

Research Funding Opportunities



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Career Growth & Research Excellence Program
ACS Extramural Discovery Science
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Our Vision:

End cancer as we know it, for everyone.

Our Mission:

To improve the lives of people with cancer and their families through advocacy, research, and patient support to ensure everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.

The American Cancer Society exists because the burden of cancer is unacceptably high.

ACS Integrated Approach

Combating cancer through advocacy, research and patient support to impact **80 million lives** annually

Discovery

\$461M
in grants

Largest private, non-profit funder of cancer research in the US

Advocacy

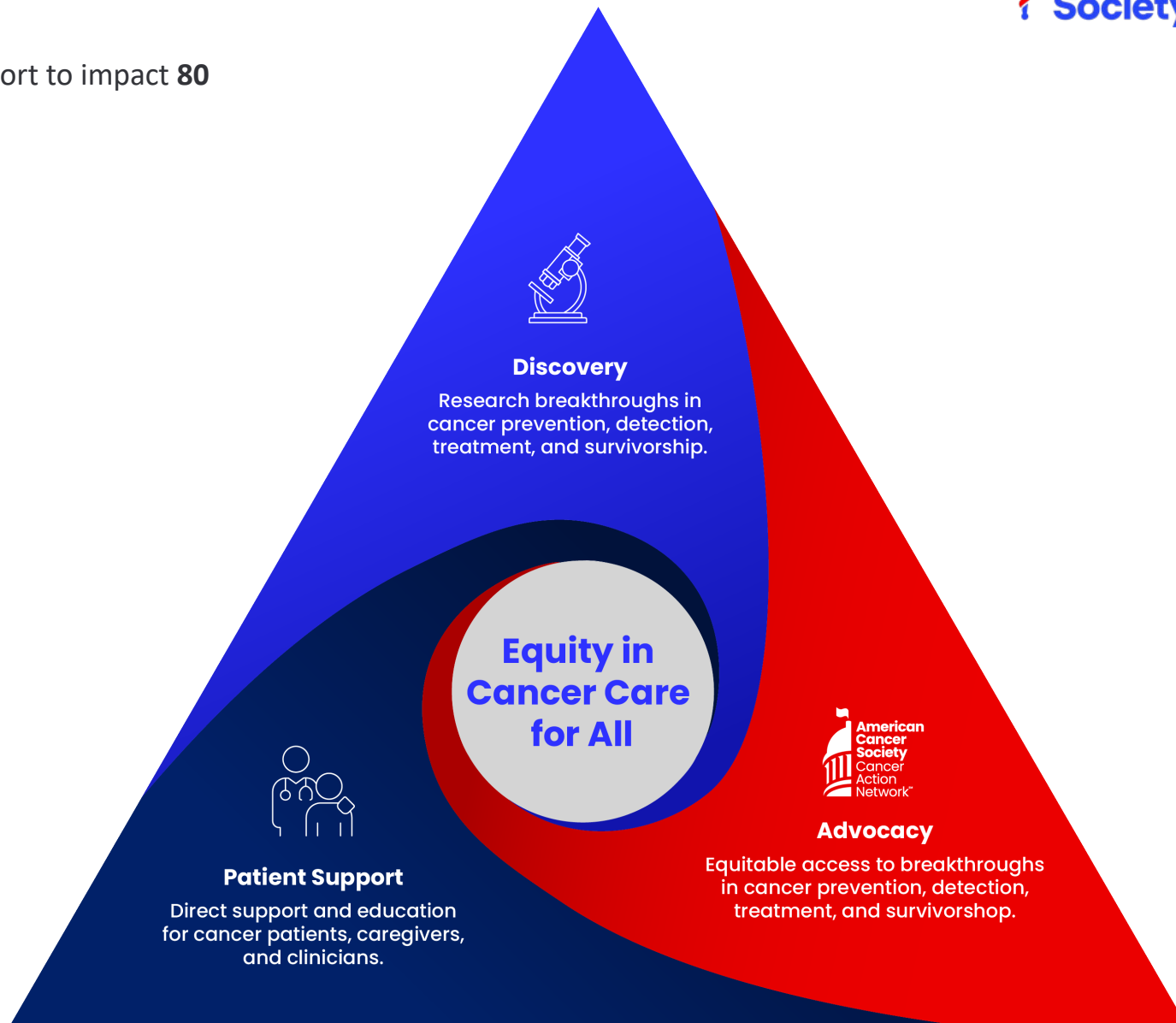
50 states
the District of Columbia
Puerto Rico & Guam

