2023 Curebound

Request for Applications (RFA)

**COLLABORATIVE, INNOVATIVE & TRANSLATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH AWARDS**



**Curebound Grants and Prizes**

**Deadline: Tuesday August 1st, 2023, Midnight**

**CUREBOUND AWARD TYPES**

**Discovery Grants:** Curebound will fund seed grants for high-risk high-reward innovative, translational, collaborative cancer research. Discovery Grants are intended to fund early-stage ideas and recent breakthroughs accelerating them towards the clinic. Discovery Grants will prioritize research that advances therapeutic development or has a high likelihood of leveraging extramural funding. Inter-institutional collaboration is required.

**Targeted Grants:** Curebound willprovide funding for innovative, translational oncology-based projects that hold promise for advancing to pre-clinical or clinical stages. Priority will be given to proposals that have a high likelihood of significantly advancing detection, prevention, treatment strategies, or improved access. Targeted Grants support both continuity of ideas from investigators' past research and new translational research. While interdisciplinary collaboration is required, inter-institutional collaboration is preferred but not mandatory.

**Cure Prizes:** The intent of the Cure Prize is to fund innovative ground-breaking ideas that will change the course of cancer research and care for any age group. We encourage broad interpretation of this challenge and out-of-the-box thinking. Examples may include but are not limited to; advancing access for populations that are typically underserved, novel therapies nearing clinical application, advancing precision of diagnosis, better application of preventative tools and strategies, genomics informed therapy, immunotherapy advancements, biomarker developments, drug repurposing, and new combinations. Proposals that accelerate cures and have near term patient application will be prioritized.

**Investment Pillars**

Curebound’s is committed to improving how we prevent, detect, and treat cancer at any age. We will achieve this by funding collaborative, innovative and translational cancer research awards that align with one or more of the following Curebound’s Investment Pillars:

* Prevention & Diagnostic Tools
* Cancer Equities
* Novel Therapeutics & Platforms
* Immunotherapies & Personalized Vaccines
* Pediatric Cancers

**OVERALL CUREBOUND GRANT RULES:**

1. Team Leaders (the Principal Investigator) must hold a faculty position at one of the following institutes:
* UC San Diego (*Includes affiliated institutes UCSD Health, Moores Cancer Center, San Diego State University and J. Craig Venter Institute)*
* The Salk Institute
* Sanford Burnham Prebys
* Rady Children’s Hospital
* La Jolla Institute for Immunology
* Scripps Research
1. A Team Leader may submit up to one application in each of the 2 grant and 1 prize categories this year. An investigator may be a Co-PI and/or key collaborator on an unlimited number of proposals.
2. Team leaders, Co-PIs, and key collaborators agree to serve as peer reviewers for Curebound and are asked to participate in Curebound speaking and engagement opportunities that benefit from their expertise.

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| **Participation Strongly Encouraged for *ALL* CUREBOUND Awardees:**Curebound is committed to cultivating and nurturing relationships within San Diego’s Cancer Research Community. To achieve this, we encourage Team Leaders, Co-PIs, and collaborators to actively engage with Curebound by participating in and encouraging their colleagues, friends, and families to take part in Padres Pedal the Cause as a team captain, rider, spinner, runner, walker, volunteer, or virtual rider (<https://www.curebound.org/padrespedal>).  |

