

Application must be submitted online by February 1, 2010



2010 Avon Foundation Breast Cancer Research Program

Request for Proposals

SUMMARY:

The Avon Foundation continues to seek new preventive strategies to address the growing number of breast cancer cases around the globe. To develop new strategies to prevent breast cancer we need to understand the causes of breast cancer in women, changes in breast cells that give rise to cancer, markers for disease, and how breast cancer progresses. The **2010 Avon Foundation Research Program** seeks proposals in these areas to advance understanding of causes of breast cancer and prevention.

To facilitate research towards these strategies in the areas of causes of breast cancer and prevention, the Avon Foundation and the Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation partnered to launch the [Love/Avon Army of Women](#) in October 2008. To date, more than 325,000 women have joined the *Army of Women*, expressing their willingness to learn about and take part in research studies. The *Army of Women* will give scientists access to these volunteers, who can provide specimens such as urine, blood, saliva, nipple aspirate or ductal lavage fluid, tissue, or other samples.

Research project proposals submitted to the Avon Foundation must utilize human studies, and researchers are highly encouraged to access the *Army of Women* to obtain volunteers. If a study is not utilizing the *Army of Women*, then the proposal must include a

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description of the samples that will be used in the study. For details about the Army of Women please visit <https://researchers.armyofwomen.org/forresearchers>. A Frequently Asked Questions document is provided on this webpage.

Research questions we hope to answer to further the development of breast cancer prevention strategies include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Understanding the potential causes of breast cancer and research to develop new preventative strategies
- Understanding the role of endogenous and exogenous environmental factors in the development of breast cancer
- Gene-environment interactions in the development of breast cancer
- Understanding whether viruses or infectious agents play a role in breast cancer
- Understanding how parity and breastfeeding alter breast cancer risk
- Validation of markers/biomarkers of breast cancer risk or that signal different breast states such as parous/nulliparous (note we do not support discovery research, rather we direct our funds to validation, translation or clinical application of markers)
- Development of clinically applicable assays or diagnostic tests that are predictive of breast cancer risk or that can be used to monitor changes in breast health (for example, healthy breast vs. ADH vs. DCIS vs. IDC)

KEY DATES:

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| December 1, 2009 | – Request for Proposals issued |
| *February 1, 2010 | – Application due date |
| Feb/March 2010 | – Review of proposals |
| May 2010 | – Funding decisions and applicant notifications |
| July 1, 2010 | – Earliest start date |

*Note: All proposals must be submitted in our new online grant submission system by the end of the day.

PROCESS:

Applications for the 2010 Avon Foundation Breast Cancer Research Program are solicited from investigators at academic, not-for-profit and government institutions in the United States. Applications will also be accepted from for-profit diagnostic, device and biotechnology companies if clearly developing new tests or assays relevant to breast

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cancer detection or risk assessment. Applications should identify the source of human tissue under study, the proposed assays to be used, and provide any relevant background data, relevant letters of collaboration and ethics approvals from Institutional Review Board. The Avon Foundation Scientific Advisory Board, and ad hoc scientific members as needed, will review the applications, providing a preliminary scientific review for each proposal and make recommendations to the Avon Foundation Board of Directors. The Avon Foundation Board of Directors will consider the review committee recommendations and make final funding decisions.

FUNDS AVAILABLE:

Proposals may request up to \$150,000 total costs per year (this limit is inclusive of 10% indirect costs), for up to 2 years in duration. Thus, the total award budget can be up to \$300,000 to cover up to 2 years duration. Applications involving multiple institutions or collaborators in need of a higher level of funding may contact the Avon Foundation to inquire whether an increased amount may be requested. A detailed budget and budget justification are required in the online application.

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