

GENERAL POLICIES GOVERNING ICRF RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS (RCDAs)

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

Each application is reviewed and evaluated by a Scientific Review Panel of the Israel Cancer Research Fund (the Fund). The rankings and recommendations of the Scientific Review Panels are presented to the International Scientific Council for final consideration. The Board of Trustees of the Fund 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 RCDA is a special grant for enhancement of the research capabilities of young Israeli scientists in the formative phase of their careers who have demonstrated outstanding potential for contribution to 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 independent research. The award is not intended for untried investigators or 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.

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 RCDA applications must include letters of support from the primary mentor and members of the mentoring committee.

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 the availability of funds.

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 investigator. The relationship of the research to cancer must be defined in the application.

Eligibility

1. Nomination by Institution

Candidates must be nominated by a public or private nonprofit institution engaged in health-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 and teaching 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.

2. Experience

Candidates must have a doctoral degree, at least three (3) years of postdoctoral fellowship or equivalent experience, and be within five (5) years of their first appointment to an independent position prior to the requested beginning date of the award. An individual who has achieved professional recognition, as evidenced by substantial independent research accomplishments, significant number of publications of high quality in scientific or professional journals, or the attainment of senior faculty or equivalent status, is considered to have achieved the objective of this program and to be ineligible.

3. Concurrent Applications

An RCDA application may not be submitted concurrently with another research career development-type application that would duplicate the provisions of the RCDA. Other development awards considered to be duplicative include clinical investigator awards, academic and teacher investigator awards, and postdoctoral and senior fellowships.

Terms of the Award

1. Commitment to Research

Individuals who receive an RCDA are to devote full-time to research and research-related activities. Such activities may include giving or receiving research training, supervising the research of others, participating in workshops and scientific or professional meetings, providing health care to the extent required to maintain clinical skills and expertise necessary for the conduct of research, and performing related academic activities that do not deter the awardee from accomplishing the purpose of the RCDA. The principal involvement must be with the actual conduct of research.

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

RCDA's are awarded, contingent upon the availability of funds, for a period of three (3) years at a stipend of \$45,000 per year. Recipients are permitted and encouraged to reapply once for an additional three (3) years of support, provided that they are still within five (5) years of their first appointment to an independent position prior to the requested beginning date of the award.

4. Progress Reports

At the end of 1½ years, RCDA 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 RCDA will reimburse the grantee institution for the employee's total efforts which, under the terms of the award, are to be devoted to full-time research and research-related activities. Support is limited to a maximum of \$45,000 for each budget period. The RCDA may be used for salary or research costs incurred by the awardee, and the grantee institution may supplement the award consistent with the institution's salary scale.

The total salary proposed (ICRF and institutional contribution) must be based on a full-time, 12-month staff appointment. It must be consistent with both the established salary structure at the institution and with salaries actually provided by the institution from its own funds 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 RCDA is made with the expectation that research support funds from the institution will be available to the awardee during the period of the award.

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, RCDA 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 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 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.

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, 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 RCDA, CRCDAs, 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.

Publications

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

"This study was supported by a 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.

Biohazards and Protection of Human Subjects and/or Animals

Safeguarding the rights and welfare of human subjects and/or animals 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. 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.

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**