

**THE MIKE SLIVE FOUNDATION
2025-2026 PILOT RESEARCH GRANT
APPLICATION GUIDELINES**



PROGRAM SUMMARY

Guided by a commitment to find a cure for prostate cancer, the Mike Slive Foundation for Prostate Cancer Research funds pilot grants for innovative research to allow researchers to establish proof-of-concept when applying for larger, highly competitive federal grants.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

September 1, 2025

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

By November 30, 2025

GRANT TERM

January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026

RESEARCH PROJECT CRITERIA

Research projects may focus on any topic related to the scientific study of prostate cancer, including but not limited to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, or etiology of prostate cancer. The investigation of these topics may be basic, translational, behavioral, or clinical in nature. Please visit [our website](#) for a list of previously funded projects. Currently, the application is open to faculty researchers only.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications are peer-reviewed by a Medical Advisory Board comprised of researchers and physician-scientists respected for their own accomplishments in scientific and cancer-related research. Members of the Medical Advisory Board are appointed by the Board of Directors of the Mike Slive Foundation. The Medical Advisory Board will consider each year's applicants independently, without regard to the topics covered in previously funded proposals or to the institutions of the previous grantees. Reviewer comments will be shared with applicants, however, grades are not shared.

The following criteria will be considered when reviewing applications and directing funding decisions:

- *Significance*: Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

- *Investigator(s)*: Are the PI(s), collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If Early Stage Investigators or New Investigators, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?
- *Innovation*: Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?
- *Approach*: Is the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility, and will particularly risky aspects be managed? If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children, justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?
- *Environment*: Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Is the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?
- *Scientific Review Criteria*: As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will consider the following additional items in the determination of scientific and technical merit but will not give separate scores for these items: Protections for Human Subjects; Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children; Vertebrate Animals; Biohazards; and Budget.

Tobacco-Industry Funding Policy

Scientific investigators or health professionals who are currently funded for any project by the tobacco industry or have been funded in the previous five years, will not be eligible for research grants awarded by the Mike Slive Foundation for Prostate Cancer Research. Any grant awardees who accept tobacco-industry funding during the term of a grant must immediately inform the Mike Slive Foundation.

The Mike Slive Foundation defines tobacco industry funding as monies and/or compensation provided or used for all or any of the costs of the research, including personnel, meetings and conferences, consumables, equipment, buildings, travel, and

operating costs for laboratories and offices. Furthermore, the Mike Slive Foundation considers tobacco industry funding as monies and/or compensation provided by a company that is engaged, or whose affiliates are engaged, in the manufacture of tobacco products intended for human use; monies and/or compensation provided in the name of a tobacco brand, whether or not the brand name is used solely for marketing and production of tobacco goods; and monies and/or compensation from a body set up by the tobacco industry or by one or more companies in the industry.

POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS

All grant recipients must adhere to the following requirements.

Progress Reports

An interim progress report is due by July 31st, 2026, and a final progress report is due by December 31st, 2026.

Publication of Award

The Mike Slive Foundation's support should be acknowledged by the grantee and the institution in all public communication of work resulting from this grant. Please forward copies of any news articles by the recipient institution (student newspaper, alumni newsletter, institutional magazine, etc.) and/or in a local media (newspapers, local magazines, etc.) to the Foundation upon publication. Recipients are requested to send reprints of all research published as a result of their Mike Slive Foundation award.

Peer-reviewed Publications

Publications resulting from research supported by the Mike Slive Foundation for Prostate Cancer Research must contain an acknowledgment that the work was supported by the Mike Slive Foundation for Prostate Cancer Research. When there are multiple sources of support, the acknowledgment include that the work was supported in part by the Mike Slive Foundation for Prostate Cancer Research in addition to references for other funding sources.

Photo Submission and Photo Release

Award recipients must provide a hi-resolution photo for use on the Foundation's website, communications, and publications. If you are selected for a grant award, you will be asked to sign and return a photo release form along with your grant acceptance agreement. Awarded proposals will be featured on the Mike Slive Foundation website, social media accounts, communications with donors and other publications such as newsletters and annual reports.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To submit your application, upload a single PDF file containing your proposal formatted to the specifications below at <https://mikeslivefoundation.org/our-research-grant-program/research-grant-proposal-submission/> by September 1, 2025 by 11:59 PM CST.

- The error correction window for the Mike Slive Foundation grant application is 48-hours from time of submission.
- In case of emergency or extreme weather, documentation of institutional closing should be sent along with application, which must be received by 5 PM local time on the first business day that the Institution is open.

- Late submissions, and applications not submitted directly thru the Mike Slive Foundation's submission page, will not be accepted.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Cover Page

Please include the following information on the cover page of your application:

- Title of Project
- Name of PI(s)
- Institution
- PI(s) Email Address
- PI(s) Work Phone Number
- Institutional/Departmental Grant Coordinator Contact Information, in the event your proposal is selected for funding
- Mailing Address and Name on Check, in the event your proposal is selected for funding

Layman's Summary

A summary statement limited to 300 words that explains the subject of your research proposal and its significance to prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and/or survivorship of prostate cancer that is geared towards the general public. This summary will be provided to help the Foundation's Board, supporters and donors understand your work. If funded, this abstract may become public information. Please do not include proprietary/confidential information that otherwise should not be published on the Mike Slive Foundation website or communications.