**Instructions for All Curebound Proposals:**

1. **Scientific Abstract** (up to 250 words): The purpose of the Scientific Abstract is to describe concisely the proposed project. It should contain a statement of hypothesis, aims, methods and impact. Do not include confidential or proprietary information.
2. **Lay Abstract** (up to 250 words): Describe in lay language the relevance and impact of the project on cancer treatment, prevention, and diagnosis. Include expected time frame for patient impact. The lay abstract provides an overview of the proposed research for people who are not specialists in your field, avoid the use of jargon and acronyms. Do not include confidential or proprietary information.
3. **Project Justification and Impact** (up to 1 page) Describe how the proposal aligns with one or more of Curebound’s Investment Pillars. Describe how the proposal addresses important problems, barriers to progress and/or critical the unmet needs.
4. **Specific Aims** (up to 1 page): Describe concisely the primary goals and the methods that will be used to achieve these aims.
5. **Research Strategy** (3 to 5 pages excluding references): Provide sufficient detail for evaluation by experts in the field. It should include:
* Significance: Explain the importance of the problem, unmet need or describe the critical barrier to progress in the field. Describe how concepts, methods, technologies, therapeutics, clinical practice, services, or preventative interventions will be changed if the specific aims are achieved.
* Approach: Describe how the research will be carried out. This section should explain the hypothesis, detail the specific aims and objectives, and the methods to be employed. A timeline of the specific aims can be helpful.
* 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 the advantages they have over current state.
* Feasibility: Describe how the applicants’ (Team Leader, Co-PIs, and key collaborators) expertise and ongoing research/clinical practice supports the proposal. Describe how inter-departmental, inter-disciplinary or inter-institutional collaboration enables or enhances the proposal.
* Impact: Describe how the studies will have a positive impact on the prevention, detection, access to care, or treatment of cancer or pre-cancers, and the time frame for patient impact. Also describe what deliverables or return on investment is realistically expected, e.g., is the study expected to lead to clinical trials, publications, follow-on funding, etc.
1. **Biosketches**: Provide an NIH-style bio sketch for the Team Leader, Co-PIs, and key collaborators. Including current and pending support.
2. **Budget and Budget Justification:** A budget summary for all major categories (e.g., salaries, supplies, related study expense etc.) must be completed for each site as described at Proposal Central. The purpose of the budget justification sheet is to present and justify all expenses required to achieve project aims and objectives. The application must also include a composite budget summary for all budget categories. The costs to the institution of employee fringe benefits should be indicated as a percent of the employee's salary. Please indicate performance period for the project. Indicate if cost sharing will be provided from other funding sources. Templates can be found at Proposal Central, completed forms should be uploaded in the appendix section at Proposal Central.
3. **Proposals involving a clinical trial**: Must include: (a) interventions to be used, reasons for the selection of interventions, and modes of delivery; (b) study design, treatment groups, trial size, and inclusion/exclusion criteria; (c) control groups if applicable; (d) outcome measures; (e) statistical and data analysis plan (f) National Clinical Trial (NCT) number if applicable. Awards can be leveraged with other funding sources for the clinical trial provided that feasibility (e.g., drug availability, accrual and timeline) is clearly outlined in the application. Necessary documentation should be uploaded at Proposal Central.
4. **Projects proposing to study patients** at UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center or Rady Children’s Hospital must have signed approval of the respective Disease Team Leaders declaring that the study is feasible based upon the proposed patient population, needed accrual, and competing funded studies. Where appropriate, physicians overseeing the care of these patients should be considered for co-investigator status.  Necessary documentation should be uploaded at Proposal Central.
5. **Biospecimens**: Investigator must describe study feasibility, source of specimens, availability of informed consent, sample processing, sample analytic plan, and data analysis plan. Necessary documentation should be uploaded at Proposal Central.
6. **HUMAN AND ANIMAL SUBJECTS**: Pending IRB or IACUC approval, copies of IRB or IACUC approval must be submitted prior to activation of the grant award.
7. **USE OF FUNDS:** The funds are to be used in general agreement with the research budget plan submitted with the application. Curebound will allow the PI to re-budget up to 10% without requiring a budget resubmission. A no-cost extension beyond the grant funding period must be requested a minimum of 60 days before the project end date.
8. **EARLY TERMINATION:** If the grantee decides to discontinue the research project or leave the Curebound-affiliated institute they must contact research@curebound.org immediately, or at the very latest 60 days before transfer.
9. **PUBLICATIONS:** Investigators are expected to publish original articles at the conclusion of the project. All publications and presentations as well as posters and abstracts at scientific meetings that result from the support provided by this award mustacknowledge the support in writing as follows: This work was supported by the Curebound# [grant number xxxx]. (Unique grant number will be provided on award)

**PROGRESS AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI) FORM:** A Progress Report and ROIform will be sent to each PI and Co-PI twelve months after the beginning of the funding period, and annually thereafter. The synthesis of annual Progress Reports and ROI forms will be the main mechanism for the public reporting of Curebound fund stewardship as well as institutional and community marketing purposes and will lead to potential nominations for Curebound Targeted Awards and Cure Prizes. Each form must be completed and returned by the stated deadline to research@curebound.org

**EVALUATION CRITERIA:** Curebound staff in conjunction with the Curebound’s Scientific Advisory Board will appoint an independent Peer Review Committee, modeled on the NIH system, to review of all applications.

**SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS BY GRANT MECHANISMS**

**Discovery Grants:** Will fund seed grants for high-risk high-reward innovative, collaborative research.

Grant Details:

* Inter-institutional collaboration is required.
* Up to $250,000 for a 1-year award *inclusive of up to 30% IDC*

Reviewers will evaluate Discovery Grant proposals using the following criteria:

1. **Scientific merit:** Reviewers will assess the appropriateness of the research project's design, methodology, data collection, and analysis. They will also evaluate the strength of supporting evidence, whether published or preliminary, for the research hypothesis
2. **Significance to Cancer Research:** Reviewers will consider whether the proposal has the potential to improve thinking or approaches in cancer research, to translate into clinical utility and/or to address a critical unmet need. Alignment with Curebound’s Investment Pillars will be assessed. Proposals that identify or advance novel or emerging targets, diagnostics, biomarkers, cancer equity, interventions, screening strategies, therapeutics strategies or tools are suitable for this grant mechanism.
3. **Innovation**: Reviewers will determine if the proposal capitalizes on or develops new concepts, methodologies, novel or emerging therapeutics tools or strategies.
4. **Positive Impact on Cancer Equity, Prevention, Detection or Treatment**: The likelihood that the proposed studies will have a positive impact on the detection, treatment, or prevention of cancer or pre-cancers will be assessed.
5. **Project Impact and deliverables:** Applicants are advised to highlight the expected cancer related impact and all deliverables that they realistically expect to generate. Examples might include, but are not limited to, the identification and validation of novel drug targets, biomarkers or diagnostic tools and techniques, the generation of meaningful data for publications and follow-on studies/ grant funding at Curebound or elsewhere.
6. **Collaboration:** Reviewers will be asked to evaluate the strengths and benefits of the inter-institutional team as well as the synergy generated by collaboration.
7. **Feasibility:** Reviewers will evaluate the likelihood that the research project will achieve its stated goals given the budget requested, team expertise, institutional environments, and other resources available. New or early-stage investigators will be evaluated based on their level of experience in the field.
8. **Outcome sharing:** A clear commitment by grant awardees that all data resulting from their work will be available to the cancer research community at large at the earliest opportunity.

**Targeted Grants:** Willfund interdisciplinary, translational research.

Grant Details:

* Interdisciplinary collaboration is required (inter-institutional collaboration is encouraged)
* Up to $500,000 for a 1-to 2-years award *inclusive of up to 30% IDC*

Reviewers will evaluate Targeted Grant proposals using the following criteria:

1. **Scientific Merit:** Reviewers will assess the appropriateness of the research design, methodology, data collection, and analysis. They will also evaluate the strength of supporting evidence, whether published or preliminary, for the research hypothesis.
2. **Significance in Cancer Research:** Reviewers will consider whether the proposal addresses a critical unmet need and has the potential to improve current approaches in cancer research. They will assess the pathways for translating outcomes from bench research to pre-clinical or clinical research, as well as the alignment with Curebound's Investment Pillars. Proposals that significantly advance targets, biomarkers, molecular or structural cancer equity, screening strategies, therapeutics, tools, approaches are considered suitable for this grant mechanism.
3. **Innovation:** Reviewers will evaluate how the proposal capitalizes on new or emerging concepts, innovative methodologies, emerging targets, therapeutics, interventions, technologies, or tools.
4. **Positive Impact on Cancer Equity, Prevention, Detection or Treatment**: The proposal's potential to have positive impact on the detection, treatment, or prevention of cancer or pre-cancer will be assessed.
5. **Project Impact and Deliverables**: Reviewers will assess the potential impact of the proposal in the field of cancer research and cancer care. This includes considering the likelihood of new or expanded clinical trials, advancement or development of new screening or diagnostic tools to the pre-clinical or clinical stage, the development or advancement of new therapies, drug repurposing, new combinations, interventions or therapeutic strategies. Applicants should highlight any expected deliverables that are realistically achievable, this could include publications and the generation of data that supports follow on studies/grant funding at Curebound or elsewhere.
6. **Collaboration**: Reviewers will evaluate the strengths and benefits of interdisciplinary and/or inter-institutional team as well as the synergy created by the collaboration.
7. **Feasibility**: Reviewers will evaluate the likelihood that the research project will achieve its stated goals, considering the requested budget, team expertise, institutional environments, and other available resources. New or early-stage investigators will be assessed based on their level of experience in the field.
8. **Outcome Sharing**: Grant awardees should demonstrate a clear commitment to making all data resulting from their work available to the cancer research community at large at the earliest opportunity.

