Israel Cancer Research Fund

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RESEARCH GRANTS 2022-2023

For the 2022 / 2023 funding year, ICRF is supporting 83 grants valued at $4,954,666. This is broken down as follows:

1 Clinic and Laboratory Integration Program (CLIP) Grant *(A Partnership between ICRF and Cancer Research Institute [CRI])*	**3 ICRF-Conquer Cancer Career Development Awards** *(A Partnership between ICRF and Conquer Cancer [The ASCO Foundation])*
2 Gesher Grants for Academic Excellence *(A Partnership between ICRF and the Israel Ministry of Science and Technology)*	**2 Brause Family Initiative for Quality of Life Grants**
2 Abshez Initiative for Female Reproductive System Cancers Grants	**1 Special Initiative in Pediatric Cancer Research Grant**
3 L. & S. Mark Initiative for Ovarian/Uterine Cancers Grants	**9 Research Professorship Grants**
4 Acceleration Grants	**35 Project Grants**
5 Postdoctoral Fellowships	**1 B. S. Goodman Endowed RCDA for Pancreatic Cancer**
1 Clinical Research Career Development Award (CRCDA)	**14 Research Career Development Awards (RCDAs)**

With the 2022 / 2023 grants, ICRF's funding has now reached 2,730 grants totaling $87,558,000.

Among the areas of cancer research directly sponsored by ICRF in 2022 / 2023 are: studies in blood, bone, brain, breast, colorectal, head and neck, kidney, liver, lung, oral, ovarian, pancreatic, pediatric, prostate, and skin cancers; drug development and chemoresistance; cancer stem cells; imaging and early detection; DNA repair; tumor metastasis; inflammation and cancer; obesity and cancer; cannabinoids for cancer treatment and pain management; targeted therapy and immunotherapy; computational biology; cell signaling and cell-cycle control; cancer and bacteria and the tumor microenvironment.

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
CLINIC AND LABORATORY INTEGRATION PROGRAM (CLIP) GRANT *(A Partnership between ICRF and Cancer Research Institute [CRI])*	**Yifat Merbl, PhD**	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Controlling Proteasomal Degradation for Enhancing Anti-Tumor Immunity*	Improving Immuno-therapy for Melanoma
ICRF-CONQUER CANCER CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS *(A Partnership between ICRF and Conquer Cancer [The ASCO Foundation])*	**Albert Grinshpun, MD**	Hadassah University Medical Center	*Universal Detection of Breast Cancer*	Early Diagnosis of Breast Cancer via a Blood Test
	Orit Kaidar-Person, MD	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	*BRILLIANT study: BReast mri-based artificial InteLLIgence to identify high risk areas in residual breast tissue after mAstectomy and reconstruction*	Using MRI and AI to Detect Breast Cancer Recurrence after Surgery
	Shlomit Strulov Shachar, MD	Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center	*Identifying Molecular Oncogenic Drivers Associated with Differential Clinical Benefit to Inhibition of the P13K Pathway in Estrogen Receptor-Positive Metastatic Breast Cancer*	Improving Treatment for Metastatic Breast Cancer
GESHER GRANTS 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

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THE BRAUSE FAMILY INITIATIVE FOR QUALITY OF LIFE	**Ahinoam Lev-Sagie, MD**	Hadassah University Medical Center	*Genital Graft Versus Host Disease (GGVHD) Following Transplantation and the Vaginal Microbiome*	Preventing GGVHD in Women after Bone Marrow Transplantation
	Avi Priel, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Cancer Pain and Medical Cannabis: Defining the Pain Pathway Target of Cannabinoids*	How Cannabinoids Can Be Used to Treat Cancer Pain
BEVERLEY LIBRACH ABSHEZ INITIATIVE FOR OVARIAN AND FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM CANCERS	**Ruth Perets, MD, PhD**	Rambam Health Care Campus	*A Novel, Highly-Specific Mouse Model for Studying HGSC Pathogenesis and Prevention*	Ovarian Cancer
	Ziv Shulman, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*The Physiological Role of Patient-Derived Antibodies in Ovarian Cancer Progression*	Ovarian Cancer
LEN & SUSAN MARK INITIATIVE FOR OVARIAN AND UTERINE/MMMT CANCERS GRANTS	**Sol Efroni, PhD**	Bar-Ilan University	*Early Detection of Ovarian Cancer using a Blood Sample*	Ovarian Cancer
	Keren Levanon, MD, PhD	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	*Predicting and Overcoming Resistance to First-Line Chemotherapy in Ovarian Cancer*	Ovarian Cancer
	Eylon Yavin, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Imaging Ovarian Cancer by cpFIT-PNAs*	Ovarian Cancer
THE SPECIAL ICRF INITIATIVE IN PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH	**Dinorah Friedmann-Morvinski, PhD**	Tel Aviv University	*CAR T Cell Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Pediatric Brain Tumors*	Improving Immuno-therapy for Pediatric Brain Tumors