Letters of Reference/Support

Letters of reference or support for the applicant's proposed project from colleagues and collaborators are encouraged but not required.

Scientific Abstract

A scientific abstract limited to 300 words that is suited for a technical audience. If funded, this abstract may become public information. Please do not include proprietary/confidential information that otherwise should not be published on the Mike Slive Foundation website or communications.

Proposal

The project description/proposal is limited to four (4) pages. Please include the following content in your proposal:

- Specific Aims - goals and/or objectives of the proposed project
- Background - statement of the problem or need the proposed project will address
- Methods - methodology used to achieve proposed goals/objective of the proposed project
- Timetable - timetable for implementing the proposed project
- Evaluation - evaluation plan to addresses/assess the specific activities of the proposed project

Budget and Budget Justification

Enter expenses for the term of the grant. Applicants must submit a budget in the amount of \$50,000. A detailed budget justification explaining the allocation of the grant funds is also required as part of the application.

Grants will be given in a one-time payment to be used for the entire grant term. In order to be good stewards of our resources given generously by the public and to maximize the impact of our grant program, indirect costs for Mike Slive Foundation grants will be capped at 20 percent.

Indirect costs that exceed 20 percent, professional membership dues, and any research-related expenses not directly related to the proposed project are not allowable expenses. Any general office supplies or individual institutional administrative charges (including but not limited to telephone, other electronic communication, utilities, IT networks, etc.) are part of indirect costs for the purposes of this grant. Grant funds may not be directed towards the salary or benefits of any individuals from a for-profit industry or U.S. government entity that is not a public or state-controlled institution of higher education, nor for any research expenses related to the project that may be incurred by such individuals.

PI(s) Biographical Sketch

The NIH Biographical Sketch Form [OMB No. 0925-0001 and 0925-0002 (Rev. 10/2021 Approved Through 01/31/2026)] should be used.

Secured Other Support

List all existing support, such as institutional, federal, etc., that has been secured to be used by the applicant during the term of this grant. Only funding sources that will provide support specifically for the applicant should be listed, including grants for which the applicant is not the Principal Investigator. This may include support for different projects. Please provide the following information for each funding source:

- Name of Principal Investigator
- Name of Grant/Funding Source
- Funding Agency
- Grant Term
- Amount of Funding
- Percent Effort of Applicant
- Title of Project
- List of Specific Aims in Funded Grant Proposal

Appendix

Literature cited should be included as part of the appendix and will not count towards page limits. Articles should be listed but not included in the appendix.

Certification for Human Subjects

If activities involving human subjects are planned at any time during the proposed project period, you must submit a letter of approval from your Institutional Review Board (IRB). The Mike Slive Foundation must receive verification of IRB approval within 30 days after the award notification if your proposal is selected for a grant award.

Certification for Vertebrate Animals

If activities involving vertebrate animals are planned at any time during the proposed project period, you must submit a letter of approval by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The Mike Slive Foundation must receive verification of IRB approval within 30 days after the award notification if your proposal is selected for a grant award.

Conflict of Interest

Applicants to the Mike Slive Foundation for Prostate Cancer Research grant program must disclose any financial relationships that may impact the integrity of science and results.

APPLICATION FORMAT

Formatting Instructions

Please adhere to the following formatting instructions to submit a complete application as failure to do so will result in the return of the application without review.

- *Type Size*: Must use 12-point Times New Roman for the text, and no smaller than 9-point type for figures, legends, and tables.
- *Spacing*: Single-spacing is acceptable, and space between paragraphs is recommended.
- *Margins*: The page margins must be no less than 0.75 inches on each side.
- *Page Numbering*: Include page number and PI(s) name in upper-right corner of all pages.
- *Application Document*: **Save all application materials as a single PDF document in the following order:**
 - o Cover Page
 - o Layman's Summary
 - o Letters of Reference/Support (optional)
 - o Scientific Abstract
 - o Proposal
 - o Budget and Budget Justification
 - o PI(s) Biographical Sketch
 - o Secured Other Support
 - o Appendix
 - o Certification for Human Subjects/Certification for Vertebrate Animals (If Applicable)
 - o Conflict of Interest Disclosure (If Applicable)
- *File Name*: Use the following naming format for your application in PDF form when submitting – PILastNameFirstInitial(s)_PartialProjectTitle.pdf (e.g. XuJ_NCOA6IdentificationOfNEPC.pdf for Jianming Xu project title: Identification of NCOA6 as a New Oncogenic Driver of Neuroendocrine Prostate Cancer).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What are the eligibility criteria for applicant PI(s)? Do they have to be faculty?

A: PI(s) must be faculty to apply for consideration. If you'd like to apply and are not faculty, you can do so as a co-PI with a faculty researcher. This is to ensure longevity and institutional support at the center from which the application is submitted.

Q: Is the \$50,000 budget for direct costs and the 20% indirect cost cap is in addition (i.e. \$60,000 total costs) or is the \$50,000 budget inclusive of the indirect costs?

A: The \$50,000 award is inclusive of indirect cost, so we will only grant a total of \$50,000 in award monies.

INQUIRIES

Please direct all inquiries pertaining to the Mike Slive Foundation's grant program guidelines, eligibility requirements, and application materials to [Emily Capilouto](#).