**Cure Prizes:** Will fund ground-breaking ideas that have near term potential to change the course of events in cancer prevention, diagnosis and/or treatment.

Grant Details:

* Up to $1,000,000 for a 2 to 3-years award *inclusive of up to 30% IDC*

Reviewers will be asked to assess whether a Cure Prize proposal has the potential to improve the standard of care and have patient application within 3-5 years. If a proposal meets this threshold reviewers will evaluate Cure Prize proposals using the following criteria:

1. **Scientific Merit**: Reviewers will evaluate the appropriateness of the research project's design, methodology, data collection, and analysis. The strength of supporting evidence, whether published or preliminary, for the research hypothesis will be considered.
2. **Significance of the Proposed Research**: Reviewers will assess whether the proposal addresses a critical unmet need and is likely to rapidly improve current approaches in cancer care. They will evaluate the path by which outcomes can be translated from the research stage to the clinic or community, as well as the alignment with Curebound's Investment Pillars.
3. **Innovation:** Reviewers will evaluate how well the proposal capitalizes on new concepts, methodologies, or emerging therapies, therapeutic technologies, biomarkers, or novel combinations of existing ones.
4. **Positive Impact on Cancer Equity, Detection, Treatment, or Prevention:** The proposal's direct positive impact on the detection, treatment, or prevention of cancer or pre-cancers will be evaluated.
5. **Project Impact and Deliverables**: Reviewers will assess the impact of the proposal in the clinic and field of cancer research. This includes considering the likelihood of new or expanded clinical trials and/or improvements to the standard of care. The generation of meaningful data for publication and future grant funding. Applicants are advised to highlight any deliverables that they realistically expect to generate.
6. **Collaboration**: Reviewers will evaluate the strengths and benefits of the interdisciplinary and inter-institutional team as well as the synergy generated by the collaboration. New or early-stage co-investigators will be assessed based on their level of experience in the field.
7. **Feasibility:** Reviewers will evaluate the likelihood that the research project will achieve its stated goals, considering the requested budget, team expertise, institutional environments, and other available resources.
8. **Outcome Sharing**: Applicants are expected to commit to making all data resulting from their work available to the cancer research community at large at the earliest opportunity.

**The deadline for submission is: Midnight, Tuesday August 1st**.

**GRANT APPLICATION SYSTEM AT PROPOSAL CENTRAL**

**Team Leaders** will receive and invitation email from pcsupport@altum.com

* If this is your first-time logging into ProposalCentral, please use the following link to generate a password reset email: <https://proposalcentral.com/ForgotPassword.asp>
* Or log into your ProposalCentral account at <https://proposalcentral.com/>
* Once logged into ProposalCentral, click on the Home tab, then click on the Application Identifier to access the application form.

**Key steps**

1. If the Team Leader doesn’t have an Orc ID register for one at <https://orcid.org/>
2. You may give Co-PIs, collaborators and administrators access to the application under tab 2 ‘[Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal](https://staging.proposalcentral.com/ProposalAccess.asp?ProposalID=126181&token1=%EF%BF%BD%EF%BF%BD%EF%BF%BD%EF%BF%BD%EF%BF%BD%EF%BF%BD%EF%BF%BD%EF%BF%BD%EF%BF%BD%EF%BF%BD&token2=22712580)’.
3. Eligible Institutes are listed on the Institution & Contacts page.
	1. Institutes and Contacts should be prepopulated in tabs 3 and 4.
4. Demographics are optional.

The following documents are required.

1. Research Strategy
2. References
3. Biosketch for Team Lead
4. Biosketch for Key Personnel
5. Detailed Budget and Budget Justification
6. If the proposal involves clinical trials, study patients, or biospecimens approval documents are to be attached in the upload section.

Saved applications can be accessed from the Home or Proposals tabs.

For frequently asked questions, please use the following link: <https://docs.proposalcentral.com/User%20FAQs.pdf>

* Alternatively, click “Help**”** or contact ProposalCentral Customer Support at pcsupport@altum.com or 1-800-875-2562.
* For Program related questions, please email research@curebound.org.