

# Research Support Announcement

## 2024 MSTS/Sarcoma Strong Foundation Request For Applications (RFA)-Career Catalyst Award

### I. Key Dates

- RFA Release Date: October 12, 2023
- Application Deadline: February 1, 2024 (pdf file to [info@msts.org](mailto:info@msts.org))
- Peer Review: February-March 2024
- Funding Announcements: March 11, 2024
- Start Date: April 1, 2024
- End Date: March 31, 2026 (No Cost Extension is possible until March 31, 2027)
- Final Reporting: Due within 6 months of completion of research. It is expected that awardees will submit abstracts of their findings to the MSTS Annual and/or Specialty Day meetings.

### II. Program Description

For the first time, the Sarcoma Strong Foundation will support the MSTS to provide a \$100,000 (\$50,000/year for two years) **Career Catalyst Award** for impactful sarcoma research. The Mission of the Sarcoma Strong Foundation is "...to generate funds to sponsor research that may improve the ability to diagnose and treat sarcoma." The MSTS and the Sarcoma Strong Foundation recognize the urgent need to provide MSTS members with opportunities to perform *highly mechanistic, translational sarcoma research* by exploring such subjects as sarcoma immunotherapy, oncogenic signaling, novel targeted therapies, genomic sequencing, circulating cancer cells, precision medicine, and other contemporary research concepts. Descriptive research on data collection or comparative studies will be of a lower priority. Please refer to the attached NIH Definitions of Rigor. It is expected that recipients of this award will apply for NIH K08/R03/R21/R01 within 2 years of the grant funding cycle.

### III. Eligibility

The Career Catalyst Grant is directed towards more mature research projects that have a high likelihood of eventual federal funding. PIs must have a demonstrated commitment to sarcoma research. Compelling preliminary data are required. Also required is a proof of application to a federal agency (NIH, DOD, NSF, or similar). A prior summary statement or other proof of application from a federal agency is adequate.

### IV. Grant Application Format and Page Limit (Arial font size 11; 0.5-inch margin top, bottom, right, left)

- Cover Page (SF 424 R&R form; <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/r-r-family.html>)
- NIH-format 5-page Biosketches for the PI and other Key Personnel (samples and forms are available at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)
- One-page Specific Aims
- Up to 10-page Research Plan including figures (Significance, Innovation, Approach including Preliminary Data)
- Literature Cited; IRB and/or IACUC approval; Letters of support; Other forms (not included in the page limit)
- IACUC/IRB approval will be required before funds are disbursed
- Budget must be included
- **Proof of a prior federal application must be included**

### V. Review Criteria & Peer Review

NIH Review Format: Overall Impact (Significance; Innovation; Investigators; Approach; Environment; **Fitness to the mission of Sarcoma Strong** as articulated above). The proposal will be reviewed by MSTS Research Committee members. Established MSTS investigators may be recruited on an *ad hoc* basis.

### VI. Inquiries

Bang Hoang, MD, Research Committee Chair ([info@msts.org](mailto:info@msts.org))