ANNOUNCING
A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation’s 2021
Peg Fisher-Jullie Fight for Life Award $150,000

Request for Letters of Intent opens September 1, 2020 and closes October 15, 2020. RFP information below.

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation
P.O. Box 387
Wayzata, MN 55391
research@abreathofhope.org
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 group of Minnesota lung cancer patients and caregivers after they organized a race to raise awareness about the world’s deadliest cancer - lung cancer. Each of the founders, whether they smoked or not, were shocked to learn that this disease carries a societal stigma that leaves families coping with blame, shame, and misinformation, as well as inadequate research funding levels. Fourteen years later, A Breath of Hope has funded nearly $2,000,000 in U.S. research projects focused on earlier detection and late stage treatments and serves thousands of patients each year with rides to treatment, support groups, and patient education (abreathofhope.org or youandlungcancer.com).

Nonprofit EIN #: 30-0475578

Accountability: A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation meets or exceeds all accountability standards through the Charities Review Council of Minnesota and was found to be fully compliant in its 2019 audit.

Purpose of Award
A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation (ABOHLF) will provide funding to the winning investigator in the form of a $150,000 award disbursed every six months over two years. The award is 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 150,000 Americans each year, yet research funding support remains disproportionately low per cancer death. ABOHLF ensures that chosen researchers and research institutions have the resources needed to conduct research projects focused on reducing the U.S. lung cancer mortality rate.

Funding Available in 2021-2022
The total award amount for the 2021 award is $150,000 payable on February 1, 2021, August 1, 2021, February 1, 2022, and August 1, 2022 in increments of $37,500 contingent upon receipt of two progress reports (one scientific and one for lay audience and our website) detailing work completed over the prior six-month period and future goals. The number of grants available in this 2021 RFP is one, with additional grants to be announced at future dates as determined by ABOHLF.

- **ABOHLF allows up to 10% in indirect costs.** These costs are part of the total award of $150,000. Indirect costs include costs such as departmental accounting and clerical support, network support, equipment depreciation, building and facilities operation and maintenance, library, general and sponsored projects administration.

**Eligibility and Letter of Intent form, deadline:** October 15, 2020

**Full proposal from invited applicants, deadline:** December 15, 2020

**Announcement of winning proposal:** February 1, 2021

**Eligibility Criteria**

*A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation (ABOHLF), in collaboration with its panel of experts in the field of thoracic oncology, will evaluate the merit of research proposals submitted in response to the request for proposals announcement (RFP) from applicants who meet the following eligibility requirements.*

**RFP ELIGIBILITY includes the following criteria:**

- Must hold a doctoral degree (MD, PhD, DO, DrPH, or equivalent)
- Must be employed by a U.S. research institution (proof of Visa required)
- If project involves people or animals, you must have received approval from your institution’s respective review board(s) before disbursement of funds
- Special consideration will be given to early career investigators, especially those who have not yet procured federal funding

**Preferred topic:** Proposals are required to address major unanswered questions in the field of epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)-mutated lung cancers. **Topic areas include, but are not limited to the following:**

- Identifying and understanding novel mutations in the EGFR gene;
- Understanding mechanisms of drug resistance to currently available therapies;
- Predictive and prognostic markers to identify responders and non-responders;
- Approaches to overcome acquired or intrinsic resistance to available targeted therapies;
- Novel approaches to treating CNS metastases in EGFR-mutated lung cancer;
- Understanding the carcinogenesis of EGFR-mutated lung cancers;
- Novel diagnostic tools to identify EGFR-mutated lung cancers;
- Further understanding mechanisms of resistance to immunotherapy in EGFR-mutated lung cancer and understanding ways to overcome these mechanisms;
- Understanding mechanisms of transformation to small cell histology and treatment

**Eligibility summary:** The principal investigators of proposals must have one of the following credentials: M.D., M.D. /Ph.D., PhD, D.O., DrPH or MS in a faculty appointment in a U.S Research Institution. Researchers must be able to demonstrate adequate protected time for cancer research (40% or more protected research time) through their letter from the institution.

