Israel Cancer Research Fund

52 Vanderbilt Avenue, Suite 1510, New York, NY 10017-3834
tel 212.969.9800 • fax 212.969.9822 • toll free 888.654.ICRF (4273)
e-mail info@icrfonline.org • web site www.icrfonline.org

RESEARCH GRANTS 2020-2021

For the 2020 / 2021 funding year, ICRF is supporting 71 grants valued at $4,884,668. This is broken down as follows:

8 Jacki and Bruce Barron Cancer Research Scholars' Program Grants *(A Partnership between ICRF and City of Hope)*	**2 Max Ritvo, Alan Slifka and Desiree Dato Fund Grants** *(A Partnership between ICRF, SWCRF, and ABSF)*
3 Immunotherapy Promise Grants *(A Partnership between ICRF and Cancer Research Institute)*	**1 ICRF-Conquer Cancer Career Development Award** *(A Partnership between ICRF and Conquer Cancer [The ASCO Foundation])*
2 Gesher Awards for Academic Excellence *(A Partnership between ICRF and the Israel Ministry of Science and Technology)*	**1 B. S. Goodman Endowed RCDA for Pancreatic Cancer**
2 Brause Family Initiative for Quality of Life Grants	**12 Research Career Development Awards (RCDAs)**
4 L. & S. Mark Initiative for Ovarian/Uterine Cancers Grants	**17 Project Grants**
3 Acceleration Grants	**12 Research Professorship Grants**
4 Postdoctoral Fellowships	

With the 2020 / 2021 grants, ICRF's funding has now reached 2,569 grants totaling $77,752,000.

Among the areas of cancer research directly sponsored by ICRF in 2020 / 2021 are: studies in blood, brain, breast, colorectal, lung, oral, ovarian and uterine, pancreatic, pediatric, and skin cancers; drug development; pain management and quality of life issues; cancer stem cells and cellular reprogramming; imaging and early detection; expression, regulation, and mutation of genes and DNA repair; tumor metastasis; inflammation and cancer; immunology and immunotherapy; proteomics and computational biology; cell signaling and cell-cycle control.

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
JACKI & BRUCE BARRON CANCER RESEARCH SCHOLARS' PROGRAM GRANTS ***(A Partnership between ICRF and City of Hope)***	**Ziv Gil, MD, PhD (PI)** and **Laleh Melstrom, MD (Co-PI)**	Rambam Health Care Campus and City of Hope	*Targeting Pyrimidine Metabolism to Improve Chemotherapy Response in Pancreatic Cancer*	Improving Chemo-therapy for Pancreatic Cancer
	Emmilia Hodak, MD, PhD (PI) and **Christiane Querfeld, MD, PhD (Co-PI)**	Rabin Medical Center and City of Hope	*Targeting Epigenetic Mechanisms in Cutaneous T Cell Lymphoma*	Lymphoma, Immunology and Immunotherapy
	Noah Isakov, PhD (PI) and **Zuoming Sun, PhD (Co-PI)**	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and City of Hope	*Dual Function of TCF-1 in Lymphoma Development*	Lymphoma, Immunology and Immunotherapy
	Erez Levanon, PhD (PI) and **Kevin Morris, PhD (Co-PI)**	Bar-Ilan University and City of Hope	*RNA Edited Long Non-Coding RNAs and their Role in Cancer*	Genetics and Genomics
	Ariel Munitz, PhD (PI) and **Hua Yu, PhD (Co-PI)**	Tel Aviv University and City of Hope	*Uncovering the Roles of Eosinophils in Lung Metastasis*	Immunology and Immunotherapy, Metastasis
	Yardena Samuels, PhD (PI) and **Yuan Yuan, MD, PhD (Co-PI)**	Weizmann Institute of Science and City of Hope	*Identifying PIK3CA Neoantigen-Specific T Cell Receptors for Cell Therapy of Solid Tumors*	Immunology and Immunotherapy, Genetics and Genomics
	Idit Shachar, PhD (PI) and **Flavia Pichiorri, PhD (Co-PI)**	Weizmann Institute of Science and City of Hope	*Regulation of CD84 expression and function in multiple myeloma*	Multiple Myeloma
	Tomer Shlomi, PhD (PI) and **Saul Priceman, PhD (Co-PI)**	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology and City of Hope	*Overcoming Immunosuppression of Adoptive T Cell Therapy for Solid Tumors via Metabolic Engineering*	Immunology and Immunotherapy, Metabolism and Cancer

