



# A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation

## 2016 A Breath of Hope Research Fellowship Request for Proposals 2016, Lung Cancer in Women

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation  
P.O. Box 387  
Wayzata, MN 55391  
[research@abreathofhope.org](mailto:research@abreathofhope.org)  
[www.abreathofhope.org](http://www.abreathofhope.org)

**Mission:** *A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation* fights lung cancer by funding innovative research and raising awareness through education and patient support.

**History:** *A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation* was founded in 2008 by a small group of Minnesota lung cancer patients after they organized a race to raise awareness about lung cancer. Young, old, smokers, nonsmokers, male and female...each of the founders was shocked to learn that while thousands of families are affected by lung cancer each year, the disease remains overlooked and underfunded.

**Nonprofit EIN #: 30 0475578**

**Accountability:** *A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation* has met or exceeded all accountability standards through the Charities Review Council of Minnesota.

### **Purpose of Fellowship**

*A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation (ABOHLF)* will provide funding to clinical investigators in the form of a two-year \$150,000 award designed to support salaries and other costs related to retaining research talent in the field of lung cancer. Lung cancer is the deadliest cancer killing 160,000 Americans each year, yet research funding support remains disproportionately low. Consequently, there is an ongoing departure of talented scientists from lung cancer research to other, better funded research fields. Through these fellowships, *ABOHLF* ensures that chosen research institutions have the resources needed to retain bright young scientists committed to reducing the U.S. lung cancer mortality rate.

*Topic Focus Area:* Lung cancer claims nearly twice as many women's lives as breast cancer, yet funding for lung cancer research per cancer death is significantly lower. Lung cancer is often assumed to be caused by smoking, yet one in five women with a lung cancer diagnosis has never smoked. Among those women with a smoking history, their lung cancer diagnosis often comes ten to twenty years after they quit smoking.

Many healthcare organizations report a growing number of lung cancer cases among women. **This RFP focuses on developing knowledge, understanding and solutions to lung cancer in women.**

### **Funding Available**

The total award amount for this fellowship is \$150,000 payable on February 1, 2017, August 1, 2017, February 1, 2018 and August 1, 2018 in increments of \$37,500. The number of grants available in this 2016 RFP is one, with additional grants to be announced separately or in future years at dates determined by *ABOHLF*.

**Application extended deadline: July 1, 2016, 11:59 p.m. CST**

**Winning Proposal Announcement: November 1, 2016**

### **Eligibility Criteria**

*A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation (ABOHLF)*, in collaboration with its panel of experts in the field of oncology, will evaluate the merit of research proposals submitted in response to the request for proposals announcement (RFP). The RFP eligibility form and summary are available at: [www.abreathofhope.org/research](http://www.abreathofhope.org/research).

The principal investigators of proposals must have one of the following credentials: M.D., M.D. /Ph.D., PhD, D.O., DrPH or MS and be in their first five years of their first full-time faculty appointment in a U.S Research Institution. Researchers must be able to spend at least 50% of their time in lung cancer research.

The maximum period of performance is two years. The maximum allowable funding for the entire period of performance is \$150,000.

### **Research Focus Area**

ABOHLF requests proposals that address the following scientific area: **Lung Cancer in Women.**

## **I. TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION AND REVIEW**

Submission is a two-step process:

- Complete eligibility form at [www.abreathofhope.org/research](http://www.abreathofhope.org/research)
- Upon verification of eligibility, ABOHLF will email the link to the online application. Applications can be mailed, emailed in PDF form, or submitted online.
- **January 1, 2016:** Announcement of request for proposals (RFP)
- **July 1, 2016, 11:59 p.m. CST:** New close date for applications/submissions
- **July 1 – August 31, 2016:** Scientific Peer Review
- **September-October, 2016:** Finalists contacted for possible site visits or conference call visits
- **November 1, 2016:** Public announcement of name of *A Breath of Hope Women & Lung Cancer Research Fellow*; Press Release. Funding notifications mailed.
- **February 1, 2017:** First of four semi-annual disbursements to institution employing chosen Fellow (\$37,500). Fellowship payments made: February 1, 2017, August 1, 2017, February 1, 2018 and August 1, 2018. \*\*Note: The second year of support is contingent upon the recipient's demonstration of satisfactory progress. Payments will be made to the financial officer of the Fellow's employer/sponsoring institution.
- **2017-2018:** ABOH Research Fellows travel to Minnesota one time (1-2 day trip) to be recognized by and to meet key donors/supporters/staff/board of directors.
- **Note: July 1, 2017 – First one page bi-annual progress report due to: [research@abreathofhope.org](mailto:research@abreathofhope.org)**

