

POLICIES GOVERNING THE BEVERLEY LIBRACH ABSHEZ INITIATIVE FOR OVARIAN AND FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM CANCERS

The Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) is a voluntary charitable organization that receives its total income from private donations. The goal of the ICRF is to advance cancer research and the training of Israeli scientists in Israel.

ICRF grants awarded under this special initiative will provide funding for projects of high scientific merit and clear potential significance for advancing the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of ovarian and female reproductive system cancers. Grant support will be awarded only to investigators who are Israeli citizens, and the research supported must be conducted at an Israeli institution.

Purpose

Graciously sponsored by an anonymous donor, the Beverley Librach Abshez Initiative for Ovarian and Female Reproductive System Cancers has been established to advance our understanding of gynecologic cancers and thereby limit the burden of these diseases. Gynecological cancers are tumors that initiate in the female reproductive organs, and include cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal, vulvar, and fallopian tube cancer. Each gynecologic cancer is unique, with different signs and symptoms, different risk factors, and different prevention strategies. All women are at risk for gynecologic cancers, and the risk increases with age. While cervical cancer is readily detected early, when treatment can be most effective, reliable tests for other gynecological cancers are not yet available, and ovarian cancer ranks fifth in cancer deaths among women. The Abshez Initiative supports research that identifies risk factors, develops preventive strategies, improves detection technologies, and devises new strategies for prevention, detection, and treatment of gynecologic cancers.

Duration and Amount of Funding

Abshez Initiative grants will be awarded for two (2) years for \$100,000 per year, as determined by the Scientific Review Panel and the availability of funds. It is anticipated that two (2) grants will be awarded. 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 June 30.

Eligibility for Abshez Initiative Funding

The applicant must be an independent investigator who has demonstrated ability to lead a research team, as evident in the Biosketch and Publication Record. Multi-investigator applications and interdisciplinary approaches are encouraged, but not required. Applications must focus on gynecological cancer, be supported by strong published or preliminary data, and provide a solid foundation for future progress. Funding priority is typically given to projects with potential to impact prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of cancer in the next 5-10 years.

Applications and Templates

Applications and Templates for applying for an ICRF cancer research grant can be accessed from:
<https://proposalcentral.com/default.asp>.

Further Information

Up-to-date information on categories of grants currently available and on **General Policies Governing ICRF Grants**, including fiscal requirements for sponsoring institutions, is available on our website:
<https://www.icrfonline.org/grants/>.

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 research of clear relevance to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. The Principal Investigator (PI) must be an Israeli citizen to apply for an ICRF grant, and proof of Israeli citizenship must be furnished upon request. All research must be conducted in Israel, except in the case of clearly-identified, international collaborative grants.

Application Submission and Grant Activation:

<i>RECEIVED BY THE ICRF</i>	<i>NOTIFICATION OF DECISION</i>	<i>ACTIVATION OF GRANT</i>
January 1, 2024, 8:00AM EST	May 1 and thereafter	September 1, 2024

- *ICRF's Scientific Review Panels evaluate applications using the NIH scale of 1-9, with 1 being the highest score.*
- *Applicants are notified of funding priority rather than a numerical score. As an approximate guide, funded applications receive numerical scores in the range of 1-3.*
- *ICRF makes an initial round of funding commitments to applications with the very top scores. Subsequent funding commitments are announced individually, depending upon availability of funds.*
- *Applications that are not funded when initially submitted may become competitive upon revision and resubmission.*

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) application per PI will be accepted for each submission deadline.*
- *An individual may be PI on only a single ICRF grant at any given time.*
- *Typically, a PI currently funded by ICRF may apply for another ICRF grant only if the start date is after the current funding period ends.*
- *Once an 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 an ICRF Scientific Review Panel and evaluated for:

- Scientific merit, innovation, and potential significance for advancing the understanding, diagnosis and/or treatment of cancer within the next 5-10 years.
- Feasibility, as evidenced by expertise of the applicant and collaborators, availability of key materials and resources, strength of preliminary data provided, and a realistic timeline. Note that preliminary data must be supported by statistical analysis wherever appropriate.
- Qualifications of the applicant, based on prior training and demonstrated expertise; and scientific productivity of the applicant, based on the PI's publication record and productivity during any previous ICRF-supported research.
- Facilities, materials, resources and scientific environment available for the project, and the duration of such availability, as identified by the PI and confirmed in writing by the institutional grants office and/or the investigator's department chair.
- Career Development Awards: soundness of the mentoring plan and letters of commitment from mentors.

