

Route 66 Endometrial Cancer SPORE: Developmental Research Program

APPLICATION GUIDELINES – CYCLE 4 – 2026-2027

The Developmental Research Program within the Route 66 Endometrial Cancer SPORE seeks applications developing bold new ideas in endometrial cancer research. Projects at the pilot stage investigating new treatment or prevention strategies and/or obtaining preliminary data are encouraged to apply.

Award Details:

- Award amount up to \$35,000 in direct costs for one year. Budget requests up to \$50,000 will be considered only with a unique scope of work and a strong budget justification.
- Project period: August 1, 2026 – July 31, 2027
- Award may be renewed for another year contingent on adequate progress, availability of funds, and strategic priorities. Maximum award duration is limited to 2 years.
- The number of awards and the award amount may increase or decrease depending on funding available. Amount requested should reflect what is needed to achieve study objectives, not to maximize the amount awarded.

Eligibility:

- Independent faculty members (instructor level or higher at the time of award) from any of the three partner institutions: Washington University, University of New Mexico, University of Oklahoma Health Campus.
- Faculty from groups underrepresented in biomedical research and all individuals are encouraged to apply.
- Projects that utilize SPORE or institutional shared resources (Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Core, Biospecimen, Metabolomics, and Pathology Core, [Gynecologic Oncology Tissue Bank](#), etc.) are specifically encouraged.

SUBMISSION

Electronic copy of the proposal must be submitted via email as a single .pdf document and sent to Veronica Davé, PhD, SPORE Administrator (vdave@wustl.edu) by **May 1, 2026, by 5pm CT**. Applications submitted by OU investigators must be routed through their OU or OUHC Office of Research Administration prior to submission to the SPORE.

FORMAT SPECIFICATIONS

- Use Arial 11 font; minimum 0.5 inch for all margins for all pages. Figures, Graphs, Diagrams, Charts, Tables, Figure Legends, and Footnotes: You may use a smaller type size, but it must be readily legible.
- Include the Principal Investigator's name at the top of each page and consecutively number all pages in the application at the bottom of each page.

GUIDELINES

Please including the following:

1. **NEW APPLICATIONS:**

- **DRP Application Cover Page**
 - Please use PHS 398 Form Page 1. The form can be found at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>.
 - Institutional signing official signature is **not** required
- **NIH-style Biosketch**
- **Project Narrative (intended for patient research advocates, 200-500 words):** Please explain in plain language why this research is important to patients. Outline why this project is an important next step to

advance our understanding of endometrial cancer prevention/treatment.

- **Research Plan** (limited to 5 pages, 6 pages for resubmissions)
 - Introduction to application (for resubmissions only, optional and limited to 1 page): Summarizes substantial additions, deletions, or changes to the application. Responds to issues or criticisms raised in previous cycle review
 - Specific aims
 - Significance to endometrial cancer research
 - Innovation
 - Approach
 - Plans for subsequent external funding
- **Budget**

Please use PHS 398 Form Page 4. The form can be found at:
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>

NIH salary cap applies. This award does not support equipment purchases with unit value of \$5,000 or more. Allowable expenses:

 - Investigator's salary and fringe benefits (Salary not allowed for Stephenson Cancer Center applicants)
 - Research personnel salary support, laboratory supplies, and core service fees
 - Travel to one national scientific conference and/or SPORE-related meeting
 - Other expenses (animal husbandry, publication costs, etc.)
- **Budget Justification** – describing the use of the funds
- **Appendix**
 - References/literature cited
 - Pertinent recent publications (maximum 3)
 - Regulatory and consortium approvals: project specific but will likely consist of IRB approval for human subjects research, IACUC approval for animal research, or relevant approvals to access samples or data from databases/repositories. Approvals are not required at time of submission, but will be required before potential funding can be awarded.
 - Letters of support: optional.
 - Authentication of key biological and/or chemical resources

