

Targeted RFA for Cancer Screening

This RFA will remain active until January 5, 2022.

The Carolina Cancer Screening Initiative (CCSI) is a multi-disciplinary effort that leverages UNC Lineberger's expertise in development, testing, and implementation of data-driven research and interventions to improve the evidence base around cancer screening and surveillance. The focus of CCSI includes all cancer sites where screening recommendations currently exist or sites for which evidence is being developed (breast, prostate, lung, colon, cervical, liver, etc.). CCSI includes work on biomarker and technology development, epidemiology of surveillance, evaluation of screening efficacy, benefits and harms, shared decision making, cost analysis, and implementation science. The overarching goal of CCSI is to reduce the cancer burden among North Carolinians through cancer screening that is appropriate, effective, patient-centered, and equitable.

The goal of this request for applications is to support research projects that increase interdisciplinary research on cancer screening and to grow a deeper research community focused on screening in Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. Ultimately, CCSI leadership seeks to develop new program projects and collaborations to build strength in screening in Lineberger.

Research topics of interest may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Research to develop new biomarkers to identify cancers among high-risk patients.
- Development of deep learning or image analysis tools to improve analysis of radiologic imaging data or integrate image data with other molecular and pathologic data.
- Development and evaluation of strategies to improve adherence or follow-up of abnormal screening results
- Research on innovative methods to promote equitable access to screening
- Appropriateness of screening, both under and over utilization
- Shared decision making around cancer screening
- Cost and cost effectiveness analysis of cancer screening
- Patient reported outcomes and health related quality of life related to cancer screening
- Development or use of risk prediction models in cancer screening

Proposed projects should be completed within a **24-month time period** and should allow researchers to generate preliminary data to support the submission of federal and/or private cancer research grant applications. UNC Lineberger encourages inter-disciplinary collaboration (e.g., between public health, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, social work, health care administrators, etc.) and community partnership. These funds also may be used to 'top-up' or provide supplemental funds to existing funding sources. Specifically, faculty with start-up funding are encouraged to consider matching funds provided by this mechanism with their own start-up funds to enable completion of projects with larger scope, and applicants with in-kind external funding from other sources for whom this award may enable supplemental activities are encouraged to apply.

For more information on CCSI or the scope of this RFA, please contact Jenna Minser (jenna.minser@unc.edu).

