

## PROVOCATIVE QUESTIONS INITIATIVE

*The Provocative Questions (PQ) initiative supports innovative research strategies to address perplexing and underexplored cancer research questions identified by the cancer research community.*

### ABOUT THE PROVOCATIVE QUESTIONS

PQs are framed to inspire scientists across the spectrum of cancer research to imagine new approaches to challenging research questions. PQ research projects address questions related to:

- Cancer-relevant biological observations that are underexplored or poorly understood
- Recent biological discoveries that reveal gaps in our understanding of cancer
- Challenging research problems made accessible by recent technological advances

### THEMES DRIVEN BY THE CANCER RESEARCH COMMUNITY

Experts from the extramural research community identify understudied problems in cancer research to assemble the Provocative Questions, which are then evaluated and prioritized by scientific experts within NCI. This process helps ensure that the questions cover a broad range of scientific disciplines and reflect the diverse and continually evolving field of cancer research.

### TRANS-DIVISIONAL MANAGEMENT AND INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW

PQ is coordinated by NCI's Center for Strategic Scientific Initiatives (CSSI) and involves more than 75 program directors from NCI's extramural divisions. This trans-divisional coordination ensures sufficient breadth of expertise regarding the diverse topics covered by the PQ Initiative.

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#### NEW APPLICATIONS

Support for research that addresses a scientific problem identified in one of the 12 current PQs.



RFA-CA-18-019 (R01)

RFA-CA-18-020 (R21)

#### REVISIONS

Support up to \$150,000 DC/year to incorporate a PQ component in existing research projects.



RFA-CA-18-021 (R01)

RFA-CA-18-022 (U01)

RFA-CA-18-023 (P01)

RFA-CA-18-024 (P50)

## ACTIVE PQs