Advocacy presence at every level of government

Patient Support

20,000+
communities*

Direct patient support in prevention, screening, lodging, transportation, navigation, survivorship, education



*Reflects zip codes touched by patient support programs & services within the U.S. and its territories

Overview of ACS Extramural Discovery Science

Extramural Discovery Science (EDS)



Research We Fund

Largest private non-profit funder of cancer research in the US

Over \$5B in research funded since the 1940's

Often first major grant to establish early-stage researchers

Funded 53 investigators that have won the Nobel Prize

We've funded: >32,000 grants, >25,000 investigators, >1,100 institutions

Current ACS-funded research grants

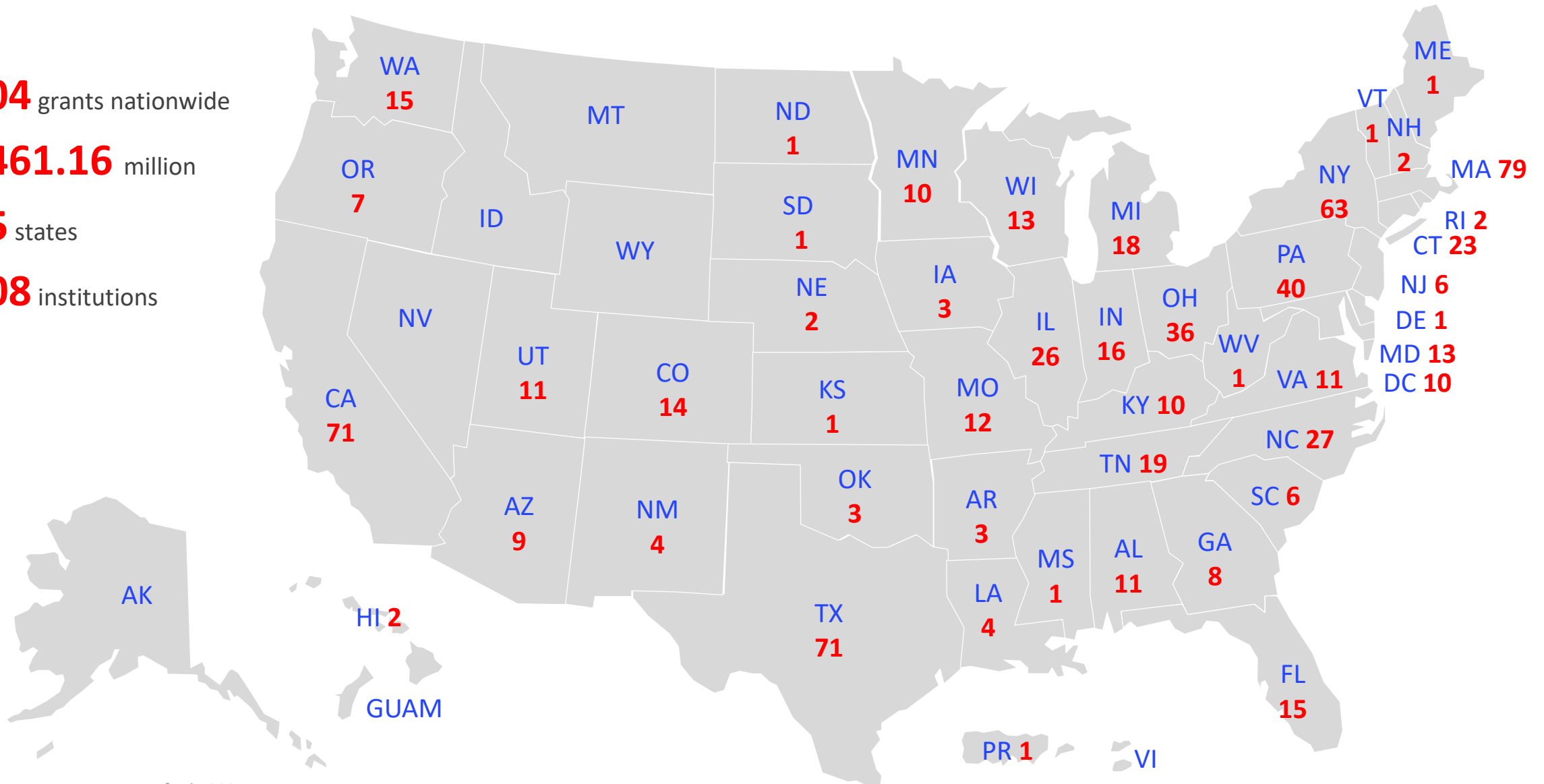


704 grants nationwide

\$461.16 million

45 states

208 institutions



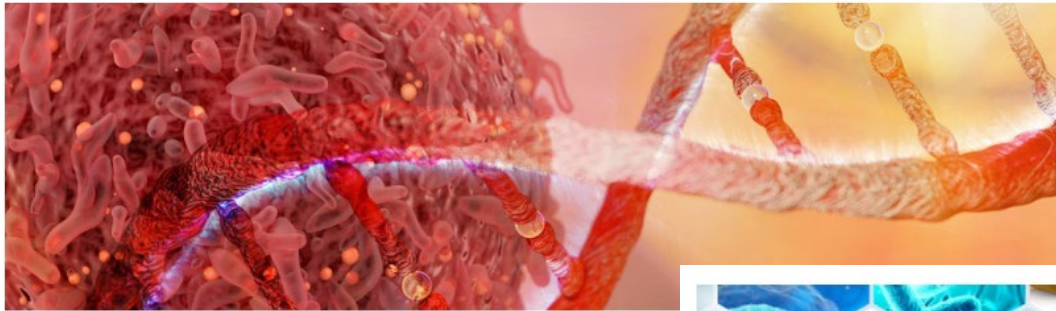
As of July 2024

ACS Grant Mechanisms and Career Stage



ACS funds all aspects of cancer research

- We fund research across the cancer continuum



Fundamental science

Preclinical and
translational research



Clinical studies



Extramural Discovery Science Research Programs

Scientific Directors
Program Managers

Doug Hurst, PhD
Santina Snow, PhD

Paul Campbell, PhD
Kim Yasutis, PhD

Joanne Elena, PhD, MPH
Sandra Schimmel, PhD, RN

Scientific Programs

Biochemistry &
Immunology of
Cancer

Cell Biology
& Preclinical Cancer
Research

Clinical &
Population
Sciences

Standard
Peer Review
Committees

Immunol & Blood Cell Develop
DNA Mechanisms of Cancer
RNA Mechanisms of Cancer
Tumor Biochem & Endocrinology

Cancer Cell Biology
Cancer Detection & Progression
Experimental Therapeutics
Metastasis & Microenvironment

Cancer Prev & Health Prom
Cancer Tx, Pall Care & Survivorship
Etiology, Screening & Early Detection
Health Outcomes, Policy & Serv Res

Grant Mechanisms

Clinician Scientist Development Grants
Research Scholar Grants
Discovery Boost Grants

Extramural Discovery Science New Program

Career Growth and Research Excellence

The goal of this program is to launch the careers of early-stage scientists and to support the research and mentoring activities of elite investigators who are at the full Professor stage of their career.