The maximum award period is two years. The maximum allowable funding for the award is $150,000.
I. TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

RFP Timeline:
- Sept. 1, 2020: Announcement of RFP and Request for Letter of Intent (LOI)
- Oct. 15, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.: Deadline for LOI submission. Online forms will be reviewed by the ABOHLF research committee
- Oct. 30, 2020: Up to 15 investigators will be invited to submit a full proposal
- Dec. 15, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.: Deadline for full proposal submission
- Jan. 15-25, 2021: ABOHLF Research Committee conducts virtual interviews with the finalists (and their mentor if applicable)
- Jan. 25, 2021: Winner is notified
- Feb. 1, 2021: Winner is announced; grant contract is sent to the winner’s institution; the first $37,500 installment is transferred to the institution (the timing of this initial installment is dependent on execution of the ABOHLF grant contract by the PI and institution)

II. SUBMISSION PROCESS

Complete Eligibility & LOI form by clicking link found at www.abreathofhope.org/research

A one-page letter of intent is required by 11:59 p.m. Oct. 15, 2020. Up to fifteen finalists will receive an invitation to submit a full proposal, and an online link to the full application will be shared. The LOI must include PI credentials, name of mentor from institution if applicable, a personal statement, and specific aims.

Full proposals must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST Dec. 15, 2020. 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 12/15/20 – 5:00 p.m. CST. In case of technical difficulties, proposals are accepted by email as well as through the online form. ABOHLF Email address: research@abreathofhope.org.

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 answer briefly as the following questions 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 impact 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 (*if applicable for those who are in their first seven years on faculty)?

e. What additional resources are available to support the applicant and the project?

f. What are the other sources of support?

g. Who will collect and analyze the data?

h. What is the translational and/or 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 award timeframe? Please list all non-research activities and percent effort allocated to those activities.

5. **Applicant's NIH Biosketch**: Should follow current NIH format, including past, current, and pending funding for their research.

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.
      ii. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or critical practice in one or more broad fields.
      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.

e. **Cited References.** A list of cited references in the Research Strategy should be added and does not count toward the six-page limit.

7. **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. For early-career applicants: If the mentor is the Department Chair, the Institutional Letter of Support must come from the Dean.

8. **Clinical Protocol** (optional). If your project involves a clinical protocol, you are highly encouraged to include a copy of the protocol.

9. **Prior Publications** (optional) – Up to two prior publications may be included. The applicant must be a co-author on these publications.

10. **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.

11. **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.

12. **Budget and Justification.** The award funds will be directed to the sponsoring institution and should be used towards salary support, personnel, supplies, and other necessary expenses (excluding equipment) 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 or submitted in a similar format. Budget justification for the entire project period must be entered for each line item requested in the “Notes” section.

13. **Letter of Support from a Mentor (**required for early career investigators who are in their first seven years on faculty**).** 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 seven years of the first 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 research program 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.

14. 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 and can be submitted as a letter of approval.

15. 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. Applicants will not be chosen if approval is not verified at the time of the review process.

Additional Information:

- **Use of award funds** - The 2021 ABOHLF Research Award 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 in the sponsoring institution. A request to continue receiving funding must be submitted in writing to: research@abreathofhope.org.

- **Progress Reports** – Two progress reports (one for lay audience to be shared publicly; one for research committee to be held in confidence) are due one to two weeks before each award payment with one final report at end of cycle. **Due dates:**
  - By July 15, 2021
  - By January 15, 2022
  - By July 15, 2022
  - Final report due by end of year, 2022

- **Leave of absence** - A written request must be submitted to A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation (ABOHLF) Research Committee and permission shall be granted at the discretion of ABOHLF. If permission is not granted, unused funds will be returned to ABOHLF.

- **Patient and Intellectual property** – The sponsoring institution agrees to notify ABOHLF at 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 award recipient.

- **Confidentiality** – Other than lay reports produced by PI’s, all A Breath of Hope Research Award 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 award competition, please contact Nancy Torrison at ABOHLF:

research@abreathofhope.org or 952-807-6111