Israel Cancer Research Fund

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RESEARCH GRANTS 2023-2024

For the 2023 / 2024 funding year, ICRF is supporting 79 grants valued at $4,850,000. This is broken down as follows:

1 Clinic and Laboratory Integration Program (CLIP) Grant *(A Partnership between ICRF and Cancer Research Institute [CRI])*	**2 ICRF-Conquer Cancer Career Development Awards** *(A Partnership between ICRF and Conquer Cancer [The ASCO Foundation])*
2 Abshez Initiative for Female Reproductive System Cancers Grants	**2 Brause Family Initiative for Quality of Life Grants**
3 L. & S. Mark Initiative for Ovarian/Uterine Cancers Grants	**1 Special Initiative in Pediatric Cancer Research Grant**
4 Acceleration Grants	**7 Research Professorship Grants**
3 Postdoctoral Fellowships	**38 Project Grants**
1 Clinical Research Career Development Award (CRCDA)	**15 Research Career Development Awards (RCDAs)**

With the 2023 / 2024 grants, ICRF's funding has now reached 2,809 grants totaling $92,408,000.

Among the areas of cancer research directly sponsored by ICRF in 2023 / 2024 are: studies in blood, bone, brain, breast, colorectal, endocrine, head and neck, gastric, kidney, lung, oral, ovarian, pancreatic, pediatric, prostate, and skin cancers; drug development and chemoresistance; cancer stem cells; imaging and early detection; DNA repair; tumor metastasis; aging and cancer; inflammation and cancer; obesity and cancer; cannabinoids for cancer treatment and pain management; biomarkers for diagnosis, prognosis, and targeted therapy; immunology and immunotherapy; cardio-oncology; cancer and bacteria and the tumor microenvironment; and quality of life issues.

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])*	**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
THE BRAUSE FAMILY INITIATIVE FOR QUALITY OF LIFE GRANTS	**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

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BEVERLEY LIBRACH ABSHEZ INITIATIVE FOR OVARIAN AND FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM CANCERS GRANTS	**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 GRANT	**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
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

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RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS (RCDAs)	**Raphael Benhamou, PhD**	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Developing Small Molecules Targeting MicroRNA for Cancer Therapy*	Designing Targeted Therapy for Triple Negative Breast 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
	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
	Aeid Igbaria, PhD	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	*ER to CYtosol Signaling (ERCYS): Novel Mechanism of Chemoresistance in Cancers*	Studying how chemotherapy affects the heart
	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
	Yaakov Maman, PhD	Bar-Ilan University	*Harnessing the Signature of Helicobacter Pylori Genotoxicity for Gastric Cancer diagnosis*	Gastric Cancer

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RCDAs (continued)	**Yaara Oren, PhD**	Tel Aviv University	*Delineating the Mechanisms Underlying Escape from Therapy-Induced Senescence*	Preventing cancer cells from reoccurring after treatment
	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
	Tal Yardeni, PhD	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	*Mitochondrial Augmentation into TILs as a Novel Approach For Melanoma Treatment*	Testing a new type of immunotherapy to treat melanoma
	Keren Yizhak, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Identifying Biomarkers of Response to Immunotherapy using Immune Single-Cell RNA-Seq Data*	Finding biomarkers to predict whether a patient will respond to cancer immunotherapy
	Assaf Zinger, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Modulating Triple Negative Breast Cancer Microenvironment Using Biomimetic Nanoparticles*	Triple Negative Breast Cancer

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ACCELERATION GRANTS	**Yotam Drier, PhD**	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*The Role of Enhancer RNA Methylation in Tumorigenesis*	Finding Novel Bio-markers to Predict Patient Prognosis
	Oren Parnas, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Revealing the Origin of Pancreatic Cancer Metastases*	Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer and Preventing Metastasis
	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
RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP GRANTS	**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
	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

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RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP GRANTS *(continued)*	**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
	Nabieh Ayoub, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Targeting DNA Replication Stress for Eliminating RBM10-Deficient Lung Adenocarcinoma*	Lung Cancer
	Tami Bar-Shalita, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*Neurofeedback for Preventing Cancer-Therapy-Related Chronic Pain and Cognitive Impairment*	Preventing chronic pain and cognitive issues due to breast cancer therapy
	Naama Barkai, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*The Contribution of Histone Chaperone to Nucleosome Exchange within Cells*	Genomic Instability and DNA Repair
	Irit Ben-Aharon, PhD	Rambam Health Care Campus	*Investigating the Short and Long-Term Effects of In-Utero Exposure to Chemotherapy*	Studying how breast cancer chemotherapy may affect the children of pregnant patients

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PROJECT GRANTS ***(continued)***	**Uri Ben-David, PhD**	Tel Aviv University	*Mapping the Genomic Landscape and Functional Consequence of Chromothripsis in Human Cancer*	Preventing chromosome errors that lead to 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	*Improving Solid Tumor Immuno-therapy Through Rewiring of T-Cell's Mitochondrial Metabolism*	Improving Immuno-therapy for solid tumors
	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
	Galia Blum, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Enhancing Lung Cancer Treatment by Cathepsin-Targeted Chemical Tools*	Improving immuno and radiotherapy for lung cancer patients
	Tal Burstyn-Cohen, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Elucidating the Role of PROS1 in GBM Plasticity*	Improving therapies for brain tumors
	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
	Michael Elkin, PhD	Hadassah University Medical Center	*Metabolic Endotoxemia: A New Molecular Target between Obesity and Breast Cancer*	Obesity and Breast Cancer

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PROJECT GRANTS ***(continued)***	**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
	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
	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
	Ariel Munitz, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*Transcriptional Regulation of Eosinophils in the Tumor Microenvironment*	Studying how a type of white blood cell works with the tumor micro-environment to prevent cancer metastasis

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
PROJECT GRANTS ***(continued)***	**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
	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)
	Yuval Shaked, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*The Analysis of Brain Metastasis in Immunotherapy Resistant Tumors*	Studying how brain metastases form in immunotherapy-resistant patients
	Meir Shamay, PhD	Bar-Ilan University	*A Novel Assay for Drugs that Inhibit KSHV Latency in Primary Effusion Lymphoma*	Identifying drugs for virus-associated cancers, focusing on lymphoma
	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

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
PROJECT GRANTS ***(continued)***	**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
	Yuval Tabach, PhD	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	*Cancer Resistance Gene Signatures Predict Targets for Prevention and Intervention*	Studying how some species avoid cancer, in order to improve human diagnostics and suggest treatment options
	Israel Vlodavsky, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Impact of Heparanase-2 on Pancreatic Cancer - Mode of Action and Clinical Significance*	Role of an enzyme in diagnosing and preventing tumor growth, focusing on pancreatic 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

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
PROJECT GRANTS (continued)	**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
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
	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