The Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation (SWCRF) is dedicated to conducting basic and translational cancer research with the intent of developing new therapies or preventive strategies for cancer through the understanding of mechanisms of disease development. Through collaborative grants, the sharing of information, reagents, technologies and ideas, and the organization of international conferences, SWCRF has created an “Institute Without Walls” with scientific programs spanning multiple institutions and disciplines.

SWCRF seeks to fund investigators interested in differentiation therapy of cancer -- the notion that the cancer cell can be re-programmed to re-acquire aspects of normal cell differentiation including terminal cell division and programmed cell death. Specific themes of interest to SWCRF include studies that address:

1. Basic and translational research focused on mechanisms of gene regulation that govern critical cell decisions in the process of cell diversification from the tumor initiating cell to the differentiated state
2. Projects on aberrant gene regulators in malignancy
3. Research on aberrant epigenetics in malignancy
4. Studies on the cell decisions on cell dormancy versus proliferation
5. Research on cell life and death

Priority will be given to:

• Proposals addressing promising new areas of study for the applicant, not yet funded by the National Institutes of Health or other major granting agencies.
• Basic studies that will directly impact the understanding of the abnormal program of the cancer cell
• Translational studies with patient specimens; correlative studies of clinical trials.

An initial, two-year grant will consist of up to $100,000 per year of direct cost (no indirects). Upon completion of two years of funding, review of progress and approval by the grants review committee, a third year of funding may be considered. The SWCRF project should not overlap with other sources of support.

Applicants must be established investigators with a tenure-track or tenured appointment holding as Principal Investigator at least one grant from a major funding source such as the NIH, NSF, DOD, ACS. The applicant may hold a K08 grant, a K99/R00 grant or another major career transition grant, such as those from the Burroughs Welcome Foundation or Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Equal consideration will be given to junior and senior investigators.

NOTE: Not all eligibility criteria may be listed in this abstract. Before submitting an application for this internal competition, it is the applicant’s responsibility to review the RFA (http://www.med.umich.edu/medschool/research/funding/waxman_rfa.pdf) and verify that BOTH the applicant AND their project meet ALL eligibility criteria.

UM may nominate one candidate. Deadline for submission of an application to the foundation is March 18, 2013.

For consideration as an institutional nominee, submit ONLY the items below electronically by January 17, 2013 following the instructions listed on the cover sheet. Download the cover sheet (including Abstract Form) and see a FAQ document at: http://www.med.umich.edu/medschool/research/support/funding.htm#limited

• Cover sheet (including Abstract Form)
• Nominating letter from the department chair
• 3-page research plan
• NIH formatted biosketch

We acknowledge receipt of all electronic submissions. If you do not receive a response from us by the end of the next business day, please call us at 734-763-4086. Contact Kathryn Ridner at 734-763-4086 or (kridner@umich.edu) with any questions. The Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation’s website is (http://www.waxmancancer.org/What-We-Do/Grants).