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
THE IMMUNOTHERAPY PROMISE GRANTS ***(A Partnership between ICRF and Cancer Research Institute)***	**Cyrille Cohen, PhD**	Bar-Ilan University	*CRISPR-Based Editing and Manipulation of TIGIT/CD96 to Enhance T-Cell Anti-Tumor Function*	Immunology and Immunotherapy
	Lior Nissim, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*A Synthetic-Biology Based Modality for Lung Cancer Immunotherapy*	Lung Cancer, Immunology and Immunotherapy
	Asya Rolls, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Neuronal Regulation of Anti-Tumor Immunity*	Immunology and Immunotherapy
MAX RITVO, ALAN SLIFKA AND DESIREE DATO FUND GRANTS FOR FUSION-ONCOPROTEIN CANCERS AND METASTASIS ***(A Partnership between ICRF, Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation, and Alan B. Slifka Foundation)***	**Ido Amit, PhD (PI)** and **Miriam Merad, MD, PhD (Co-PI)**	Weizmann Institute of Science and Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center	*Elucidating the Mechanisms by which Pyk2 Regulates Tumor-Macrophage Interactions in Metastasis*	Metastasis
	Yosef Yarden, PhD (PI) and **Elizabeth Lawlor, MD, PhD (Co-PI)**	Weizmann Institute of Science and Seattle Children's Research Institute	*Impact of Steroid Hormones on Ewing Sarcoma: Mechanisms and Implications for Treatment*	Ewing Sarcoma
ICRF-CONQUER CANCER CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD ***(A Partnership between ICRF and Conquer Cancer [The ASCO Foundation])***	**Albert Grinshpun, MD**	Hadassah University Hospital	*Universal Detection of Breast Cancer*	Early Diagnosis for Breast Cancer

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
GESHER AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE *(A Partnership between ICRF and the Israel Ministry of Science and Technology [MOST])*	**Uri Ben-David, PhD**	Tel Aviv University	*Dissecting the Selection Pressures that Shape Aneuploidy Landscapes in Cancer*	Genetics and Genomics
	Erez Hasnis, MD, PhD	Rambam Health Care Campus	*Role of RNF125 in Acinar-to-Ductal Metaplasia and Pancreatic Cancer*	Pancreatic Cancer
BRAUSE FAMILY INITIATIVE FOR QUALITY OF LIFE GRANTS	**Yafit Gilboa, PhD**	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Combined Model of Online Remote Interventions for Cancer-Related Cognitive Decline*	Preventing Cancer-Related Cognitive Decline
	Avi Priel, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Non-Opioid Specific Analgesics for Cancer Pain: Modulating the Pain Receptor TRPV1*	Developing Non-Opioid Treatments for Cancer Pain Management
LEN & SUSAN MARK INITIATIVE FOR OVARIAN AND UTERINE/MMMT CANCERS GRANTS	**Rotem Karni, PhD**	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*The Role of FOXL2 in Ovarian Cancer Progression*	Ovarian Cancer
	Ruth Perets, MD, PhD	Rambam Health Care Campus	*Novel Structural Based Mechanism of Targeting Ovarian and Endometrial Carcinomas*	Ovarian and Endometrial Cancers
	Itay Tirosh, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Single Cell Analysis of Ovarian and Uterine Cancers*	Ovarian and Uterine Cancers
	Yosef Yarden, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Towards Immunotherapy of Ovarian Cancer: Disabling the Immuno-Suppressive Microenvironment*	Developing Immunotherapy for Ovarian Cancer

