**Purpose:** To stimulate research that will generate new knowledge of the effects of the US healthcare system structure and the role of insurance on both access to and outcomes of cancer screening, early detection and treatment services. Studies investigating how one or more factors impacting access and outcomes interact – such as insurance status, costs, capacity, personal characteristics, provider characteristics, components of the healthcare delivery system and other known factors – are encouraged.

Please note that:

- Studies may be at the state, multi-state, or national levels, or otherwise involve large populations.

- Studies may be intervention-focused or observational and can use mixed methods.

- If cross-sectional studies are proposed, analysis of both demographic and outcomes data is preferred – such as claims data linked with electronic health records, SEER data, State-level data, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) or other existing datasets.

Potential areas of investigation include (but are not limited to):

1. How the structure and capacity of the healthcare system affect appropriate and timely access to cancer screening, early detection, treatment and palliative care services.
2. The provider and system factors that affect treatment patterns and quality of cancer care within the current healthcare systems.

3. The exploration of life course patterns of the entire spectrum of cancer care (from prevention and screening through diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, and supportive/palliative care) by linking diverse data sources for broad patient populations.

**Application Deadline:** April 1, 2014

**Eligibility Requirements:**

1. Not-for-profit institutions located within the United States, its territories and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are eligible to apply.
2. United States citizens, non-citizen nationals or permanent residents of the United States are eligible to apply.
3. Independent investigators at all stages of their career are eligible to apply. The usual ACS restriction to investigators within the first six years of their initial independent research appointment does not apply to this RFA.

**Mechanism:** This Area of Special Interest RFA will use the Research Scholar Grant mechanism.

**Length of Study:** Awards may not exceed a period of 4 years, although it is anticipated that most applications will require no more than two years to complete the research.

**Budget:** Awards may not exceed $200,000 per year (direct costs) plus 20% indirect costs.

**Peer Review Process:** Review of applications at the American Cancer Society is a two-tiered process.

1. Applications will be reviewed by the Cancer Control and Prevention: Health Policy and Health Services Research (CPHPS) Peer Review Committee. Applications recommended for funding by the Peer Review Committee will be forwarded to the Council for Extramural Grants.

2. Council will determine which grants will be funded from all 20 Peer Review Committees after considering the relative merit of applications and available funds.

**Additional Questions**

For questions about this mechanism please contact Joseph Cotter, Program Coordinator of the Cancer Control and Prevention Research program, at joseph.cotter@cancer.org

**Key Dates:**

- Proposal Deadline: April 1
- Applications Reviewed in Committee: June
- Preliminary Notification of Outcome: September
- Applications Reviewed in Council: September
- Notifications of Awards: October
- Award Start Date: January 1

Note: Grant application materials become available January 1.

**Electronic Grant Application instructions and forms are available on proposalCENTRAL.**