The Sadaka Family Foundation

2027 Request for Proposals (RFP): Oncology and/or Cardiovascular Disease Research

The Sadaka Family Foundation is committed to advancing science that transforms lives by supporting innovative research in **oncology and cardiovascular disease**. The Foundation seeks to support physicians and scientists pursuing discoveries that improve the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and management of disease and, ultimately, improve patient outcomes.

The **2027 Request for Proposals (RFP**) invites innovative, scientifically rigorous, and potentially transformative research proposals in **oncology and/or cardiovascular disease**. Funding is primarily intended to support early-career investigators, including fellows, postdoctoral researchers, and junior faculty, by providing critical resources to advance promising laboratory, translational, and clinical research. The Foundation particularly welcomes proposals that address important unmet medical needs, explore novel approaches, and demonstrate the potential to generate meaningful advances in scientific understanding or patient care. Through this initiative, the Foundation seeks to foster scientific innovation, support the next generation of researchers, and help promising research ideas to gain the momentum needed to secure future funding and achieve broader impact.

Eligibility

Applications are exclusively open to physicians, physician-scientists, and other qualified investigators conducting research in oncology and/or cardiovascular disease who hold an appointment at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK), the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, or Mount Sinai Health System. Principal Investigators affiliated exclusively with institutions outside these organizations are not eligible for funding under this Request for Proposals.

The Principal Investigator (PI) must:

- Hold an appropriate academic, clinical, or research appointment at one of the eligible institutions identified above.
- Be qualified to lead and oversee the proposed research.
- Conduct the proposed research under the auspices of one of the eligible institutions.
- Have access to the facilities, resources, and institutional support necessary to complete the proposed project.

Applicants must submit a letter of institutional support confirming their appointment at one of the eligible institutions and the institution's commitment to supporting the proposed project, including access to relevant research infrastructure, resources, and appropriate supervision or mentorship, as applicable. Early-career investigators, including fellows, postdoctoral researchers, and junior faculty, are particularly encouraged to apply. Established investigators are also eligible for consideration.

Grant Award

The Foundation will provide grants of **up to $50,000 for a one-year project period**. Funding may be used to support eligible research expenses, including personnel, supplies, equipment, core facility services, and allowable indirect costs.

Renewal of an initial award may be considered for **one additional year**, based on scientific productivity, progress toward the proposed aims, availability of Foundation funds, and the potential for continued impact. Investigators applying for a renewal must submit a renewal request **at least three months before the end date of the current award**.

Proposal Format

Applications that exceed the stated page limits, do not include all application components, or do not follow the required format may be deemed ineligible for review. Proposals must not exceed **five pages including the scientific narrative.**

Applications should follow these formatting requirements:

- 8.5 x 11-inch pages
- Arial, 11-point font
- Minimum 0.5-inch margins on all sides
- Single-spaced text is recommended

The following components of the application are required and excluded from the five-page scientific narrative limit:

- Cover letter
- Letter of Institutional Support
- References
- Research Team (Section G; maximum one page)
- Budget and Budget Justification
- NIH-style Biosketches (Appendix)

Cover Letter

A cover letter is required and must include:

- Name and institutional affiliation of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Institutional department and position/title
- Contact information (phone and email)
- Project title
- Confirmation that the proposed research will be conducted at the identified institution
- Signature of the Principal Investigator (PI)

Letter of Institutional Support

Applicants must submit a letter of institutional support from their department chair, division chief, program director, or other authorized institutional representative.

The letter should confirm:

- The institution's support for the proposed research project.

- The applicant's access to, or an established plan to secure, the facilities, resources, equipment, and research infrastructure necessary to conduct the proposed work.
- The availability of appropriate mentorship or research supervision, as applicable.
- The institution's commitment to supporting the successful completion of the project during the one-year funding period.
- Verification that the Principal Investigator holds a current academic, clinical, or research appointment at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center or Mount Sinai.

Applicants are not required to have all resources fully established at the time of submission; however, the letter must demonstrate a credible plan and institutional commitment to ensuring the necessary resources are available to complete the proposed research.

A. Lay Summary — ¼ Page

Describe, in language understandable to a general audience without a scientific or medical background, the problem your research seeks to address and how the proposed work may contribute to improving the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, or understanding of **cancer or cardiovascular disease**.

Briefly describe:

- The health problem or unmet medical need
- The overall goal and primary research question
- The laboratory model, experimental system, or patient population that will be studied
- The significance of the research and its benefits for potential patients

The Lay Summary should clearly explain why the proposed research matters and how it could ultimately contribute to better patient outcomes, without using highly technical terminology and unexplained scientific abbreviations.

B. Technical Abstract — ½ Page

- Provide a concise scientific summary of the proposed research, including: The scientific problem and rationale
- The central hypothesis
- Specific aims and objectives
- Research approach and methodology
- Anticipated outcomes and potential impact

The abstract should clearly communicate the scientific premise, the novelty of the proposed research, and its significance and potential impact, to a broader audience.