2. **RENEWAL APPLICATIONS:**

- **DRP Application Cover Page**
 - Please use PHS 398 Form Page 1. The form can be found at:
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>
 - Institutional signing official signature is **not** required
- **Updated NIH-style Biosketch**
- **Project Narrative (intended for patient research advocates, 200-500 words):** Please explain in plain language why this research is important to patients. Explain progress made and outline why this renewal application is an important next step to advance our understanding of endometrial cancer prevention/treatment.
- **Research Plan** (limited to 5 pages)
 - Progress report on specific aims
 - Explanation of significant changes to the research plan
 - Future directions
 - List of abstracts, presentations, or publications supported by this award
 - List of grant applications related to this award and plans for subsequent external funding
- **Budget**

Please use PHS 398 Form Page 4. The form can be found at:
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>

NIH salary cap applies. This award does not support equipment purchases with unit value of \$5,000 or more. Allowable expenses:

 - Investigator's salary and fringe benefits (Salary not allowed for Stephenson Cancer Center applicants)

- Research personnel salary support, laboratory supplies, and core service fees
- Travel to one national scientific conference and/or SPORE-related meeting
- Other expenses (animal husbandry, publication costs, etc.)
- **Budget Justification** – describing the use of the funds
- **Appendix**
 - References/literature cited

REVIEW PROCESS

Your application will be reviewed by the SPORE CEP Selection Committee, 1-2 external scientific reviewers, and 1-2 patient research advocates involved in our Endometrial Cancer Equity Group. Awardees will be determined based on application reviews by the Selection Committee. Applicants will be notified of their application status following the Selection Committee review.

Review Criteria: All reviewers will be asked to provide written critiques. Applications will be scored on an NIH 1-9 scale in each of the following categories and be given an overall score.

- 1) Candidate
 - a. The qualifications (e.g., training, record of research success) of the investigator
- 2) Research Plan
 - a. The overall quality of the science of the proposal
 - b. The degree to which the proposal is innovative
 - c. The likelihood that the project will lead to translational research (a clinical application, screening, etc.)
 - d. The degree to which the project represents a new approach for studying endometrial cancer
- 3) Project Potential
 - a. The possibility that the research would eventually lead to a full SPORE project or peer-reviewed funding, such as an R01, P01, etc.
 - b. The contribution of the project to the overall goals of the SPORE and its potential to augment the work in ongoing SPORE projects
 - c. The degree to which the project addresses issues important to endometrial cancer patients or endometrial cancer risk reduction or prevention
- 4) Collaboration
 - a. The use of SPORE shared resources
 - b. The extent to which the project promotes new collaborations among scientists at the same or different institutions
- 5) Renewals
 - a. Progress for the research in year 1
 - b. Collaboration with other investigators
 - c. Submission of abstracts and/or manuscripts
 - d. Submission of an extramural grant application (or near final draft of a grant proposal submitted for Committee review) and potential for future funding

CONTACTS

Please direct any application questions to:

Veronica Davé, PhD, SPORE Administrator: vdave@wustl.edu

Scientific Leadership:

Kimberly Leslie, MD; DRP Director – University of New Mexico (KKLeslie@salud.unm.edu)

Dineo Khabele, MD; DRP Co-Director – Washington University (khabeled@wustl.edu)

Kathleen Moore, MD; DRP Co-Director – University of Oklahoma (kathleen-moore@ouhsc.edu)

Projects may be discussed with leadership to determine interest level and eligibility in advance of submitting a full application. Projects using tissue samples from national repositories requiring regulatory agreements and approvals (MTAs, DTUAs, approvals to use specimens, etc.) should be discussed with leadership during the application phase to determine feasibility of completing the project during the award timeline.

TERMS OF AWARD

All DRP awardees will be expected to:

- Provide a written annual progress report.
- Consistently attend Endometrial Cancer SPORE Working Group meetings
- Complete one of these activities during the award period:
 - Present to the SPORE Internal and External Advisory Boards
 - Present poster at the annual NCI Translational Science Meeting or equivalent
 - Make at least one presentation per year at a SPORE or Cancer Center research meeting
- Fully develop at least one extramural grant application (any level)
- Submit an extramural research grant in endometrial cancer at the end of DRP funding
- Serve as a DRP application reviewer in future cycles