



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

POLICIES GOVERNING THE SPECIAL ICRF INITIATIVE IN PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH

The types of cancers that develop in children differ strikingly from cancers that develop in adults. Childhood cancers often develop as a result of cellular DNA changes that occur early in life, sometimes even before birth. Some adult cancers are linked to environmental or lifestyle factors, but cancers that occur in children are very rarely related to such factors. Since childhood and adult cancers are not the same, pediatric cancer patients often receive different types of treatment than adult cancer patients. Children's bodies tend to tolerate chemotherapy better than adults' bodies. However, young children are more likely to experience long-term side effects caused by chemotherapy and radiation therapy, which may affect them throughout their lives.

Graciously supported by an anonymous donor, this special ICRF research grant initiative has been established to encourage outstanding investigators in Israel to focus on and expand their research in cancers occurring in children, leading to a better understanding of pediatric cancers, new treatments and, ultimately, higher survival rates and reduced treatment- and tumor-related morbidity. These grants are intended to support the research of established Israeli investigators working at institutions in Israel. Often, pediatric cancer specialists work as part of a multidisciplinary team to coordinate care. Applications that utilize interdisciplinary approaches with collaborating Israeli co-investigators are encouraged, but not required.

Eligibility

These grants are intended to support the research of established investigators with demonstrated expertise in pediatric cancer research or an interest in entering the field. Applications will only be considered from individuals who have completed at least three years of postdoctoral fellowship training (or the equivalent) on the date on which the grant is activated. Applicants are required to provide strong published or preliminary data in support of the proposed research. If you have already submitted an ICRF grant application for 2022-23, you may also apply for this special initiative. However, if both applications are selected for funding, you will only be allowed to receive one of them. 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.

Duration and Amount of the Grant

At the present time, funds are currently in place for one grant, to be awarded for a period of three (3) years, with total costs of \$240,000 (\$80,000 per year). Annual progress reports are required, and continued funding for the second and third years is contingent on progress in the preceding funding period, as documented in a progress report due annually on April 30. We anticipate being able to secure funding to award additional grants under this special initiative, should the application scores warrant it.

Application Submission and Grant Activation:

RECEIVED BY THE ICRF	NOTIFICATION OF DECISION	ACTIVATION OF GRANT
April 15, 2022, 11:59PM EDT	June 1 and thereafter*	September 1, 2022

**Information on ICRF Rolling Award Announcements and Tier Group Assignments can be found in the document called "General Policies Governing ICRF Grants" that appears on the ICRF website.*

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 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:

RECEIVED BY THE ICRF	NOTIFICATION OF DECISION	ACTIVATION OF GRANT
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