



# Basic Research in Cancer Health Disparities (R01/R21/R03)



Updated March 2024

## AT A GLANCE

### Application Due Dates

#### R01:

June 5, 2024

#### R21 and R03:

June 16, 2024

### Award Budget

R01 budgets are not limited but need to be well justified.

R21 budgets are limited to \$275,000 in direct costs for up to 2 years, with no more than \$200,000 in direct costs in any given year.

R03 budgets are limited to \$50,000 in direct costs per year for up to 2 years.

## OVERVIEW

These funding opportunities encourage applications for projects that investigate the biological and genetic contributors to cancer health disparities. In addition to expanding knowledge of the biological factors of cancer health disparities, the awards help expand the range of resources and tools (such as biospecimens, patient-derived models, and methods) that are available for basic research in cancer health disparities.

## RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Applications should focus on basic mechanistic research to investigate biological factors associated with cancer health disparities, with a particular focus on the interplay of race/ethnicity and/or other social determinants with cancer biology. Proposed studies may include:

- » Mechanistic studies of biological factors associated with cancer disparities
- » Development and testing of new methodologies and cancer models
- » Secondary data analyses

Access to annotated clinical samples and/or patient-derived models is encouraged, as applicable. Examples of responsive research topics include:

- » Genetic/epigenetic cancer susceptibility differences among racial/ethnic populations
- » Causal drivers of early-onset cancer in specific populations
- » Similarities and differences in cancer metabolism among racial/ethnic populations



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### Application Timeline for PAR-21-322 (R01), PAR-21-323 (R21), and PAR-21-324 (R03)

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Scientific/Research Contact(s) listed in the funding opportunities well in advance of submission. Please refer to the timeline below for key dates in the application process for the three submission periods.



**Applications Due**  
February, June, October



**Applications Reviewed**  
March, July, November



**Advisory Council Review**  
January, May, October



**Anticipated Start Date**  
April, July, December

### MECHANISMS OF SUPPORT

This funding opportunity supports R03, R21, and R01 award mechanisms:

- » R03 awards are designed to support projects that can be carried out in a short period of time with limited resources.
- » R21 awards are designed to support pilot and feasibility studies.
- » R01 awards fund more advanced projects that stem from preliminary studies/data.

Applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by a Special Emphasis Panel using the stated review criteria in the funding opportunity.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS) FOR PAR-21-322 (R01), PAR-21-323 (R21), AND PAR-21-324 (R03)

#### Are at least two populations required for investigation?

Cancer disparities are defined as **adverse differences** in cancer incidence, prevalence, mortality, survivorship, and/or burden of cancer, or related health conditions, that exist **among specific populations**. As such, a comparative research design is encouraged. Investigating a cancer site with a documented disparity (e.g., triple negative breast cancer) without investigating differences among populations is not within the scope of this funding opportunity.

#### Are preliminary data required?

Preliminary data are not a requirement for the R21 or R03 mechanisms; however, they are strongly encouraged. Preliminary data are required for R01 applications.

#### Does the research strategy need to be translational?

Because this funding opportunity is focused on basic research, immediate clinically translational potential is not a requirement for proposed projects.



### WHERE DO I LEARN MORE?

Visit the following links for the full text of these funding opportunities.

For more information, contact Tiffany Wallace, Ph.D., at [tiffany.wallace@nih.gov](mailto:tiffany.wallace@nih.gov).

R01: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-322.html>

R21: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-323.html>

R03: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-324.html>



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