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
ACCELERATION GRANTS	**Shay Ben-Aroya, PhD**	Bar-Ilan University	*Identifying Proteasome Targets Involved in DNA Double Strand Breaks Repair*	DNA Breakage and Repair
	Lucio Frydman, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Deuterium Metabolic MRI: An Emerging Radiation-Free Surrogate of PET*	Improving Imaging for Early Detection of Cancer
	Yifat Merbl, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Reshaping Dysfunctional T Cells by Modulating Ubiquitin-Dependent Regulation*	Predicting Responses to Immunotherapy
RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP GRANTS	**Michal Baniyash, PhD**	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*The Role of Immunosuppressive Cells and Gut Microbiota in Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Colorectal Cancer: Clinical Implications*	Colorectal Cancer
	Yinon Ben-Neriah, MD, PhD	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	*CKI Regulation in Normal and Malignant Stem Cells*	Colorectal Cancer and Cancer Stem Cells
	Yehudit Bergman, PhD	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	*The Role of Epigenetic Regulation in Stem Cells and Cancer*	Cancer Stem Cells, Inflammation and Cancer, Breast and Colon Cancer
	Howard Cedar, MD, PhD	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	*Regulation of Gene Expression in Animal Cells*	Molecular Genetics
	Aaron Ciechanover, MD, DSc	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Unraveling the Tumor-Suppressing Mechanisms Involved in Ubiquitin-Mediated Activation of NF-kappaB*	Ubiquitin System, NF-κB Protein, Involvement in Inflammation and Cell Proliferation

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP GRANTS *(continued)*	**Jacob Hanna, MD, PhD**	Weizmann Institute of Science	*New Cancer Therapy Related Mechanistic and Applied Frontiers with Patient Specific iPSCs*	Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells
	Avram Hershko, MD, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Roles of the Ubiquitin System in the Control of Cell Division and in Cancer*	Ubiquitin System
	Martin Kupiec, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*Dissecting the Molecular Functions of Elg1/ATAD5*	Molecular Biology
	Ofer Mandelboim, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Development of New Checkpoint Inhibitors Based on Novel TIGIT Ligands*	Immunology and Immunotherapy
	Ronit Satchi-Fainaro, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*P-Selectin-Targeted Nanomedicines and Immunotherapy for Brain Metastases Prevention*	Designing Treatment to Prevent Brain Metastases
	Yosef Shiloh, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*The ATM-Mediated DNA Damage Response: Moving between the Forest and the Trees*	The DNA Damage Response and Maintaining Genomic Stability
	Israel Vlodavsky, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Heparanase: From Basic Research to Therapeutic Applications*	Improving Anti-Heparanase Therapies for Cancer Treatment
BARBARA S. GOODMAN ENDOWED RCDA FOR PANCREATIC CANCER	**Oren Parnas, PhD**	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*A Functional Investigation of Acinar Metaplastic and Pancreatic Tumor Expressed Genes*	Pancreatic Cancer

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS (RCDAs)	**Sheera Adar, PhD**	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*A DNA Repair Role for SWI/SNF Chromatin Remodelers in Cancer Prevention and Therapy*	Cancer Prevention and Therapy
	Yaron Carmi, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*Identifying the Mechanisms Underlying Melanoma Relapse Following Curative Surgery*	Skin Cancer
	Idan Cohen, PhD	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	*Polycomb Repressive Complex 1 and Histone H2AK119 Mono-Ubiquitination in Skin Cancer*	Skin Cancer
	Rony Dahan, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Increasing the Therapeutic Window of CD40 Agonistic Antibodies*	Immunology, Immunotherapy, and Cancer Metastasis
	Moshe Giladi, MD, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*Molecular Basis of cis-Prenyl-Transferase Activity Underlying Aberrant Cancer Glycosylation*	Studying Sugars on the Surface of Cancer Cells as Treatment Targets
	Nir London, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Targeting Melanoma with Covalent Drugs*	New Drug Targets for Melanoma
	Katy Margulis, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Development of New Therapies in Cancer Using Ambient Mass Spectrometry Imaging*	Developing New Therapies for Skin Cancer
	Rotem Rubinstein, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*Structural Biology of VISTA - an Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor*	Immunology and Immunotherapy
	Maayan Salton, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Splicing Modulation to Combat Vemurafenib Resistant Melanoma*	Melanoma and Skin Cancers

