

POLICIES GOVERNING ICRF RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS (RCDAs)

Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) Research Career Development Awards (RCDAs) are designed to enhance 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. RCDAs are available to investigators with clear research potential who will benefit by additional mentored experience in a scientific environment that is conducive to the development of an independent research career. A candidate must have a doctoral degree and at least three (3) years of postdoctoral fellowship or equivalent experience, hold an independent junior position at an Israeli institution, and be within five (5) years of initial appointment to that position at the start date of requested funding.

This grant is not intended for untried investigators or for those already established as independent investigators. An individual who has achieved professional recognition, as evidenced by substantial independent research accomplishments, a 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. RCDAs may not be used simply to substitute one source of salary support for another for an individual who is already conducting full-time research, nor do they provide support to the institution or substitute for institutional support of an investigator.

Mentoring

Because the goal of RCDA funding is to promote development of early-career investigators, each investigator must establish a formal mentoring program. Each RCDA applicant must identify at least two mentors committed to overseeing the applicant's progress from among senior investigators at the applicant's institution. Letters of support and a detailed Mentorship Plan must accompany the application.

Duration and Amount of the Grant

The duration of an RCDA is three (3) years, at a level of \$45,000 per year, as determined by the Scientific Review Panel and the availability of funds. Funding for the second and third years is contingent upon progress in the preceding funding period, as documented in a progress report due annually on June 30.

An additional year may, in some cases, be made available, based on receipt of the following and the availability of funds:

- A letter explaining why the additional funds are being requested and why one more year of funding may have a significant impact on the success of the research;
- A short report on progress to date (2-page pdf; may include figures; font, margins, and line spacing must be compliant with current progress report formatting guidelines);
- A brief description of experiments to be performed during the additional year of funding requested, clearly distinguishing new experiments and experiments that were proposed in the original application, but not yet completed (same formatting requirements as above);
- A list of all publications accepted or in-press;
- A list of all current funding and any funding applications currently pending.

To be considered for this, a grantee must provide the above information by June 30 during the third year of the grant.

Terms of the RCDA

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 grantee from accomplishing the purpose of the RCDA. The principal involvement must be with the actual conduct of research. During the period of the grant, 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. ***Nomination by the Sponsoring 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.
3. ***Relationship of the Grantee to the Sponsoring Institution:*** Although an individual is considered as the grantee, grants are made to eligible institutions on behalf of the grantee. The grantee is an employee of the institution to which the grant 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.
4. ***Concurrent Applications Not Permitted:*** An RCDA application may not be submitted concurrently with another research career development-type application that would duplicate the provisions of the RCDA, nor may a grantee accept another research career development award that would duplicate the provisions of the ICRF grant. Potentially duplicative grants include clinical investigator awards, academic and teacher investigator awards, and postdoctoral and senior fellowships.

Allowable Grant Costs

The RCDA will reimburse the grantee institution for the employee's total efforts which, under the terms of the grant, 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 grantee, and the grantee institution may supplement the grant consistent with the institution's salary scale.

The total salary of the investigator (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 grantee during the period of the grant.

Further Information

Additional information and templates for applying for an ICRF research grant can be downloaded from our website, <https://www.icrfonline.org/grants/>, or from <https://proposalcentral.com/default.asp>.

For information on **General Policies Governing ICRF Grants**, including fiscal requirements for sponsoring institutions, please see the following pages.

Questions? For any questions or problems, please send an E-mail message to: ellen.rubin@icrfonline.org

GENERAL POLICIES GOVERNING ICRF GRANTS

The Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) supports clinical and basic research and research training, which must relate to cancer. To apply for an ICRF-funded grant, an investigator must be a citizen of Israel (proof of Israeli citizenship must be furnished upon request). Typically, all research must be conducted in Israel. However, in the case of certain collaborative grants, joint applications are considered from co-investigators, only one of whom is an Israeli citizen proposing research that will be conducted at an Israeli institution.

Application Submission and Grant Activation:

<i>RECEIVED BY THE ICRF</i>	<i>NOTIFICATION OF DECISION</i>	<i>ACTIVATION OF GRANT</i>
December 31, 2021, 11:59PM EST	May 1 and thereafter*	September 1, 2022

***Note: ICRF Rolling Award Announcements and Tier Group Assignments**

- * *As of 2021, ICRF began committing funds on a "rolling award" basis. An initial round of commitments will be made to applications with the very top scores (Tier 1). Subsequently, funding commitments will be announced individually, as funds become available (Tier 2). Non-competitive applications (Tier 3) will not receive funding.*
- * *Applicants will be notified of their Tier Group rank rather than a numerical score. As an approximate guide, applications in Tiers 1 and 2 received scores in the range of 1-2 (on a 1-5 scale, with 1 being the highest score), and those in Tier 3 received scores >2.*
- * *This approach was adopted because it enables us to rapidly inform investigators in Tier 1 that they will be funded, and it enhances the window of opportunity for identifying sources of funding for investigators in Tier 2.*
- * *Applications that are not funded this year may become competitive upon revision and resubmission.*
- * *We very much hope that this new approach will enable us to fund a higher proportion of excellent applications than in the past.*

Important Points Regarding Application Submission:

- ***Applications that do not provide all required information, as specified, will be rejected automatically, and will not be processed or reviewed.***
- ***Only one (1) grant application per principal investigator will be accepted for each submission deadline.***
- ***An individual may be principal investigator on only a single ICRF grant at any given time. A principal investigator currently funded by ICRF may apply for another ICRF grant only if the start date is after the current funding period ends.***
- ***Once a grant application has been submitted to ICRF, the email addresses for all investigators and institutional personnel contained within the application will be added to the ICRF email list and those individuals will receive regular updates and other important information. Recipients will have the option to unsubscribe from said emails.***

Each application is reviewed by a Scientific Review Panel and evaluated for:

1. scientific merit, innovation, and potential significance for advancing the understanding, diagnosis and/or treatment of cancer;
2. the qualifications of the applicant, based on prior training, demonstrated expertise, and scientific productivity;
3. progress resulting from previous funding, from the ICRF and other sources;
4. for proposals that are mentored, letters of commitment from mentors and the utility of the mentoring plan;
5. facilities, materials, resources and scientific environment available for the project, and the duration of such availability, as identified by the investigator and confirmed in writing by the institutional grants office and/or the investigator's department chair.

The rankings and recommendations of the Scientific Review Panels are presented to the International Scientific Council for further consideration and then to the ICRF Board of Trustees for final approval.

Fiscal Requirements and Considerations for the Sponsoring Institution:

An applicant for ICRF funding must hold a position at a sponsoring Israeli institution able to provide research space and administrative infrastructure for the project.

In addition to the applicant's signature, each submitted application must be signed by an authorized institutional official signifying the ability and willingness of the sponsoring institution to provide research space and budgetary oversight to the project.

ICRF funds that support Research Professorships, Project Grants, Acceleration Grants, Research Career Development Awards (RCDAs), Clinical Research Career Development Awards (CRCDAs) and Postdoctoral Fellowships may only be used for work performed in Israel.

ICRF funds are to be used for actual direct expenses (salary, supplies, etc.) connected with the project. ICRF will not support any overhead, clerical, or other administrative expenses, and institutions may not charge such expenses to the ICRF account.

A maximum of \$1,000 per year in travel expenses may be budgeted for mentored ICRF grants (RCDAs, CRCDAs, and Postdoctoral Fellowships). Travel expenses are not allowed for other categories of grants (Research Professorships, Project Grants or Acceleration Grants) unless a specific exception has been made.

The sponsoring institution must maintain a separate account for each grant funded by the ICRF. This account must be available for audit at any time by representatives of the ICRF.

The sponsoring institution must provide an annual Expenditure Report detailing the utilization of all funds expended (salaries, supplies, etc.). This report is due by September 30. Payment of funds will be suspended if a Budget Report is overdue.

Continuation of Grants:

Investigators must document progress in an annual report due on June 30. Funds are initially provided for one year, with funding for subsequent years contingent upon progress as described in this report. Payment of funds will be suspended if a Progress Report is overdue.

Renewal of Grants:

The ICRF permits renewal of some categories of grant (Project Grants and Professorships). Renewal applications are evaluated by the Scientific Review Panels along with applications for new funding, and they must be competitive with those applications to be renewed. Renewal applications should be submitted by the December 31 deadline during the final active year of the grant to avoid a lapse in funding.

Special Leave:

- A. Special leave for work in another institution (with continuing support from the grant) may be permitted, if directly related to the purpose of the grant. 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 grantee must submit to the ICRF at least six (6) months prior to the leave, a letter describing how the grantee will supervise his/her laboratory during this period. This letter must be countersigned by the grantee's department head and the appropriate institutional official. Such leave may not exceed 12 months.
- B. Leave without grant support requires the prior approval of the ICRF and will be permitted 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 a grantee is eligible.

Special Conditions:

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

Changes and Amendments:

Any changes or amendments to the original grant must be approved in writing by the ICRF.

Termination or Change of Institution:

1. If a grantee institution plans to terminate a grant, the ICRF must be notified in writing at the earliest possible time so that appropriate instructions can be given for termination.
2. If an individual is moving to another eligible institution, grant support may be continued, provided that:
 - 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 duration of overall funding;
 - 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 a grant upon determination that the purpose or terms of the grant are not being fulfilled. In the event a grant is terminated, the ICRF shall notify the sponsoring institution and the grantee in writing of its decision, the reasons therefore, the effective date, and the right to appeal the decision.
4. A final Progress Report and Expenditure Report are required within 60 days of termination of a grant.

Biohazards and Protection of Human and Animal Subjects:

It is the responsibility of the institution that sponsors a grant to provide oversight that safeguards the rights and welfare of human and animal subjects of research supported by the ICRF, and to ensure that investigators use caution in dealing with any toxic materials or potential biohazards.

Applications for research involving human subjects and/or animals require prior review and approval of the appropriate institutional committee. Approvals must be written in English and submitted along with the ICRF application. For this certification to be valid, the date of the review may not precede the submission date by more than one year.

Patents:

No patent application for research supported by ICRF funds shall be filed by the sponsoring institution or by any individual investigator engaged in this research without prior consultation with and written approval of the ICRF.

Publications:

Publications resulting from ICRF funding must contain the following acknowledgment: "This study was supported by *{insert grant category}* from the Israel Cancer Research Fund." (Please note that our name ends in "Fund," not "Foundation!")

Grantees should send pdf copies of publications carrying the above credit line by email to the ICRF International Executive Office in New York immediately after the publication appears online.

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Additional information and templates for applying for an ICRF research grant can be downloaded from our website, <https://www.icrfonline.org/grants/>, or from <https://proposalcentral.com/default.asp>.

Questions? For any questions or problems, please send an E-mail message to: ellen.rubin@icrfonline.org