



Massachusetts Society of Clinical Oncologists

Quality and Innovation Grant

The Massachusetts Society of Clinical Oncologists (MSCO) is a statewide organization representing oncologists and physicians who provide care for cancer patients. Founded in 1985, the Society is dedicated to improving cancer care and treatment and is recognized by the Massachusetts Medical Society and the American Society of Clinical Oncology as the voice for cancer physicians and their patients in the state.

Contact information:
Nathan Strunk
nstrunk@mms.org
(781) 434-7329

Purpose

The purpose of the MSCO Quality and Innovation Grant is to improve the care of patients in the state of Massachusetts living with a diagnosis of cancer. Funding will be provided for an individual or a group seeking to improve the delivery of cancer care, the quality of cancer care, treatment of cancer, or comfort of patients suffering from cancer.

Funding

Up to two grants for \$40,000 will be awarded to recipients for covering both direct and indirect costs. Accepted projects are expected to extend for two years with funding distributed in two \$20,000 increments; the first at the time of the award and the second a year later after giving an update at the MSCO annual meeting.

Research Objectives

Areas of research may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Improving the delivery of cancer care
- Value in cancer care
- Improving the quality of life of cancer patients
- Access to care for cancer patients, particularly those with specific barriers to care
- Disparities in cancer care
- Projects that improve understanding of cancer biology
- Projects with potential to improve cancer therapy

Eligibility

- Grant applicants must be a member of MSCO; click [here](#) for membership information
- Applicants must have one lead principle investigator as the primary project manager and contact
- Current members of the MSCO subcommittee on grant operations are excluded

Key Dates and Submission Information

- Proposal should be sent by email (MS Word or PDF format) to nstrunk@mms.org with the subject “MSCO Q&I Grant”
- Applications due September 1, 2017
- Notification will be sent in mid-October
- Grant award ceremony with project outline presentation will be held at the MSCO annual meeting on November 9, 2017
- Grant term is November 1, 2017–October 31, 2019

Project Requirements

- Grant awardee will be expected to attend the initial award ceremony at the MSCO annual meeting held in November of each year of the grant term with a brief presentation on the purpose and goals of the project
- Grant awardee will be expected to present an update of the project at the MSCO annual meeting at the end of year one
- Grant awardee will be expected to present final results of the project at the end of the grant term at the MSCO annual meeting

Application

The application must contain the following:
(checklist)

1. Principle investigator (PI) information
2. PI contact information
3. Other members of the research team (if applicable)
4. Curriculum vitae of the PI
5. Project summary
6. Project goals
7. Project plan
8. Expected deliverables
9. Budget and justification
10. Letter of support from PI’s institution
11. Letter(s) of recommendation (optional)

1. Principle investigator (PI) information should include the following:
 - a. Name
 - b. Credentials
 - c. Institution information

2. PI contact information should include the following:
 - a. Address
 - b. Phone
 - c. Fax
 - d. Email
3. For each member of the research team (if applicable), please provide the following:
 - a. Name
 - b. Credentials
 - c. Phone and email contact information
4. Curriculum vitae of the PI should be current.
5. Project summary should be 350 words or less.
6. Project goals: List up to five specific goals of the proposed project.
7. Project plan, should include the following:
 - a. Background
 - b. Research plan, including methods and potential barriers or difficulties
 - c. Discussion of the impact of the project and how it will improve the care of patients with a cancer diagnosis
8. Expected deliverables: What specific results or changes is the project expected to accomplish?
9. Budget and justification
 - a. Each budget item should be accompanied by justification
 - b. If needed, indirect costs should be factored in
10. Letter of support from the institution of the PI should be a signatory official from the applicant's institution.
11. Letter of support (optional): If provided, the letter should speak to the ability of the applicant to complete the project.

Criteria

Grants are assessed according to the six criteria currently used by National Institutes of Health scoring:

1. Scientific quality of the proposed laboratory or clinical studies
2. Innovation
3. Qualifications of the investigators and environment
4. Potential for future clinical application
5. Relevance to patients with cancer
6. Likelihood of progress toward future independent funding

Previous Recipient

2015

Marjory Charlot, MD, MPH, MSc

Feasibility, acceptability and effectiveness of the MBSR for smoking cessation in cancer patients