

GENERAL POLICIES GOVERNING ICRF CLINICAL RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS (CRCDA's)

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.)

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.

Acting upon the recommendations of the Scientific Review Panel and the International Scientific Council, the Board of Trustees of the ICRF then approves all awards.

BEFORE ANY APPLICATION WILL BE PROCESSED OR REVIEWED, ALL OF THE REQUIRED ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED EXACTLY AS REQUESTED; OTHERWISE THE APPLICATION WILL BE REJECTED AUTOMATICALLY.

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>
December 31, 2019	July 1, 2020	September 1, 2020

Purpose

The CRCDA is a special grant for enhancement of the clinical research capabilities of young Israeli scientists in the formative phase of their careers who have demonstrated outstanding potential for contribution to clinical cancer research as independent investigators. The awards are available for persons with research potential who need additional experience in a scientific environment that is conducive to the development of a career in clinical research. The award is not intended for those already established as independent investigators. The award is not intended simply to substitute one source of salary support for another for an individual who is already conducting full-time research, nor is it a mechanism for providing institutional support. Its main purpose is to provide free time for a young medical or pediatric oncologist to devote to a clinical research project conducted in Israel and to obtain additional (post-fellowship) training to become a leader in clinical research programs.

Because this funding opportunity targets development of early career investigators, it is important, and requisite, that a formal mentoring program be established for the investigator. There should be a primary mentor who should be available for guidance at all times. It is preferable that the primary mentor be at the same institution as the investigator. In addition, there should be a small mentoring committee formed of additional senior members who will meet with the investigators quarterly to evaluate progress and give guidance. All CRCDA applications must include letters of support from the primary mentor and members of the mentoring committee.

Definitions of Research Areas

Clinical Research utilizes human subjects or materials and has direct application to the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of cancer in the individual or group of individuals under study, or the rehabilitation (including quality of life issues) of the patient. Clinical Research also includes:

1. Cancer Control Research - Investigates how scientifically obtained information on prevention, early detection, early diagnosis, state-of-the-art treatment, or rehabilitation can be efficiently and effectively applied to defined groups of people or at the community level to reduce the burden of cancer.
2. Health Service Research - Also called research on access to care, this research deals with the ways by which people interface with health care delivery systems. It investigates the barriers to health care and the differing, and often changing, needs of patients.
3. Psychosocial and Behavioral Cancer Research - Directed at understanding and improving the motivational factors in cancer prevention and screening, and the social and emotional impact of cancer and its treatment on individuals, their families, and their caregivers.
4. Cancer Genetics and Genetic Counseling Research.
5. Translational Research – Collaboration between basic and clinical scientists with the intent of enhancing the transfer of basic research findings to clinical usefulness.

Eligibility

1. Nomination and Commitment by Institution

Candidates must be nominated by a public or private nonprofit institution engaged in healthcare and healthcare-related research and located in Israel. The application must originate jointly with the institution and the proposed nominee, and must describe fully all proposed research, teaching, and medical activities. The endorsement (signature) of the head of the institution or other person authorized to commit the institution to abide by the requirements of the ICRF is required. A letter from the Dean, relevant Department Chair, or other appropriate senior hospital/university official should accompany the application detailing the institutional support available to the applicant during the period of the award, as well as its future plans for the applicant after completion of the award term.

2. Experience

Candidates must have a medical degree and at least two years of fellowship training in medical or pediatric hematology-oncology or a related oncologic specialty, but not more than five years of subsequent relevant professional experience prior to the requested beginning date of the award.

3. Concurrent Awards

A CRCDA applicant may not accept another clinical research career development type of award that would duplicate the provisions of the ICRF grant. Other development awards considered to be duplicative include clinical investigator awards, academic and teacher investigator awards, and postdoctoral and senior fellowships.

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 objectives of the ICRF, and the availability of funds. The proposal must be a clinical trial and may involve multiple institutions provided that the intent to collaborate is documented.

In the review of applications for scientific merit, attention is given to the candidate's prior training and experience, career potential, proposed research, environment, and other related information. The application must demonstrate that the award will enhance the candidate's development as an independent clinical investigator. The relationship of the research to cancer must be defined in the application.

Terms of the Award

1. Commitment to Research

Individuals who receive a CRCDA are to devote at least half of their time to clinical research activities. Such activities may include giving or receiving research training, supervising the research of others, and participating in workshops and scientific or professional meetings. The principal involvement must be with the actual conduct of research. It is expected that the other portion of the awardee's time will be devoted to direct patient care at the funded institution.