## **II. SUBMISSION PROCESS**

The full application must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST on July 1, 2016. Late submissions will not be considered. Applicants are encouraged to submit early because technical assistance will not be available past the close of the business day – 5 p.m. CST.

Application Components:

1. **Contact Information:** Applicant and institution information, including phone and email.
2. **Project Information:** This section includes the following information about the proposed project:

- a. Project title
  - b. Research focus area(s)
  - c. Assurances for use of human and/or animal subjects in the research proposal
  - d. Abstract – a brief abstract of the research proposal must be entered (<350 words)
3. **Specific Aims:** List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology. The specific aims should state concisely and realistically what the research intends to accomplish and/or what hypothesis is to be tested, and should list measurable objectives for the proposed project.
4. **Personal Statement Questions:** Please briefly answer the following questions which are located in the text box areas on the online application. Each question has a maximum limit of 350 words.
- a. What is the applicant's career plan, including short and long term goals around lung cancer research?
  - b. How would receiving this award affect the applicant's career in lung cancer research?
  - c. What is the percentage of time the applicant spends on research activities?
  - d. What is the applicant's role versus the mentor's role in the proposed research study?
  - e. What additional resources are available to support the applicant and the project?
  - f. What are the other sources of salary support?
  - g. Who will collect and analyze the data?
  - h. What is the clinical potential of this research project?
  - i. Was this research proposal submitted and/or will be submitted to other funding agencies/organizations?
  - j. What additional responsibilities does the applicant have responsibility for during the two year fellowship timeframe? Please list all non-research activities.
5. **Applicant's Biosketch:** Applicants may use their current biosketch if they have one available. The biosketch must have no more than four pages.
6. **Research Strategy:** The research strategy should be limited to six (6) typewritten, single-spaced pages, with one-inch margins and 11 point Arial font type. ALL pertinent tables, pictures, and graphs MUST be included within the 6-page limit: The Research Strategy must contain the following information:
- a. **Significance and Background:**
    - i. Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses (purpose of fellowship).
    - ii. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or critical practice in lung cancer cases in women.
    - iii. Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will change if the proposed aims are achieved.
  - b. **Innovation:**
    - i. Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
    - ii. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approached or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
    - iii. Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

- c. **Approach and Feasibility:**
- i. Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.
  - ii. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
  - iii. If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work.
  - iv. Please include appropriate detail and/or documentation in the Supporting Documentation section to assure a reviewer that your project is feasible in the timeframe of the grant. Examples include: a letter confirming you will have access to an experimental therapy or an approval letter from CTEP or a cooperative group.
  - v. Clearly state the applicant's role in the project (i.e. writing of protocol, performing the assays, etc.).
  - vi. When human subjects are involved, the precautions to ensure patient safety and confidentiality and the relevance or implications for patient care should be explained.
  - vii. List and describe the facilities and resources available to conduct the study, including a description of industry support for any clinical trials.
- d. **Statistical Analysis:** A statistical consideration section is required for all applications. This section should include the primary objective/hypothesis and primary endpoint of the study, justification of the proposed study sample size, procedures for data analysis, and appropriate statistical considerations. Any laboratory-based in vitro research aims should also include the primary objective/hypothesis and primary endpoint of the study, procedures for data analysis, and appropriate statistical details that describe the summary measures that will be used to meet the objectives of the study. It is highly recommended that you consult with a biostatistician before you submit your application.
7. **Cited References:** A list of cited references in the Research Strategy should be added and does not account for six page limits.
  8. **Institutional Letter of Support:** A letter from the Department Chair or Dean at the sponsoring institution where the applicant's research project will be conducted must be provided. This letter must include a statement of institutional support that will enable the applicant to perform the proposed research. If the mentor is the Department Chair, the Institutional Letter of Support must come from the Dean.
  9. **Clinical Protocol** (optional): If your project involves a clinical protocol, you are highly encouraged to add a copy of the protocol.
  10. **Prior Publications** (optional): Up to two prior publications may be included. The applicant must be a co-author on these publications.
  11. **Supporting Documentation** (optional): This section may be used to upload any necessary additional information required to properly review the application (i.e. a letter from a drug company that they will provide the investigational drug, a letter of collaboration from another laboratory providing expertise for this project, etc.). Applicants are encouraged to provide a letter of support for any investigational agents.
  12. **Project Timeline:** Enter major milestones for your project, the expected completion date, and if there is an associated deliverable. A deliverable is something that can be included in a progress report, such as a publication or an approval letter. You are not required to have deliverables. However, the timeline should make it clear what outcomes will be achieved during the grant award period.

