

GENERAL POLICIES GOVERNING ICRF ACCELERATION GRANTS IN CANCER RESEARCH

The Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) is a voluntary charitable organization that receives its total income from private donations. Its main goals are the advancement of cancer research and the training of Israeli scientists in Israel. To that end, funds for cancer research are available to citizens of Israel, both native-born and those who have settled. Funds are not available to visiting scientists. (Proof of Israeli citizenship must be furnished upon request.)

Funds may be requested for clinical or basic research, which must relate to cancer and must be conducted in Israel.

Information on applying for ICRF research grants can be downloaded from our website, or obtained from the address above. For any questions or problems, please send an E-mail message to: ellen.rubin@icrfny.org.

BEFORE ANY APPLICATION WILL BE PROCESSED OR REVIEWED, ALL OF THE REQUIRED ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED EXACTLY AS REQUESTED; OTHERWISE THE APPLICATION WILL BE RETURNED AUTOMATICALLY AND NOT REVIEWED.

Timetable for the Awarding of Grants

<i>RECEIVED BY THE FUND IN NEW YORK</i>	<i>NOTIFICATION OF DECISION</i>	<i>ACTIVATION OF AWARD</i>
Letter of Intent – December 1, 2019 Full Application – By Invitation Only	July 1, 2020	September 1, 2020

Purpose

The Acceleration Grants in Cancer Research represent a new type of ICRF grant that is intended to speed up our understanding of the biology underlying cancer and to provide new knowledge that will rapidly enhance the development of innovative therapeutics. The program is intended to support novel ideas and approaches that might be considered too risky for more traditional funding programs. This request for proposals seeks new concepts that will further the goals of this grant initiative and the ICRF.

The ICRF has always been committed to supporting world class cancer research that contributes to improved cancer treatment and can lead to cancer cures. With their creative skills and innovative approaches, ICRF-funded investigators have discovered the proteasome and proteasome-mediated proteolysis, therapeutic targets for chronic myelogenous leukemia, and discovered or elucidated cancer-related functions of the tumor suppressors p53 and ATM, among others. Each of these findings has contributed to new drugs or ideas for treating cancer and has been recognized by the international community.

In keeping with this tradition of groundbreaking research, grant applications responding to this call must propose highly-innovative approaches that have the promise of pioneering new ways of thinking about cancer biology and therapeutics. Preliminary data are not a prerequisite, but applicants are encouraged to provide data from disparate sources to support the rationale upon which the new concepts are derived. As examples, applications may propose to discover and inform about new, but currently unknown, signaling or biochemical pathway interactions or to describe novel mechanisms which lead to metabolic changes that accompany tumorigenesis and that may provide novel therapeutic targets. Applications are not limited to these examples, but must propose novel approaches that are neither an extension, nor expansion, of currently-funded projects.

While not a requirement, grants that utilize interdisciplinary approaches and that are multi-investigator are encouraged. Of paramount importance, however, is the novelty of the approach and the promise of accelerating progress to a complete mechanistic understanding of cancer, its management and its cure. Because of the anticipated high-risk nature of the research proposed and the non-traditional approach of this program, the ICRF requires that interested investigators submit a letter of intent (LOI) prior to submission. Letters of intent will be reviewed by a scientific review group, and LOIs that are compliant and fit the goals of the program will be followed by an invitation to submit a full proposal.

Scientific Review of Applications

Applications will be considered for funding on the basis of the overall merit of the proposal as determined by the Scientific Review Panel, relevance of the proposal to the research objectives of the ICRF and this special program, and the availability of funds. They will be reviewed as a special category by a separate Scientific Review Panel.

Acting upon the recommendations of this special Scientific Review Panel, as well as the International Scientific Council, the Board of Trustees of the ICRF then approves all awards.

Eligibility

ICRF Acceleration Grants are intended to support the research of established investigators. The grant is made to an institution with the understanding that it will support a specific project under the direction of a designated principal investigator. ICRF support is given only to Israeli institutions for work in Israel.