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CLINICAL RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOP-MENT AWARD	**Amit Tirosh, MD**	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	*Investigating the Role of Onco-metabolites in von Hippel-Lindau Related Endocrine Cancer*	Pancreatic Cancer
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
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
	Raphael Benhamou, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Developing Small Molecules Targeting MicroRNA for Cancer Therapy*	Designing Targeted Therapy for Triple Negative Breast Cancer
	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
	Merav Cohen, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*The immune-related signaling networks inducing breast tissue development and cancer*	Early Detection of and Immunotherapy for Breast Cancer

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RCDAs (continued)	**Naama Geva-Zatorsky, PhD**	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*The Combined Role of the Microbiota and the Immune System in Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma*	Using the Body's Micro-biota for Diagnosis and Therapy of Oral Cancer
	Joshua Grolman, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*The Role of ECM Plasticity on Immune Modulation in the Tumor Microenvironment*	Inflammation and the Immune Response
	Ronit Ilouz, PhD	Bar-Ilan University	*Characterization of the cross talk between PKA-PI3K pathways in prostate cancer*	Improving Immuno-therapy for Prostate Cancer
	Asaf Madi, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*Improving Durable Response Rates Following Checkpoint Blockade Therapy*	Inflammation and the Immune Response
	Katy Margulis, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Development of New Therapies in Cancer Using Ambient Mass Spectrometry Imaging*	Developing New Imaging Tools to Detect Skin Cancer
	Yitzhak Reizel, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*The Role of FoxA1 Pioneer Factor in Shaping Tumor-Associated DNA Methylation Patterns*	Comparing Normal Organ Development with Cancer Initiation and Progression
	Noga Ron-Harel, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Engaging Cellular Metabolism to Enhance T Cell Therapy in Aged Patients*	Investigating the Effect of Aging on the Efficacy of Immunotherapy
	Efrat Shema, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Deciphering the Epigenome of Gliomas Driven by Oncohistones and IDH Mutations*	Brain Tumors

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RCDAs (continued)	**Assaf Zinger, PhD**	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Modulating Triple Negative Breast Cancer Microenvironment Using Biomimetic Nanoparticles*	Triple Negative Breast Cancer
ACCELERATION GRANTS	**Erez Levanon, PhD**	Bar-Ilan University	*Enhancing Immunotherapy by Splicing Manipulation and Neoantigen Induction*	Improving Immunotherapy
	Angel Porgador, PhD	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	*A Novel Strategy for Predicting the Response to Immunotherapy*	Predicting Responses to Immunotherapy using Lung, Kidney, Head and Neck Cancer Models
	Gali Prag, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*Augmented Degradation of Beta-Catenin by Molecular Glue: A New Modality for CRC Therapy*	Identifying Potential Drug Targets using Colon, Rectal, and Skin Cancer as Models
	Yael Mardor, PhD	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	*BBB Disruption by Low Pulsed Electric Fields for Antibodies Delivery to Brain Metastases*	Breast Cancer that has Metastasized to the Brain
RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP GRANTS	**Yinon Ben-Neriah, MD, PhD**	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	*CKI Regulation in Normal and Malignant Stem Cells*	Development of a Drug to Eradicate Leukemia Stem Cells
	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*	The Ubiquitin System, Inflammation, and Cell Proliferation

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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
	Shai Izraeli, MD	Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel	*Towards the Cure of Childhood Leukemia*	Developing New Therapies to Cure Childhood Leukemia
	Rotem Karni, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*RNA Processing Modulation for Cancer Therapy*	RNA Splicing and Therapeutics
	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 Metastases to the Brain
PROJECT GRANTS	**Osnat Ashur-Fabian, PhD**	Meir Medical Center	*Therapeutic Potential of Targeting the DIO3 Enzyme for Boosting Ovarian Cancer Treatments*	Overcoming Treatment Resistance in Ovarian Cancer
	Gil Ast, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*Long and Short Introns Reside in Different Nuclear Subcompartments*	Computational Biology, Genetics and Genomics
	Nabieh Ayoub, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Targeting DNA Replication Stress for Eliminating RBM10-Deficient Lung Adenocarcinoma*	Lung Cancer