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
RCDAs *(continued)*	**Yoav Shaul, PhD**	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*The Essential Role of Dihydro-pyrimidines in Breast Cancer Progression*	Breast Cancer Metastasis
	Ziv Shulman, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Reconstruction of Tumor Niches using NICHE-CyTOF*	Inflammation and Cancer, Pancreatic Cancer and Melanoma
	Yonatan Stelzer, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Studying Non-Canonical Expression of IGF2 and its Role in Tumorigenesis*	Epigenetics in Cancer Biology
PROJECT GRANTS	**Ronen Alon, PhD**	Weizmann Institute of Science	*A-Type Lamins in Melanoma Invasion, Pulmonary Extravasation, and Lung Metastasis*	Skin Cancer and Metastasis to the Lungs
	Gil Ast, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*Long and Short Introns Reside in Different Nuclear Subcompartments*	Computational Biology, Genetics and Genomics
	Sivia Barnoy, RN, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*Cascade Screening for Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer and Lynch Syndrome in Israel*	Breast, Ovarian and Colorectal Cancers
	Irit Ben Aharon, MD, PhD	Rambam Health Care Campus	*Cancer and Pregnancy: Role of Vascular Toxicity in Chemotherapy-Induced Placental Insult*	Chemotherapy, Cancer and Pregnancy
	Shamgar Ben-Eliyahu, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*A Novel Clinical Perioperative Intervention to Improve DFS in Colorectal Cancer Patients*	Colorectal Cancer
	Michael Berger, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Generating Metabolically Superior T Cells as Novel Immunotherapy to Treat Solid Tumors*	Improving Immunotherapy

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
PROJECT GRANTS *(continued)*	**Neta Erez, Ph.D.**	Tel Aviv University	*Uncovering the Role of Stromal and Immune Cells in the Lung Metastatic Niche of Breast Cancer*	Breast Cancer Metastasis to the Lungs
	Hava Gil-Henn, PhD	Bar-Ilan University	*A Peptide-Based Approach for Blocking Breast Cancer Metastasis*	Breast Cancer Metastasis
	Zvi Granot, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Neutrophil Specific Targeting of TORC1 Signaling as a Novel Mode of Cancer Immunotherapy*	Immunology and Immunotherapy
	Shoshana Greenberger, MD, PhD	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	*Role of Melanosomes in Tumor-Associated Lymphangiogenesis and Immune Tolerance*	Skin Cancer
	Avi-Hai Hovav, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*A Shift in Epithelial Antigen-Presenting Cells Drives Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma*	Oral Carcinoma
	Tomer Kalisky, PhD	Bar-Ilan University	*Characterizing Cellular Heterogeneity in Renal Cell Carcinoma Using Single-Cell Genomics*	Kidney Cancer
	Nathan Karin, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*CXCL10 as a Positive Immune Checkpoint for Effector CD8+ T Cells in Cancer Immunotherapy*	Immunology and Immunotherapy for Melanoma
	Yaacov Lawrence, MBBS	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	*Mechanistic Exploitation of Metabolic Rewiring Overcomes Radioresistant Pancreatic Cancer*	Radiation-Resistant Pancreatic Cancer

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
PROJECT GRANTS *(continued)*	**Michael Milyavsky, PhD**	Tel Aviv University	*Characterization and Targeting of a Novel Epigenetic Circuit in Acute Leukemia*	Pediatric Leukemia
	Yoram Reiter, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Overcoming Resistance to CAR-T cell Therapy due to Antigen Modulation by New Receptors*	Improving Immunotherapy
	Thomas Schultheiss, MD, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*An In Vivo Model for Studying Mesenchymal-to-Epithelial Transition (MET)*	Metastasis
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS	**Ofer Elhanani, PhD**	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Revealing Tumor-Clone Interactions in Melanoma using Multiplexed Ion Beam Imaging*	Skin Cancer
	Tal Falick Michaeli, MD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Epigenetic Landscape in the Metastatic Liver Before and After Hepatic Resection*	Colorectal Cancer and Metastasis to the Liver
	Lina Jaber, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Dissecting the Role of Tumor Suppressor WWOX in Antagonizing Pancreatic Cancer*	Pancreatic Cancer
	Lirin Michaeli, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*SUMO Regulation on UPRmt and Apoptosis Resistance*	New Targets for Cancer Treatment