



American Society of Clinical Oncology

Making a world of difference in cancer care



European Society for Medical Oncology

Center for Global Health,
National Cancer Institute,
National Institutes of Health,
Department of Health and
Human Services, USA

Call for APPLICATIONS

Methods in Cancer Research Workshop

March 17-21, 2012

Al-Ahsa, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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For more information: <http://www.esmo.org/career-grants/young-oncologists-corner/clinicaltrials->



Introduction

In an attempt to address the need to improve cancer care through better research, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology has approved the funding for a workshop in cancer research methods. This workshop will be organized in collaboration with the King Abdullah International Medical Research Center, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO), and the Center for Global Health, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, USA. The workshop is called “Methods in Cancer Research Workshop” and will be held in the city of Al-Ahsa, Saudi Arabia on March 17-21, 2011. The workshop will be similar to the well known VAIL Workshop run by ASCO/AACR in the USA and FLIMS Workshop run by ECCO/AACR/EORTC /ESMO in Europe. Participants will learn the fundamentals of cancer research and how to develop protocols. We are now soliciting applications for participation in the workshop.

ATTENDANCE TO THIS WORKSHOP IS BY INVITATION TO ACCEPTED APPLICANTS ONLY.

Workshop Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- To enhance cancer research in the Arab Countries through capacity building of well trained investigators.
- To educate participants about the principles of good clinical trial design and provide them with the necessary tools required to conduct trials that are relevant to the region.
- Guide participants to identify various challenges of clinical research and provide advice and education on how to overcome these challenges.

Applicant Selection

This workshop is directed mainly to:

- Practitioners with a cancer-related subspecialty (e.g. Medical Oncology, Hemato-oncology, Clinical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Pediatric Oncology, Surgical Oncology, Gynecology Oncology, etc.)
- Applicants who are employed full-time at a facility that provides cancer care

All applications to the workshop will be judged by a scientific committee which will review and accept applications as described herein. The scientific committee will base its decisions on the quality of the proposed research protocol (innovation, relevance, feasibility and applicability) and on the level of commitment by the applicant and the sponsor (Program Supervisor or Department Head). Submitted documents will be scrutinized both for the information they supply about the candidate, the assurances they provide about the participation of the candidate, and the support for the proposed research project from the home institute. **Due to limited space, a total of thirty (30) participants will be selected on a competitive basis through an evaluation of submitted concepts and other supporting documents.** Unsuccessful applicants will be encouraged to re-apply the following year.

Workshop Components

The workshop will have 4 components:

- **Didactic Lectures:** will be presented by an expert faculty and other guest speakers and address various aspects of clinical research including the development and conducting of clinical trials, as well as related ethical, administrative and regulatory issues.
- **Group Breakout Sessions:** each group will have up to ten (10) members with two (2) faculty facilitators. These sessions will allow time for specific discussion on individual proposals.
- **Self Study and Work:** will allow participants to complete the assignments required to be submitted by them as a semi-final draft by the end of the fourth day of the workshop in order to receive final feedback on the fifth day.
- **One-on-one Sessions:** aim to provide specific advice to participants when they meet individually with the workshop faculty.

Workshop Preparation

Candidates accepted for the workshop should come prepared to develop the clinical research concept submitted with their application into a complete clinical trial protocol during the course of the workshop. Participants should bring their institution's protocol and informed consent templates if available, plus a draft of the background section of their protocol. A background literature review is required as preparation for the workshop. Participants must also bring a laptop computer to the workshop to facilitate their completion of the daily assignments.

Workshop Expenses

The workshop organizers will cover all related expenses including travel, transportation, lodging, food and program materials for the applicants selected.

Workshop Evaluation

The workshop goal is to enhance the participants' career development, particularly in research but also in scholarly work in general. The outcome of the project will be evaluated using the following assessment tools:

- Applicant's assessment of the workshop impact
- Outcome of the workshop protocol
- Additional protocols developed by the alumni
- Career advancement data
- Publication history

Application Procedure

Applicants are requested to download and submit via email the following documents:

- Completed Application Form
- Updated applicant CV
- Letters of support and commitment from their home institute

Applications should be sent to crmw@kacst.edu.sa no later than **December 31, 2011.**