C. Background and Significance — ½–1 Page

Describe the current state of knowledge related to the research question addressed in the proposal.

Discuss:

- What is currently known
- What remains unknown or inadequately understood

- The scientific gap or unmet need the proposed research will address
- Why addressing the gap matters
- How the proposed research may advance scientific knowledge or patient care

Applicants may, but are not required to, include a brief summary of preliminary data relevant to the proposed research.

D. Research Plan — 2¼–3 Pages

Describe the proposed research in sufficient detail to allow evaluation of its scientific merit, feasibility, and potential impact.

The Research Plan should include:

- Specific Aims and Objectives: Clearly defined research aims and the questions each intends to address.
- Study Design and Methodology: A description of the experimental design, research methods, and overall approach.
- Research Model or Study Population: Description of the laboratory model, experimental system, or patient population.
- Data Analysis: Methods of data collection, outcome measurements, and statistical or other analytical approaches, as applicable.
- Expected Results: Anticipated findings and how they will address each research question.
- Potential Challenges: Anticipated limitations, potential obstacles, and alternative strategies if the proposed approach does not produce the expected results.
- Timeline and Milestones: A general timeline outlining key activities, markers, and expected deliverables during the one-year period.

Applicants must demonstrate that the proposed research and methodology are feasible and capable of producing meaningful findings within the one-year funding period and proposed budget, taking into consideration the available institutional resources and support outlined in the Letter of Institutional Support.

E. Future Directions and Potential Impact— ½ Page

Describe how the investigator plans to use the results generated through the proposed project.

Include, as applicable:

- Next steps for the research
- Plans to expand, validate, or translate the findings
- Opportunities for additional studies
- Plans to seek external peer-reviewed funding, including **NIH/NCI, NHLBI, or other appropriate funding opportunities**
- Potential implications for future clinical or laboratory research

F. References

Provide citations for the scientific literature and other sources referenced in the proposal. References are not included in the five-page scientific narrative limit.

G. Research Team — 1 Page (Maximum)

Describe the following information for the Principal Investigator (PI) and key personnel:

- Name and institutional affiliation
- Academic or professional title
- Relevant research expertise and experience
- Role and responsibilities in the proposed project

H. Budget and Justification — 1 Page

Provide an itemized budget for the one-year project period, along with a brief justification for each major expense.

The budget may include:

- Personnel
- Research supplies
- Equipment
- Core facility or laboratory services
- Other direct research expenses
- Allowable indirect costs

The **total one-year budget may not exceed $50,000**, including indirect costs.

Indirect costs may not exceed **15% of the total award, or $7,500**.

Applicants should provide a brief justification for each major budget category. The justification should explain how each major expense directly supports the proposed research.

Appendix: NIH-Style Biosketches

Include an **NIH-style biosketch** for the Principal Investigator and all key investigators.

Biosketches are submitted as an appendix and **do not count toward the five-page proposal limit**.

Proposal Review and Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Scientific Merit and Significance**: Importance of the research question and the potential to address a meaningful scientific gap or unmet medical need.
- **Innovation**: Novelty of the research question, methodology, or proposed approach.
- **Scientific Rigor and Feasibility**: Appropriateness of the study design and methodology, and the likelihood of completing the proposed work within the one-year funding period.
- **Investigator and Research Team Qualifications**: Relevant expertise, experience, and ability to successfully execute the proposed research.
- **Potential Impact**: Potential to advance oncology and/or cardiovascular disease research, improve patient outcomes, or generate findings that support future research and funding opportunities.

- **Budget Justification:** Appropriateness and reasonableness of the requested project in relation to the proposed research.

Submission Deadline and Award Timeline

Application Deadline: January 15, 2027

Funding Decision Announced: March 15, 2027

Anticipated Funding Start Date: July 1, 2027

Applications must be received by **January 15, 2027,** to be considered for the 2027 funding cycle. Applicants will receive notification of the Foundation's funding decision following the completion of the review process by March 15, 2027. If you have any questions at all during the application process, please reach out to grants@sadakafoundation.org**.**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use and Disclosure

Applicants must disclose any substantive use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools in developing their research proposal, including the generation of scientific content, research methodologies, or data analysis plans. Limited use of AI for grammar, formatting, or editorial assistance does not require disclosure.

All scientific ideas, hypotheses, and proposed research must reflect the original work and intellectual contributions of the applicant and research team. Applicants remain responsible for the accuracy, originality, and scientific integrity of all submitted materials.

Where applicable, applicants should briefly describe the AI tools used, their purpose, and the extent of their involvement in proposal development. This disclosure will not count toward the five-page proposal limit.

Closing Statement

The Sadaka Family Foundation encourages proposals that are innovative, scientifically rigorous, and capable of generating findings with the potential to meaningfully advance the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, or understanding of **oncologic and/or cardiovascular disease**.

Through this funding opportunity, the Foundation seeks to support promising investigators and impactful research that will advance scientific discovery, address unmet medical needs, and ultimately improve the lives of patients in years to come.