

UAB MEDICINE

O'Neal Cancer Center

Francisco Robert, MD Investigator Award

The O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center's **Francisco Robert, MD Investigator Award** provides investigators with the opportunity to carry out cancer interventional treatment trials that will benefit from local expertise and are highly relevant to our catchment area. Trials which originate from UAB research are highly encouraged.

Scope of Award

Each award will provide up to \$100,000 for a principal investigator to conduct a cancer interventional treatment trial. Trial related activities including regulatory submission, support from the O'Neal Clinical Trials Office (CTO) for clinical trial activation, coordination and data management must be built into the award budget. Funds may be used for additional regulatory fees (outside of the CTO), correlative studies, contracting of ancillary resources within UAB, and publication fees. These funds may not be used for salary support for the PI or mentor.

The Robert Award can only be used for the clinical trial costs at UAB. For multisite trials, the award cannot be used for trial costs at non-UAB sites. If the Robert Award is being leveraged in conjunction with other sources of funding, the duration and scope of the trial may include multiple sites and a longer timeline. A plan for the trial to be fully funded is required.

Eligibility

One of the PIs must have an MD and be a faculty member in any clinical department at UAB. Trainee applications must include a letter from their Division Director or Department Chair indicating that the trainee will remain at UAB beyond completion of training and/or outlining how another PI will complete the trial. Trainees cannot be the PI of treatment trials. Multi-PI proposals are encouraged.

Selection Process

Awards will be contingent on the availability of funds and the quality and diversity of the applications. The selection process will include the AD of clinical research and other senior members of the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center based on areas of expertise, and experience in clinical trials. All applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The following criteria need to be included in the application:

- a) Relevance to population with cancer in our catchment area
- b) Scientific quality of proposal (novel therapy, endpoint, image or laboratory-based correlative).
- c) Potential impact on the PI's career development
- d) Interdisciplinary collaboration
- e) Inclusion of populations historically underrepresented in clinical trials

- f) Accrual timeline
- g) Potential for future extramural funding

Application

Prior to application, investigators are encouraged to discuss ideas at the IIT concept meeting. Please email Meg Thomas, Program Director (margaretanthomas@uabmc.edu) to be added to the IIT concept meeting agenda. Applications will be accepted, reviewed, and awarded on a rolling basis. Decisions will be communicated to applicants no more than two months after application.

Applications should be in 11-point font, with a smaller font (9 pt) allowed for figure legends. All the sections of the application must be combined into a single document and emailed to Meg Thomas, Program Director.

Applications must contain the following elements:

- a) Curriculum vitae of the PI and identified mentor (if applicable)
- b) Letter of support from mentor detailing the mentoring plan (if applicable)
- c) One-page letter from Division Director or Department Chair (if the PI is a trainee)
- d) Clinical trial Proposal (in no more than 10 pages):
 - 1. Background
 - 2. Objectives and corresponding endpoints
 - 3. Eligibility
 - 4. Study design
 - 5. Treatment plan
 - 6. Condensed statistical analysis plan including sample size calculation
 - 7. Study timeline (protocol development, regulatory submission, activation, completion of accrual, data collection, analysis and publication)
- e) Simplified budget (no more than one page) developed in conjunction with Hannah and or Amber on the budget team.
- f) Funding plan for the whole trial, including those parts not covered by the Robert Award.

About the Award: Francisco Robert, MD

Francisco “Paco” Robert, MD, was a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology and Senior Scientist in the O’Neal’s Thoracic Oncology and Phase I programs. The

longest serving clinical trialist at the O’Neal, Dr. Robert’s contributions to UAB span over five decades of relentless dedication to education, patient care, and to our clinical trials mission. This award honors Dr. Robert’s accomplishments as he continues to inspire the next generations of cancer clinical trialists.

