (19):** volunteer experts in field of study or practice review (critiques), rate and rank applications
- **Council for Extramural Grants:** senior researchers compare work of all committees and decides who is funded

➤ **“Stakeholders” on Peer Review Committees**



American Cancer Society Peer Review Process

18 Peer Review Committees (PRC):

Basic Research (10)

Applied Research (3)

Health Professional Training Grants (4)

13 Subject-based Research PRCs:

Genetic Mechanisms in Cancer

Development, Differentiation & Cancer

Cell Cycle Growth Control

Cell Structure & Metastasis

Molecular and Cell Biology of Cancer

Tumor Biochemistry & Endocrinology

Cancer Drug Development

Carcinogenesis, Nutrition & the Environment

Molecular Genetics & Oncogenes

Leukemia, Immunology & Blood Cell Development

Clinical Research, Cancer Control & Epidemiology

Psychosocial & Behavioral

Health Services & Health Policy Research

BASIC

PRECLINICAL

CLINICAL

CANCER CONTROL

American Cancer Society
Peer Review Process

What does the score mean?

1.0 -1.5	Outstanding
1.5 - 2.0	Excellent
2.0 - 2.5	Good
2.5 - 3.0	Satisfactory
3.0 - 3.5	Adequate
3.5 - 4.0	Fair
4.0 - 5.0	Acceptable
SD	Scientific Disapproval


American Cancer Society
Peer Review Process

RANK	NAME
1	Smith
2	Doe
3	Jones
4	Brown
5	Davis
6	White
7	Hill

Pay Line

American Cancer Society Peer Review Process

What feedback will you get?



Letter

Score: 1.0 - 5.0

Likelihood of funding

Reviewer 1

Strengths:
kkkkkkkkkkkkkkk
kkkkkkkkkkkkkkk
kkkkkk

Weaknesses:
ooooooooooooo
ooooooooooooo
ooooooooooooo

Reviewer 2

Strengths:
kkkkkkkkkkkkkkk
kkkkkkkkkkkkkkk
kkkkkkkkkkkkkkk
kkkkkkkkkkkkkkk
kkkkkkkkkkkkkkk

Weaknesses:
ooooooooooooo

+ comments and staff consultation

The Characteristics of an Outstanding Application

- ✓ High quality grantsmanship: follow instructions, clear presentation, easy to read/understand, clear outcomes, sufficient detail, discussion of alternative approaches, etc.
- ✓ Clearly articulated and testable hypothesis, a new direction (innovative)
- ✓ Experimental approach based on preliminary data (IRG?) showing the project has a good chance of success; evidence that new approaches are workable; risk/return
- ✓ Proposal involves a realistic amount of work in the context of the resources available.
- ✓ Strong investigator with established competence in the research area.
- ✓ Clear relevance to cancer

Top Ten Ways to Annoy a Reviewer

10. Make sure the specific aims address global issues that will keep you busy for a lifetime.
9. Design experiments that won't provide a clean answer to the questions raised in the specific aims.
8. Describe the experiments in great detail, and omit any description of how the results will be interpreted. Don't provide alternative approaches as this is a sign of weakness.

Top Ten Ways to Annoy a Reviewer

7. Plan enough work to occupy a group of ten for a decade. Budget accordingly.
6. Provide preliminary data that makes the reviewer wonder if you can actually do the experiments.
5. Identify every diversion you could take from the main path, and then explore the diversions.
4. Start writing less than a month before the deadline (if Mozart could write a symphony in three days...).

Top Ten Ways to Annoy a Reviewer

3. Don't let any senior colleagues read your proposal so that it will seem completely fresh to the reviewers.
2. Make the reviewers work to understand the application – that way they'll remember it.
1. Disable all spell- and grammar-check programs. If you exceed the page limit, just decrease the font size.

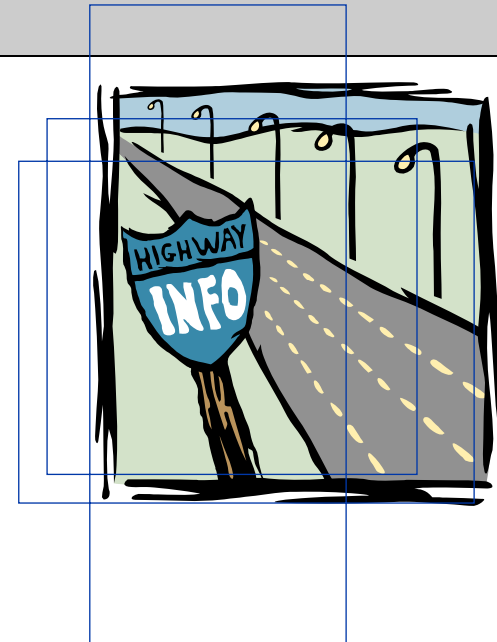
General Tips:

- Become familiar with what's available and be aware of new offerings:

www.cancer.org/research

- Read Policies and Instructions carefully, especially any description of intent of grant, basis for review and award, eligibility criteria.

- Call program directors for additional information or clarifications.
- Ask the advice of successful grantees and mentors.
- Be persistent!



Good Luck!

