

# Grant Writing

## Letter of Intent



### Summary

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The following project is a fictional Letter of Intent (LOI) from the Senior Advisor of the Public Health Sciences Division at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center to the American Cancer Society's (ACS) Program Director for the Office of Cancer Control and Prevention Research. I aimed to provide the Public Health Sciences division the funding they need in order to further their research.

Therefore, I focused on the outcomes and meaning behind their research, and their petition for funding to continue studying the risk of cancer in Asian populations. The letter promotes the belief that further work could benefit cancer research for a population that is steadily increasing in America.

### Intended Audience

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Client:	John D. Potter, MD, PHD - Senior Adviser, Public Health Sciences Division, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Recipient:	Mario Castagnaro – Carnegie Mellon University Healthcare Communication Professor

### Completed Tasks

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- Analyzed the provided text
- Researched targeted ACS Program officer
- Created an outline illustrating topic points and vital information
- Drafted the LOI
- Proofread and Edited
- Turned in

### Developed Skills

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- Research
- Critical Thinking
- Healthcare Communication
- Proposal and Grant Writing
- Proofreading and Editorial Skills
- Concise Information
- Medical Research Interpretation
- Business Address for Medical Research



Elvan C. Daniels, MD, MPH  
Program Director  
Office of Cancer Control and Prevention Research  
American Cancer Society  
250 Williams Street NW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Dr. Daniels,

I am writing to convey my interest in applying for an extramural research grant from the American Cancer Society. My colleague Dr. Wei Zheng of Vanderbilt University, and I seek funding to support the launch of a new project that explores the connections between high BMI, cigarette smoking, and excessive alcohol consumption and the mechanisms of diseases, including the factors of cancer, in Asian populations.

Over 60% of the world's population is comprised of Asians, making studies on preventable deaths in Asian populations a significant public health issue. Upon recently completing our 2008 multi-cohort study, Dr. Zheng and I, with the Asia Cohort Consortium (ACC), quantified the association between body mass index (BMI) and waist-to-hip ratio (WHR) with specific causes of mortality in Asian populations. Our study showed a need to expand our research to include lifestyle choices- excessive alcohol consumption and cigarette smoking- and the link between preventable diseases, up to and including cancer. Dedicated to understanding the expanse of cancer research, Dr. Zheng and I believe that the modifiable lifestyle choices are a profound opportunity to create progressive cancer research. We believe that the American Cancer Society, with its focus on "the relationship between nutrition, lifestyle choices, and cancer," is a perfect fit to help further this project.

Our 2008 study with the ACC, quantified the WHR of 18 cohorts in multiple Asian countries and compiled the BMI pooling data. We concluded that the extensive data collected would benefit and expand our proposed further research, addressing obesity and other modifiable causes of deaths in Asians. Our proposed project aims to:

1. Quantify the impact of modifiable lifestyle factors, including high BMI, cigarette smoking, and excessive alcohol consumption, on total and cause-specific mortality in all cohorts.
2. Evaluate the association between WHR measured obesity and total mortality.
3. Evaluate the addition of WHR to a model that includes BMI, smoking, and excessive alcohol consumption in predicting total and cause-specific mortality.



Cancer and chronic diseases, predominately cardiovascular disease (CVD), show a substantial increase in Asian countries, primarily in consequence of adverse lifestyle changes. As an increasingly high and costly public health issue, further studies are necessary to address the accounted estimation of chronic disease-related deaths, which attributed in 2005 to an estimated 80% in China and 53% in India. Asians make up 5.6% of the U.S. population, and the percentage is steadily increasing. The estimated percentages present an opportunity to understand and further develop research on the risk of cancer in a growing American population.

Obesity, smoking, and excessive alcohol consumption are known to increase the risk of diseases, but the overall impact on mortality is uncertain. Limited results factored from extensive cohort studies on populations with prevalence in high BMI- Europe and North America- do not transfer to Asian populations where overall obesity is low. The opportunity to evaluate obesity and attributing health outcomes without the presence of high BMI will allow our study to systematically answer essential questions related to lifestyle choices and the mechanisms of diseases or cancer. Using calculated data from our research, we can determine the links of predisposition to diseases and those with centralized weight in the midsection. We hypothesize that central obesity of this type is an independent factor of mortality in Asian populations.

With our aims and prevalent data showing significant demand for preventative measures, we request funding to further our research and provide beneficial discoveries to reduce death risks and improve the quality of life of patients. We hypothesize the overall results of our study benefiting both Asian and other populations with further understanding of preventative measures on preventable public health issues. The American Cancer Society and its focus on "the relationship of nutrition, lifestyle choices, and cancer" align perfectly with the goals of this project.

The support of a \$200,000 grant will enable us to conduct this critical research, funding our need for extensive software to adequately compile all data and use of cross-platform hardware. With this aid, we can provide populations with further knowledge of the mechanics of diseases and their prevention when concerning BMI and adverse lifestyle choices. To promote health equity, the relentless pursuit of knowledge, and "anti-cancer initiatives," we ask that the American Cancer Society consider our future application for funds.

On behalf of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, we thank you for your time and consideration.

**John D. Potter, MD, PHD**

**Senior Adviser, Public Health Sciences Division**

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