The priority 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 Principal Investigator (PI) and Sponsoring Institution:

The Principal Investigator (PI) must hold a position at a sponsoring Israeli institution able to provide research space and administrative oversight and infrastructure for the project.

ICRF funds can only be used for expenses directly related to the project. They may be applied to salaries of graduate students, postdocs, and other research staff; supplies and consumables; analytic services; equipment service and maintenance; etc.

ICRF funds cannot be used for salary of the PI or Co-Investigators, for clerical or other administrative expenses, for overhead charges, or for work performed outside of Israel. These expenses may not be listed in the budget of a proposal when submitted, and institutions may not charge such expenses to the ICRF account after monies have been received.

ICRF funds cannot be used for travel expenses, except in the case of Career Development Awards, where up to \$1,000 per year may be budgeted for travel expenses.

Each submitted application must be co-signed by the PI and an authorized institutional official to signify the ability and willingness of the sponsoring institution to provide research space and budgetary oversight to the project, to acknowledge that support is restricted to research carried out in Israel, and to confirm that the PI and sponsoring institution have read and agree to the General Policies Governing ICRF Grants.

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 the Expenditure Report is not provided by this deadline.

Continuation of Funding:

Funds are initially provided for one year, with funding for subsequent years contingent upon progress as described in an annual report due on June 30. Payment of funds will be suspended if a Progress Report is overdue or if progress has not been satisfactory.

Renewal of Funding:

Project Grants and Research Professorship Grants may be renewed; Acceleration Grants and Career Development Awards are not renewable. 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 January 1 deadline during the final active year of the grant to avoid a lapse in funding.

Leaves of Absence:

A PI anticipating an absence of three months or more from the laboratory must receive prior approval from the ICRF. Such leave may not exceed 12 months. Leave of longer than three months will not normally be approved during the first year of funding; instead, the PI may request that the start date of funding be delayed until his/her return to the laboratory.

To obtain approval for leave, the PI must submit to the ICRF a letter outlining the purpose of the leave and describing how research in the laboratory will be supervised during this period. This letter must be countersigned by the grantee's department head and the appropriate institutional official, and received by ICRF at least two (2) months prior to the requested leave.

Special leave for work in another institution with continuing support from an ICRF grant may be permitted under special circumstances, and only if the work to be carried out is directly related to the purpose of the grant.

A PI may request a leave during which ICRF support is suspended, with the total amount of support unchanged, but the duration of support extended over a longer time period. Support from other sources is permissible during the period of such a leave. This requires the prior approval of the ICRF.

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 scientific goals of the original application or addition or removal of key personnel must be approved in writing by the ICRF.

Change of Institution, or Termination:

1. If a PI moves to another eligible institution, grant support may be continued, provided that:
 - a. The PI submits to ICRF a letter requesting that support be continued; this continuation can cover only the time remaining within the duration of overall funding.
 - b. The new institution submits to ICRF administrative paperwork supporting the change of institution.
 - c. The prior institution submits a letter of release and agrees to transfer any unexpended ICRF funds to the new institution within thirty (30) days of the date of release.
2. The ICRF may discontinue funding 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.
3. 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:

PIs accepting funds from ICRF are required to include the following acknowledgment in each publication resulting from ICRF funding: "This research was supported by a *{insert grant category}* from the Israel Cancer Research Fund." (Please note that the 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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Up-to-date information on 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