Scientific Director
Program Manager

Kathy Goss, PhD
Nicole Lopanik, PhD

Grant
Mechanisms

Postdoctoral Fellowships
Institutional Research Grants
ACS Professor Awards

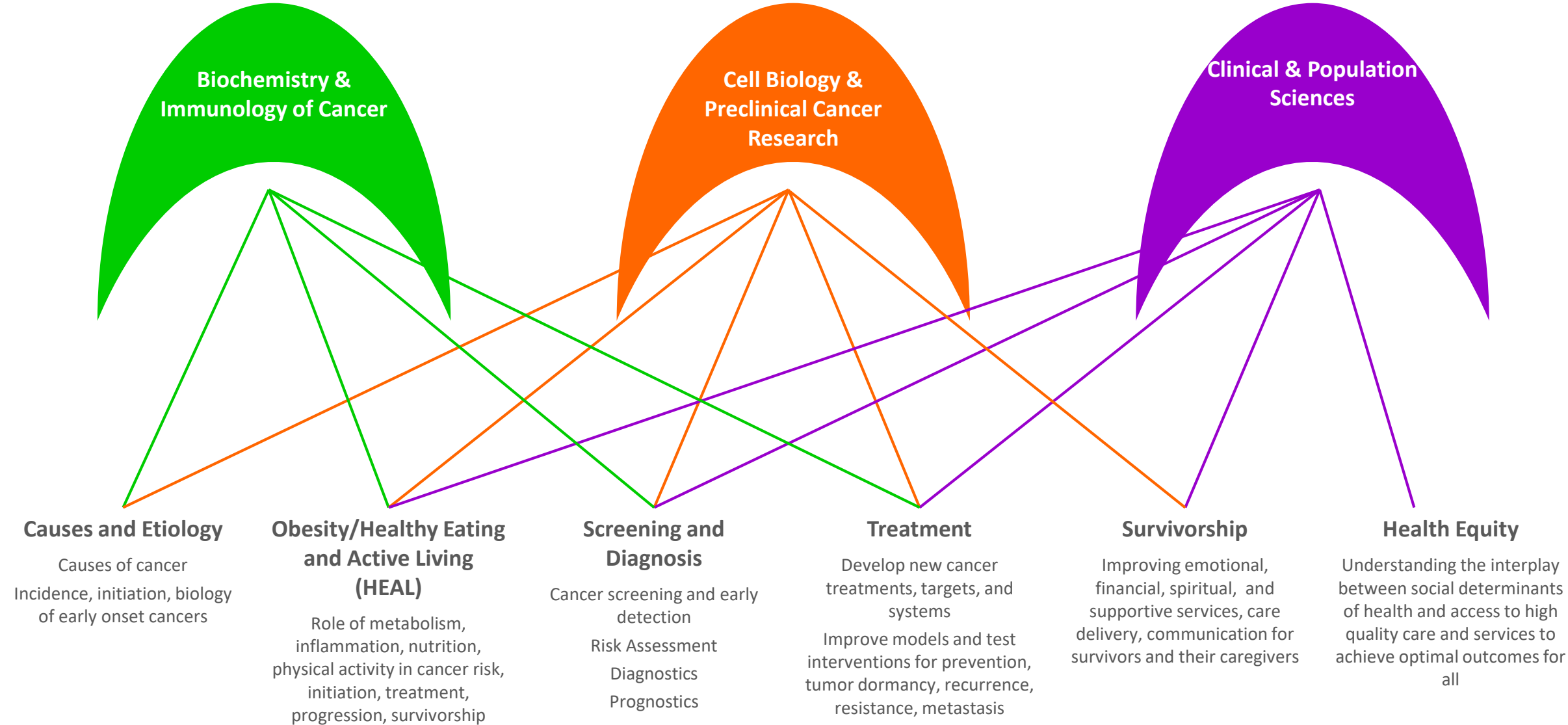
Peer Review
Committees

PF Molecular Biology & Biochemistry
PF Cell Biology & Immunology
PF Cancer Detection & Experimental
Therapeutics
PF Clinical & Population Sciences
Institutional Research Grants
ACS Professor Awards