During the period of the award, the institution is expected to reduce or defer demands for teaching, service or committee duties that do not contribute directly to the development of the candidate's research career.

2. Relationship to Institution

Although individuals are considered as the awardee, awards are made to eligible institutions on behalf of the awardee. The awardee is an employee of the institution to which the award is made and his or her status, title, salary and staff privileges are determined by the institution according to its established policies for individuals holding 12-month appointments, except as otherwise set out in this statement.

3. Duration and Amount of the Award

CRCDA's are awarded, contingent upon the availability of funds, for a single support period of three (3) years with a stipend of \$45,000 per year. Past recipients are not permitted to reapply for this award.

4. Progress Reports

At the end of 1½ years, CRCDA recipients must submit a detailed progress report. A reminder notice with instructions and cover sheet will be sent out in advance of the due date. The cover sheet must be attached to the report.

Allowable Award Costs

The CRCDA will reimburse the grantee institution for the employee's research and training efforts which must encompass at least 50% of his or her time at the institution. Support is limited to a maximum of \$45,000 per year. The CRCDA may be used for any combination of salary and research costs incurred by the awardee, including attendance at cooperative cancer treatment group meetings and expenses for training in clinical research methodology and biostatistics.

The total salary of the investigator (ICRF and institutional contribution) must be based on a full-time, 12-month staff appointment, and be consistent with both the established salary structure at the institution and with salaries provided by the institution to other staff members of equivalent qualifications, rank and responsibilities in the department concerned. If full-time salaries are not currently paid to comparable staff members, the salary proposed must be appropriately related to the existing part-time salary structure.

The CRCDA is made with the expectation that additional research support and salary funds from the institution will be available to the awardee during the period of the award, and that full-time employment of the awardee will be assured for a minimum of 3 years after completion of the CRCDA, with appropriate funding for continued clinical research activities.

Type of Clinical Trials to be Supported

Phase I (tolerance and toxicity) trials may be performed under a CRCDA proposal provided that an experienced clinical investigator (mentor) provides assurance of appropriate supervision. Phase II and Phase III trials may be proposed for support of this type, and may involve more than one institution provided that the appropriate consortium agreements are obtained.

Pharmaceutical Industry Involvement

Financial support and proprietary drug provision are permitted, provided that a letter from the manufacturer or supplier clearly indicates they will have no control or influence over publication or dissemination of results of the project.

Fiscal Requirements for Institutions

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, tuition, seminar registration, meeting attendance, etc.) connected with the project. No overhead, clerical or other administrative charges can be made by the institution against the award funds. The ICRF also does not allow its funds to be used for work performed outside of Israel. However, travel expenses of up to a maximum of \$1,000 may be budgeted for RCDAs, CRCDA's, and Postdoctoral Fellowships only.

A report of these expenditures, detailing the utilization of the funds (salaries, supplies, etc.) must be submitted to ICRF semi-annually. The first report (six-month report) is due by March 31 and the year-end report is due by September 30. Forms will be sent directly to the institution by the ICRF office. Grant payments will be suspended, if these reports become overdue.

Termination or Change of Institution

1. When a grantee institution plans to terminate an award, the ICRF must be notified in writing at the earliest possible time so that appropriate instructions can be given for termination.
2. If the individual is moving to another eligible institution, CRCDA support may be continued, provided:
 - a. A new application is submitted by the new institution on behalf of the individual for review by the ICRF together with a letter of release from the existing institution;
 - b. The period of support requested is only for the time remaining within the 36-month limitation; and
 - c. The new application is submitted at least six (6) months prior to the requested effective date to allow the necessary time for review.
3. The ICRF may discontinue an award upon determination that the purpose or terms of the award are not being fulfilled. In the event an award is terminated, the ICRF shall notify the grantee institution and the awardee in writing of its decision, the reasons therefore, the effective date and the right to appeal the decision.
4. A final progress report, invention statement and expenditure report are required within 60 days of termination of an award.

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 project during this period. This letter must be countersigned by the awardee's department head and the appropriate institutional official. Such leave may not exceed 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 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 fund of such vacancy will allow the ICRF to recover funds in toto.

Biohazards and Protection of Human Subjects

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 require prior review and approval by the appropriate institutional committee. That written approval 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.

Publications

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

"This study was supported by a Clinical Research Career Development Award 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 and written approval of the Fund.

Changes and Amendments

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

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