

POLICIES GOVERNING ICRF PROJECT GRANTS

Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) Project Grants provide funding for projects of high scientific merit and clear potential significance for advancing the understanding, diagnosis, or treatment of cancer. Project Grants are intended to support the research of established investigators working in areas in which they have demonstrated expertise.

Duration and Amount of Funding

Project Grants are awarded for three (3) years for \$60,000 per year, as determined by the Scientific Review Panel and the availability of funds. 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.

Project Grant Eligibility

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 questions related to human cancer that are 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.

Proposals that are high-risk/high-yield because they lack preliminary data, established resources, or depend on only a tenuous link to human cancer, should be submitted as Acceleration Grants, not Project Grants. Project Grant applications that were not funded in the previous round may be resubmitted as Acceleration Grants. The first step is to submit a letter of intent (LOI), as required for all Acceleration Grant applicants. If a full proposal is invited, the reviewers' comments that prompted the category change may be addressed in the Introduction.

Project Grant Renewal

ICRF permits and encourages investigators supported by Project Grants to apply for continued funding of their research. To avoid a lapse in funding, a renewal application should be submitted by the January 1 deadline during the final active year of the grant. As renewal applications compete with new grant applications, renewal is not guaranteed. Progress (as documented in the Publication Record) is a key consideration in the review process.

Applications and Templates

Applications and templates for applying for an ICRF 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

POLICIES GOVERNING ICRF RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP GRANTS

ICRF Research Professorships recognize accomplished investigators whose research has significant impact on our understanding of cancer, and whose extended commitment to fundamental issues in cancer are an inspiration to others — scientists and non-scientists alike.

Applicants must hold the rank of Full Professor or equivalent and must have carried out research for at least eight years since receiving the PhD, MD, or MD/PhD degree.

Those granted ICRF Research Professorships are requested to use the title “ICRF Research Professor” as appropriate in professional appearances and publications, and to plan to act on occasion as spokespersons for the ICRF and for cancer research, by speaking about their research and their careers in cancer research at times arranged to be mutually convenient for the grantee and the ICRF.

Duration and Amount of Funding

Research Professorship grants are funded for five (5) years at a maximum of \$100,000 per year, as determined by the ICRF Board of Trustees and the availability of funds. Funding for the second year and beyond is contingent on progress in the preceding funding period, as documented in an annual progress report.

Renewal of Funding

Research Professorship funding may be renewed. This requires submission of a renewal application for competitive evaluation by December 31 of the final fiscal year of the grant to avoid a lapse in funding.

Institutional Commitments and Assurances

An application for an ICRF Research Professorship must be submitted through a sponsoring Israeli academic or research institution. That institution must provide assurance that a faculty member holding this position will be eligible for promotion and salary increases based on the same criteria used for other faculty members at that institution and will be provided with the physical facilities and administrative services required to conduct the research for which funds were granted.

Applications from emeritus faculty, or for faculty for whom ICRF funding would overlap with their institution's usual and customary age of retirement, must be accompanied by a letter from the department chair formally committing space and access to administrative and scientific infrastructure for the duration of funding. Funding will be terminated if this commitment is withdrawn.

If a grantee resigns, is discharged, retires, or dies, the ICRF will automatically terminate funding. Failure by the sponsoring institution to notify the ICRF of such occurrence will allow the ICRF to recover funds in toto.

Application Templates

Templates for applying for ICRF cancer research grants can be downloaded from:

<https://proposalcentral.com/default.asp>.

Further Information

Current information on categories of grants 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



Request for Applications: Neuroblastoma Research

Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) and Shir for Life (SFL) are pleased to issue a joint Request for Applications (RFA) for proposals in **Neuroblastoma research**. Projects must be headed by an Israeli PI, based in one of Israel's research institutions (universities or hospitals).

Proposals will be prioritized for funding based on their potential to contribute to the understanding, prevention, and effective treatment of neuroblastoma.

Funded proposals will be awarded **\$180,000** (\$60,000 per year for three years).

RFA Guidelines

- Applications are to be submitted by a Principal Investigator (PI) responsible for the research proposed who will supervise the team carrying out the proposed research.
- Applications are due at the ICRF office no later than January 1st, 2024. They are to be submitted online, at <https://proposalcentral.com/default.asp>
- Applications will be reviewed in March 2024, and PIs notified of decisions by the end of May.
- The start date of funding may be as early as June 2024, but no later than September 2024 (as per PI's decision).
- Proposals must conform to guidelines for ICRF Project Grants (see link below). Note that neither PI salary nor institutional indirect costs are allowable on the budget.
- ICRF does not allow investigators to simultaneously apply for or hold two ICRF grants at the same time.

How to apply? Visit [this link](#) and choose "Project Grant" category for funding policy guidelines and application instructions. To View, Save, or Print the Project Grant Policies, [click here](#).

Questions? Please reach out to Ellen Rubin (ellen.rubin@icrfonline.org) or Dr. Danielle Bashan (danielle@icrf.org.il).

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>.

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