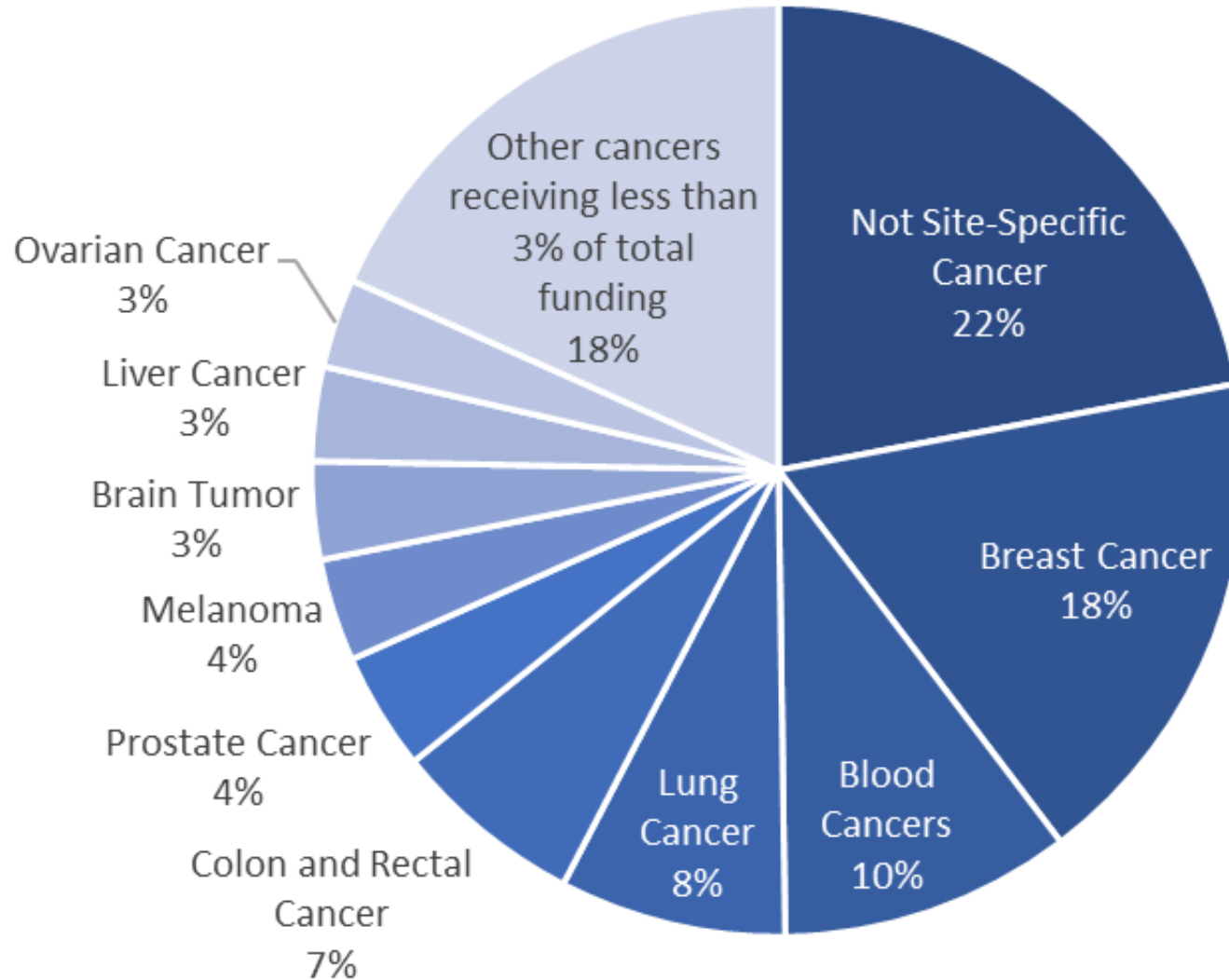
ACS has six research priorities that span the cancer continuum

Extramural Discovery Science Research Priorities



Proposed research must fit into one or more of these priorities.