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PROJECT GRANTS ***(continued)***	**Naama Barkai, PhD**	Weizmann Institute of Science	*The Contribution of Histone Chaperone to Nucleosome Exchange within Cells*	Genomic Instability and DNA Repair
	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
	Shamgar Ben-Eliyahu, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*A Novel Clinical Perioperative Intervention to Improve DFS in Colorectal Cancer Patients*	Colorectal Cancer
	Ittai Ben-Porath, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Roles of p16 and Senescence in the Epidermal UV Radiation Response and Early Tumorigenesis*	Skin Cancer
	Michael Berger, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Generating Metabolically Superior T Cells as Novel Immunotherapy to Treat Solid Tumors*	Improving Immunotherapy
	Benjamin Berman, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Tracking DNA Methylation Loss to Understand the Origins and Evolution of a Tumor*	Identification of New Cancer Biomarkers
	Tomer Cooks, PhD	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	*Fibroblast Reprograming by Extracellular Vesicles from Pancreatic Tumors with Mutant p53*	Pancreatic Cancer and the p53 Mutation
	Rony Dahan, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Dendritic Cell Targeted Agonists for Cancer Immunotherapy*	Immunology and Immunotherapy

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PROJECT GRANTS ***(continued)***	**Michael Elkin, PhD**	Hadassah University Medical Center	*Metabolic Endotoxemia: A New Molecular Target between Obesity and Breast Cancer*	Obesity and Breast Cancer
	Ayelet Erez, MD, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Preventing Cancer Cachexia by Regulating Amino Acid Metabolism*	Preventing Loss of Skeletal Muscle due to Cancer Treatment
	Neta Erez, Ph.D.	Tel Aviv University	*Uncovering Stromal and Immune Co-Evolution in the Microenvironment of Bone Metastasis*	Role of the Tumor Microenvironment in Breast Cancer Metastases to the Bone
	Lucio Frydman, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*High Field Deuterium MRI: A Transformative Tool in the Study and Diagnosis of Cancer*	Using New MRI Techniques to Diagnose Pancreatic Cancer
	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	*Early Carcinogenic Mechanisms Dysregulating Langerhans Cell Development and Promote OSCC*	Early Detection and Treatment for Oral Cancer

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PROJECT GRANTS ***(continued)***	**Dan Levy, PhD**	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	*Role of Lysine Methylation in the Regulation of Mitotic Events under Replication Stress*	Genomic Instability and DNA Repair
	David Meiri, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Antitumoral Effects of a Distinct Combination of Cannabinoids via Notch1 Pathway in T-ALL*	Using Cannabinoids to Treat Blood Cancers
	Eran Meshorer, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Histone Turnover in Glioblastoma*	Brain Tumors
	Yarden Opatowsky, PhD	Bar-Ilan University	*Preventing Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy (CIPN) in Cancer Patients*	Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy
	Niv Papo, PhD	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	*Map Ligand Binding Selectivity Landscapes toward Engineering Target-Specific Inhibitors*	Engineering Novel Inhibitors for Targeted Cancer Therapy
	Yoram Reiter, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Overcoming Resistance to CAR-T cell Therapy due to Antigen Modulation by New Receptors*	Improving Immunotherapy
	Rina Rosin-Arbesfeld, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*Targeting Wnt Signaling in Hematological Malignancies*	Blood Cancers
	Ruth Scherz-Shouval, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Dissecting the Stromal Landscape of Colitis-Associated Cancer*	Colorectal Cancer
	Gideon Schreiber, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Targeting interferon signaling to improve kinase inhibitor treatment of leukemia*	Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)

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PROJECT GRANTS ***(continued)***	**Yoav Shaul, PhD**	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*The Regulatory Role of the Oncometabolite Dihydropyrimidine in Cancer Cell Plasticity*	Studying How to Block Tumor Metastasis in Breast Cancer
	Julia Shifman, Ph D	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Design and Evaluation of Cell-Permeable Protein Therapeutics for Targeting Ras*	Designing Drugs that Target Ras Mutations
	Liran Shlush, MD, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Prevention of AML Among Carriers of Spliceosome Mutations*	Prediction and Prevention of Leukemias
	Ravid Straussman, MD, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*The Microbiome of GBM and Normal Brain: Characterization and Translational Opportunities*	Studying the Presence of Bacteria in Brain Cancer
	Reuven Wiener, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Mechanistic Understanding of Ufmylation for Anti-Cancer Drug Development*	Protein Regulation for Drug Development
	Yosef Yarden, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Lung Cancer: Immune-Based, Game-Changing Strategies to Overcoming Resistance to EGFR Kinase*	Preventing Resistance to Therapy in Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer
	Joel Yisraeli, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Developing a Small Molecule Inhibitor for Igf2bp1 – A Novel Targeted Therapy for Lung Carcinoma*	Targeted Therapy for Lung Cancer

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POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS	**Aviad Ben-Shmuel, PhD**	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Elucidating the Modulation of Natural Killer Cells by the Cancer Stroma in Breast Cancer*	Breast Cancer
	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
	Ehud Herbst, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Combining Genetics and Natural Product Chemistry Towards Biomining Novel Anticancer Drugs*	Discovering Potential Cancer Treatments from Bacteria
	Adi Reches, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*rRNA 2'-O-Methylation as a Regulator of Leukemia Growth and a Potential Therapeutic Target*	Leukemia