Israel Cancer Research Fund

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POLICIES GOVERNING ICRF CLINICAL RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS (CRCDAs)

Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) Clinical Research Career Development Awards (CRCDAs) are designed to enable early-career medical or pediatric oncologists with clear research potential to participate in mentored post-fellowship research training that will provide a strong foundation for a career in clinical research. CRCDAs are available to investigators in the formative phase of their careers who have demonstrated outstanding potential for contribution to clinical cancer research as independent investigators and 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 an MD degree and at least two years of fellowship training in oncology, including medical or pediatric hematology-oncology or a related oncologic specialty, but not more than five years of subsequent relevant professional experience prior to the start date of requested funding.

CRCDAs are intended to support research with a clear clinical focus by highly-qualified, early-career investigators with strong track records and a commitment to an independent career in clinical cancer research. Individuals who have attained senior faculty or equivalent status are considered to have achieved the objective of this program and to be ineligible.

CRCDAs 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 CRCDA funding is to promote the development of early career investigators, each investigator must establish a formal mentoring program. Each CRCDA 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; and Mentors must provide an annual report on progress in career development.

Duration and Amount of the Grant

The duration of a CRCDA 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.

Terms of the CRCDA

1. ***Commitment to Research:*** Individuals who receive a CRCDA are to devote at least half of their time to clinical research activities. Such activities may include giving or receiving research training, supervising the research of others, and participating in workshops and scientific or professional meetings. The principal involvement must be with the actual conduct of research. It is expected that the other portion of the grantee's time will be devoted to direct patient care at the funded institution. 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 healthcare and healthcare-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, teaching, and medical activities. A letter from the Dean, relevant Department Chair, or other appropriate senior hospital/university official should accompany the application guaranteeing protected time for research and research-related activities and detailing the institutional support available to the applicant during the period of the grant, as well as its future plans for the applicant after completion of the grant term.

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:*** A CRCDA application may not be submitted concurrently with another clinical research career development-type application that would duplicate the provisions of the CRCDA, nor may a grantee accept another clinical 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

ICRF funds cannot be used for clerical or other administrative expenses, for overhead charges, or for work performed outside of Israel. However, for CRCDA applicants only, salary may be requested for the PI, up to a maximum of $20,000 per year, provided that the PI's research and training efforts encompass at least 50% of his or her time at the institution. CRCDA funds may also be used for attendance at cooperative cancer treatment group meetings and expenses for training in clinical research methodology and biostatistics. Up to $1,000 per year may be used for travel to a scientific meeting.

The total salary of the investigator (ICRF and institutional contribution) must be based on a full-time, 12-month staff appointment, and be consistent with both the established salary structure at the institution and with salaries provided by the institution to other staff members of equivalent qualifications, rank and responsibilities in the department concerned. The CRCDA is awarded with the expectation that additional research support and salary funds from the institution will be available to the grantee during the period of the grant, and that full-time employment of the grantee will be assured for a minimum of 3 years after completion of the CRCDA, with appropriate funding for continued clinical research activities.

Type of Clinical Trials that may be Supported

Phase I (tolerance and toxicity) trials may be performed under a CRCDA proposal provided that an experienced clinical investigator (mentor) provides assurance of appropriate supervision. Phase II and Phase III trials may be proposed for support of this type, and may involve more than one institution, provided that the appropriate consortium agreements are obtained.

Pharmaceutical Industry Involvement

Financial support and proprietary drug provision are permitted, provided that a letter from the manufacturer or supplier clearly indicates they will have no control or influence over publication or dissemination of results of the project.

Application Templates

Templates for applying for an ICRF research grant can be downloaded 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

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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:

RECEIVED BY THE ICRF	*NOTIFICATION OF DECISION*	*ACTIVATION OF GRANT*
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