What cancer types do we fund?



Our cancer research portfolio is broad – ANY type of cancer and within ANY part of the research continuum



ACS Funding Opportunities

<https://www.cancer.org/research/we-fund-cancer-research.html>

Postdoctoral Fellowship (PF)

Purpose

Support an investigator to develop skills necessary to be competitive for an independent career in cancer research

Eligibility

Doctoral degree held **LESS than 4 years** from time of submission (clinical training time is not counted)

Open to US citizens **and non-citizens** at an eligible US institution

Term and Budget

2 or 3 years with progressive stipends of **\$66,000, \$68,000, and \$70,000** per year, plus \$4,000 per year fellowship allowance; \$1,500 travel allowance in last year

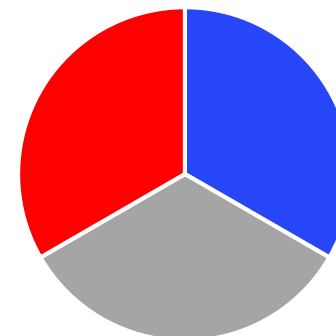
Resubmission

One resubmission permitted



EVALUATION CRITERIA:

CANDIDATE



TRAINING PLAN

RESEARCH PLAN

Clinician Scientist Development Grant (CSDG)

Purpose

Supports clinical faculty members seeking to establish a research program as an independent investigator

Eligibility

Full-time clinical faculty member with very little mentored research experience. Terminal degree with an active license to provide clinical care.

Term and Budget

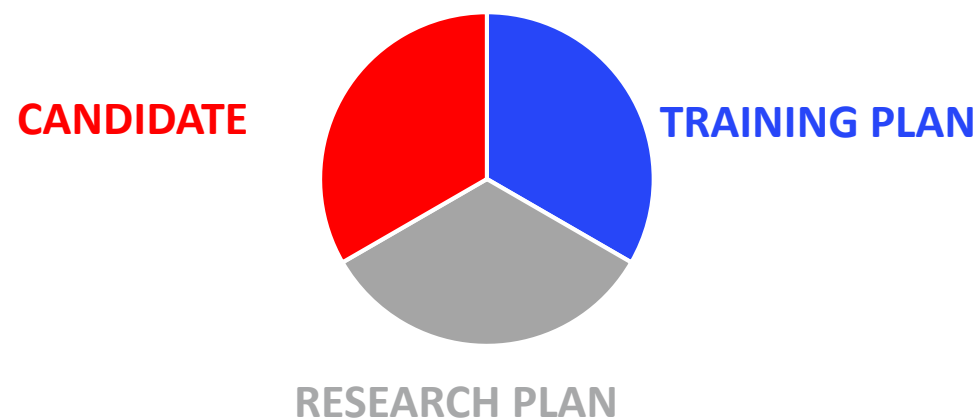
3 to 5 years and **\$135,000** per year in direct costs, plus 8% allowable indirect costs

Resubmission

Two resubmissions permitted



EVALUATION CRITERIA:



Research Scholar Grant (RSG)

Purpose

Provide support for independent, self-directed researchers

Eligibility

Investigators within first 10 years of initial independent research career or full-time faculty appointment

Term and Budget

Up to 4 years and **\$215,000** per year in direct costs, plus 10% allowable indirect costs

Resubmission

Two resubmissions permitted



Discovery Boost Grant (DBG)

Purpose

Support exploratory research to develop methodologies, establish feasibility, or pilot test high-risk/high-reward projects

Eligibility

Independent investigators at any career stage

Term and Budget

Up to 2 years and **\$135,000** per year direct costs, plus 10% allowable indirect costs

Resubmission

One resubmission permitted



Mission Boost Grant (MBG)

Purpose

Support clinical enabling research

Eligibility

Current and previous ACS grantees including former postdoctoral fellows

Term and Budget

Stage I: Two years and **\$135,000** per year direct costs, plus 10% allowable indirect costs

Stage II: 18 months and **\$545,000** total direct costs, plus 10% allowable indirect costs

Resubmission

One resubmission permitted for each stage



There is a standing peer review study section specifically for all MBG applications.

