



The P³ Catalyst Awards (Practice-Changing, Paradigm-Shifting, Policy-Creating)

The Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center (VICC) announces a funding opportunity to support impactful cancer-related projects at any stage of research (i.e., pilot projects, need for translation, etc.) from any stage faculty member. This award aims to provide funding to support paradigm-shifting, practice-changing, or policy-creating research.

Both single PI and collaborative project proposals are eligible for an annual award of \$100,000 (direct costs). If awarded, there may be an opportunity to request an additional year of funding based on the progress of the project. The awarding of additional funds is subject to review by VICC Senior Leadership.

The application and evaluation process will be in two stages. First, applicants will submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) up to two pages in length that contains the Title, Proposal PD/PI(s), Background, Hypothesis, Specific Aims (including the Approach), and a brief paragraph regarding cancer relevance to the “P³”. Top candidates from the submitted LOIs will be invited to a “Shark Tank” style in-person meeting to provide a five-minute presentation of their work, followed by a five-minute question and answer session. Projects will be evaluated and voted upon at the end of this meeting, with awardees notified shortly thereafter. Lay audience members who helped raise philanthropic funds to support this funding will also be invited to participate and vote.

Eligibility Criteria

- Faculty from Vanderbilt University, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Meharry Medical College, and Tennessee State University are eligible to apply. Early-career investigators, including Instructors and Research Assistant or Research Associate Professors, are eligible but must have a senior (Associate Professor or Professor) mentor named as part of the research team.
- Projects can be focused on any area of cancer research.
- Proposals should focus on **Practice-Changing, Paradigm-Shifting, Policy-Creating** cancer research.

Selection Process

- **Submission:**
 - A Letter of Intent (LOI) no longer than two pages, using 11-point, Arial font, including Title, Proposal PD/PI(s), Background, Hypothesis, Specific Aims (including the Approach), and a short statement describing how the research is cancer-relevant and addresses at least one of the “P³”
 - A brief lay summary (one page or less) of the proposal
 - NIH biosketches for all key personnel
- **LOI Review:**
 - A peer-reviewed panel will evaluate submitted LOIs and select finalists based on impact and scientific merit.
- **Presentation:**
 - Proposals deemed as finalists will provide a five-minute “Shark Tank” style pitch presentation to the review committee inclusive of a virtual lay audience, followed by a five-minute Q and A session.
 - **The presentation round will take place on Thursday, March 6, 2025, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm in the Preston Research Building.** Please hold this time on your calendar; finalists will receive more information on their specific presentation time as the review process unfolds. Presenters will only have to attend for their 10-minute time slot.
 - Reviewers will focus on significance and impact, defined as **Practice-Changing, Paradigm-Shifting, Policy-Creating** cancer research.
 - The submission of an NIH budget and justification is required for all finalists prior to March 6th.



Deliverable Requirements of Awardees

- A final written progress report, including financial reporting, will be required at the end of the funding period.

All LOIs are due Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 11:59 pm. To submit your application electronically, please submit a single PDF containing all documentation through the [VICC Pilot Project Application Portal](#). A link to the VICC Pilot Project Application Portal can also be found at the top right-hand corner of the VICC Funding Opportunities web page (<http://www.vicc.org/research/funding/>). Finalists will be notified by January 2025, with presentations scheduled thereafter. The starting date of the P³ Catalyst Award is flexible.

If you have further questions or comments, please contact Lindsay Jensen (lindsay.jensen@vumc.org).