13. **Budget and Justification:** The award funds will be directed to the sponsoring institution and should be used towards salary support, supplies, and travel necessary for the pursuit of the recipient's research project. The budget must be directly entered into the ABOHLF budget form found at the end of this RFP. Budget justification for the entire project period must be entered for each line item requested in the "Notes" section.
14. **Mentor's Biosketch:** Mentors may use their current NIH biosketch if they have one available or they may use the biosketch template provided in the online application. The biosketch must be no more than four pages.
15. **Letter of Support:** This should include the following information:
  - a. Training plan for the applicant, including intended structure of the mentor/investigator interaction during the proposed investigation;
  - b. Confirmation that the applicant is within the first five years of a full-time, faculty appointment;
  - c. A critical review of both the applicant and the research proposal;
  - d. The role(s) or anticipated role(s) the applicant holds (will hold) at the institution;
  - e. The level of institutional commitment to the applicant's career development as an independent clinical investigator; and
  - f. Assurance that the applicant's sponsoring institution will provide adequate facilities and support for performance of the proposed work.
16. **Institutional Approval:** The Authorized Official representing the institution of the applicant must approve the completed application (both the project proposal and the budget) before submission. This official is normally from the institution's Office of Sponsored Research.
17. **Human Participants Certification:** If applicable, the applicant must provide verification of project approval from the institution's ethical review board, or notification to ABOHLF if approval is pending.

**Additional Information:**

- **Use of fellowship funds** - The ABOHLF Research Fellowship is designed to be used for salary costs and approved fringe costs for the principle researcher.
- **Change of employment** - ABOHLF will have final approval rights of any change of sponsoring institution. Request to continue receiving funding must be submitted in writing to [research@abreathofhope.org](mailto:research@abreathofhope.org).
- **Progress Reports** - Progress reports are due two to four weeks before each fellowship payment. Due dates:
  - By July 1, 2017
  - By January 15, 2018
  - By July 15, 2018
- **Leave of absence** - A written request must be submitted to *A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation* Research Committee and permission shall be granted at the discretion of ABOHLF.
- **Patient and Intellectual property** – The sponsoring institution agrees to notify ABOHLF at [research@abreathofhope.org](mailto:research@abreathofhope.org) in the case of patent applications or decisions to seek legal protection for intellectual property. ABOHLF will keep all information confidential. Any expenses related to patents shall fall on the sponsoring institution. The patent policies of the sponsoring institution shall guide all discoveries or intellectual properties that result from support of fellowship recipient.

- **Confidentiality** – All A Breath of Hope Research Fellowship applications, progress reports and scoring are held confidential by ABOHLF. Submitted proposals become the property of ABOHLF and will not be returned.
- **Disclaimer** - *A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation* does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, creed, religion, sexual orientation, disability, nationality, age or any other factors that are irrelevant to the quality of the research project being accomplished by applicants.

**For questions about the *fellowship competition*, please contact:**

**Dr. Arek Dudek at: 312-413-8878 or by email: [adudek@uic.edu](mailto:adudek@uic.edu)**

**For questions about the *application process*, please contact:**

**Nancy Torrison at 952-456-2463 or by email: [nancy@abreathofhope.org](mailto:nancy@abreathofhope.org)**