Duration and Amount of the Award

Awarded grants will be for a period of two (2) years, with a funding level of \$70,000 per year. Funding for the second year will be contingent upon acceptable progress during year one of the grant, as evidenced in a short report due one (1) year following the funding start date.

***ONLY ONE (1) GRANT APPLICATION PER PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR EACH SUBMISSION DEADLINE***

Fiscal Requirements for Institution

A separate account must be maintained for each award. This account must be available for audit at any time by representatives of the ICRF.

The funds are to be used for actual direct expenses (salary, supplies, etc.) connected with the project. No overhead, clerical or other administrative charges may be made by the institution against the award funds. ICRF does not allow funds to be used for travel.

A report of these expenditures, detailing the utilization of the funds (salaries, supplies, etc.), must be submitted to ICRF semi-annually. Forms will be sent directly to the institution by the ICRF office. Grant payments will be suspended, if these reports become overdue.

Special Leave

- A. Special leave for work in another institution (with continuing support from the award) may be permitted, if directly related to the purpose of the award. If such leave does not exceed three months, only local institutional approval is required. For a longer period, prior approval of the ICRF is required. To obtain approval, the awardee must submit to the ICRF at least six (6) months prior to the leave, a letter describing the plan, and how the awardee will supervise his/her laboratory during this period. This letter must be countersigned by the awardee's department head and the appropriate institutional official. Such leave may not exceed twelve (12) months.
- B. Leave without award support requires the prior approval of the ICRF and will be granted only in unusual situations. Such leave may not exceed twelve (12) months. Support from other sources is permissible during the period of leave, and such leave does not reduce the total number of months of program support for which an awardee is eligible.

Special Conditions

Should the ICRF awardee or the sponsoring institution specified by our award vacate the project, the ICRF will automatically void the award and terminate funding. Failure of the institution to notify the ICRF of such vacancy will allow the ICRF to recover funds *in toto*.

Change of Institution

1. A letter of request to ICRF for permission to transfer the award to another eligible institution must be received by ICRF at least six (6) months prior to moving. This letter should include the name of the new institution, as well as assurance of continuation of the awarded project.
2. A letter of acceptance from the new institution and a letter of release from the original institution. Additionally, the original institution will be required to submit a final report of expenditures, and any unexpended funds must either be returned to the ICRF or transferred to the new institution.
3. A description of the new work facilities. (Please refer to Section II - Instructions, No. 19.)

If a request is not received at least six (6) months prior to the move, the ICRF reserves the right to automatically void the award and terminate funding.

Continuation of Awards

All awards shall be continued for a second year (as determined in your initial award notification letter) provided that the Fund receives the following:

1. An acceptable first-year progress report and projected plans. A reminder notice with instructions and cover sheet will be sent out in advance of the due date. This cover sheet must be attached to the report.
2. A statement from the financial officer of the institution involved showing the allocation of funds received to the date of the renewal request. Forms will be sent directly to the institution by the ICRF office.

Award renewal is not automatic upon receipt of new documents. Renewal requires the approval of the Scientific Review Panel.

Biohazards and Protection of Human Subjects/Animals

Safeguarding the rights and welfare of human subjects involved in activities supported by the ICRF, as well as consideration of potential biohazards, is the responsibility of the institution that received the award. Awards for projects involving human subjects and/or animals require prior review and approval by the appropriate institutional committee. Such written approvals must be submitted along with the ICRF application. The review date should be recent; certification is invalid if the review date precedes the submission date by more than one year. These approval letters must be written in English.

Publications

Publications resulting from projects supported by the Fund must contain the following acknowledgment:

*"This study was supported by an Acceleration Grant from the
Israel Cancer Research Fund."*

Awardees should send electronic copies of publications carrying the above credit line to the ICRF International Executive Office in New York as soon as possible after publication.

Patents

No patent application for work done under an ICRF award shall be filed by the grantee institution or by any individual investigator engaged in this research without prior consultation with and written approval of the Fund.

Changes and Amendments

Any changes or amendments to the original award must be approved in writing by the Fund.

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