EDS Accelerator Grant

Purpose

Support commercialization of research

Eligibility

Current and previous ACS grantees including former postdoctoral fellows

Term and Budget

One year and **\$75,000** direct costs, no indirects

Application Deadline

Rolling application



Institutional Research Grant (IRG)

- **Purpose**
 - Institutional grants awarded as block grants
 - Provide seed money for early-stage independent investigators to develop cancer research projects (Pilot grant)
- **Pilot Grant Eligibility**
 - Faculty members within first 6 years of appointment
- **Term and Budget**
 - For institution: \$120,000 per year for 1-3 years, direct costs only
 - Allows for up to 3 one-year pilot grants of \$40,000 each

See Cancer.org for special initiatives

- Cancer Health Equity Research Center (CHERC)
- Improving Mortality from Prostate Cancer Together (IMPACT)
- Real-World Data Impact Award (RWIA)
- Leukemia Exploration and Prevention Grant Program (LEAP)
- EDS Accelerator Grant

Helpful links:

- <https://www.cancer.org/research/we-fund-cancer-research/apply-research-grant.html> (link to all grant mechanisms)
- <https://proposalcentral.com/Insights/Yrlp59zpbg%3D/Public/Index> (link to searchable database of ACS funded grants)

ACS Center for Diversity in Cancer Research T

The **Center for DICR Training** funds hands-on research programs for student populations who are under-represented in the cancer workforce.



Ellie Daniels, MD, MPH

The Center currently funds three programs:

- Summer HealthCare Experience (SHE) for high school students who identify as female
- Diversity in Cancer Research (DICR) Internship for undergraduates
- Post-Baccalaureate Fellows Program for doctoral degree prep

Training programs that bring more diversity into cancer research help the ACS build capacity toward our mission to ensure everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.

<https://www.cancer.org/research/acs-center-for-diversity-in-cancer-research-training.html>

Thoughts for all ACS Grants

- General audience summaries have more impact if written free of technical jargon
 - Make sure a lay audience appreciates the significance of proposed work
 - Very important for evaluation by the community research partner
- Reviewers will carefully evaluate your budget, institution, collaborators, basically ANYWHERE you invite them in, so make sure that everything fits together well
- Listen to the reviewers; their comments are an honest effort to make your application and your science better
- Proof carefully for typos and other mistakes

Benefits of being an ACS Applicant/Grantee

Applicants:

- Peer review system is designed to help the applicant improve their science
 - **Foster a mentoring atmosphere during peer review meetings**
 - **Scientific reviewers provide constructive criticism for applicants**
- Grant mechanisms for young, mid-level, and senior investigators

Grantees:

- Opportunities specific for previous grantees (TLC, MBG, Accelerator)
- Provide networking and mentoring opportunities for early-stage researchers with distinguished ACS Professors
- Policies with the goal to help grantees do their best research
 - **Generous PF parental leave policy**
 - **Increased stipends, opened eligibility for PFs**
 - **Increased \$\$ for DBGs, MBGs, RSGs**

Important changes to deadlines in 2025

To align with our recently changed fiscal year, Extramural Discovery Science is moving our standard application deadlines starting in 2025.

Step in Process	Summer	Winter
Applications open in Proposal Central	March	September
Deadline for standard mechanisms*	<u>June 1</u>	<u>Dec 1</u>
Peer Review Completed	September	March
Funding Decisions Finalized	December	June
Notification of Award	January	August
Grant Start Date	April 1	October 1

* Institutional Research Grant applications will follow the Summer cycle. ACS Professor Award applications and renewals will follow the Winter cycle.



Thank you!

See [cancer.org](https://www.cancer.org) for more information