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RESEARCH GRANTS 2023-2024

For the 2023 / 2024 funding year, ICRF is supporting 83 grants valued at \$5,500,000. This is broken down as follows:

2 Aging and Cancer International Collaboration Grants <i>(A Partnership between ICRF and Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation [SWCRF])</i>	1 Pediatric Sarcoma International Collaboration Grant <i>(A Partnership between ICRF, SWCRF, and Alan B. Slifka Foundation [ABSF])</i>
1 Clinic and Laboratory Integration Program (CLIP) Grant <i>(A Partnership between ICRF and Cancer Research Institute [CRI])</i>	2 ICRF-Conquer Cancer Career Development Awards <i>(A Partnership between ICRF and Conquer Cancer [The ASCO Foundation])</i>
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	8 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 2,813 grants totaling \$93,058,000.

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
<p>CLINIC AND LABORATORY INTEGRATION PROGRAM (CLIP) GRANT <i>(A Partnership between ICRF and Cancer Research Institute [CRI])</i></p>	<p>Yifat Merbl, PhD</p>	<p>Weizmann Institute of Science</p>	<p><i>Controlling Proteasomal Degradation for Enhancing Anti-Tumor Immunity</i></p>	<p>Improving Immunotherapy for Melanoma</p>
<p>ICRF-CONQUER CANCER CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS <i>(A Partnership between ICRF and Conquer Cancer [The ASCO Foundation])</i></p>	<p>Orit Kaidar-Person, MD</p>	<p>Chaim Sheba Medical Center</p>	<p><i>BRILLIANT study: BReast mri-based artificial InteLLigence to identify high risk areas in residual breast tissue after mAstectomy and reconstruction</i></p>	<p>Using MRI and AI to Detect Breast Cancer Recurrence after Surgery</p>
	<p>Shlomit Strulov Shachar, MD</p>	<p>Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center</p>	<p><i>Identifying Molecular Oncogenic Drivers Associated with Differential Clinical Benefit to Inhibition of the P13K Pathway in Estrogen Receptor-Positive Metastatic Breast Cancer</i></p>	<p>Improving Treatment for Metastatic Breast Cancer</p>
<p>THE BRAUSE FAMILY INITIATIVE FOR QUALITY OF LIFE GRANTS</p>	<p>Ahinoam Lev-Sagie, MD</p>	<p>Hadassah University Medical Center</p>	<p><i>Genital Graft Versus Host Disease (GGVHD) Following Transplantation and the Vaginal Microbiome</i></p>	<p>Preventing GGVHD in Women after Bone Marrow Transplantation</p>
	<p>Avi Priel, PhD</p>	<p>Hebrew University of Jerusalem</p>	<p><i>Cancer Pain and Medical Cannabis: Defining the Pain Pathway Target of Cannabinoids</i></p>	<p>How Cannabinoids Can Be Used to Treat Cancer Pain</p>

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BEVERLEY LIBRACH ABSHEZ INITIATIVE FOR OVARIAN AND FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM CANCERS GRANTS	Ruth Perets, MD, PhD	Rambam Health Care Campus	<i>A Novel, Highly-Specific Mouse Model for Studying HGSC Pathogenesis and Prevention</i>	Ovarian Cancer
	Ziv Shulman, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>The Physiological Role of Patient-Derived Antibodies in Ovarian Cancer Progression</i>	Ovarian Cancer
LEN & SUSAN MARK INITIATIVE FOR OVARIAN AND UTERINE/MMMT CANCERS GRANTS	Sol Efroni, PhD	Bar-Ilan University	<i>Early Detection of Ovarian Cancer using a Blood Sample</i>	Ovarian Cancer
	Keren Levanon, MD, PhD	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	<i>Predicting and Overcoming Resistance to First-Line Chemotherapy in Ovarian Cancer</i>	Ovarian Cancer
	Eylon Yavin, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Imaging Ovarian Cancer by cpFIT-PNAs</i>	Ovarian Cancer
THE SPECIAL ICRF INITIATIVE IN PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH GRANT	Dinorah Friedmann-Morvinski, PhD	Tel Aviv University	<i>CAR T Cell Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Pediatric Brain Tumors</i>	Improving Immunotherapy for Pediatric Brain Tumors
CLINICAL RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD	Amit Tirosh, MD	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	<i>Investigating the Role of Onco-metabolites in von Hippel-Lindau Related Endocrine Cancer</i>	Pancreatic Cancer

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RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS (RCDAs)	Raphael Benhamou, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Developing Small Molecules Targeting MicroRNA for Cancer Therapy</i>	Designing Targeted Therapy for Triple Negative Breast Cancer
	Merav Cohen, PhD	Tel Aviv University	<i>The immune-related signaling networks inducing breast tissue development and cancer</i>	Early Detection of and Immunotherapy for Breast Cancer
	Naama Geva-Zatorsky, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>The Combined Role of the Microbiota and the Immune System in Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma</i>	Using the Body's Microbiota for Diagnosis and Therapy of Oral Cancer
	Joshua Grolman, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>The Role of ECM Plasticity on Immune Modulation in the Tumor Microenvironment</i>	Inflammation and the Immune Response
	Aeid Igbaria, PhD	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	<i>ER to CYtosol Signaling (ERCYS): Novel Mechanism of Chemoresistance in Cancers</i>	Studying how chemotherapy affects the heart
	Ronit Ilouz, PhD	Bar-Ilan University	<i>Characterization of the cross talk between PKA-PI3K pathways in prostate cancer</i>	Improving Immunotherapy for Prostate Cancer
	Asaf Madi, PhD	Tel Aviv University	<i>Improving Durable Response Rates Following Checkpoint Blockade Therapy</i>	Inflammation and the Immune Response
	Yaakov Maman, PhD	Bar-Ilan University	<i>Harnessing the Signature of Helicobacter Pylori Genotoxicity for Gastric Cancer diagnosis</i>	Gastric Cancer

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
RCDAs (continued)	Yaara Oren, PhD	Tel Aviv University	<i>Delineating the Mechanisms Underlying Escape from Therapy-Induced Senescence</i>	Preventing cancer cells from reoccurring after treatment
	Yitzhak Reizel, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>The Role of FoxA1 Pioneer Factor in Shaping Tumor-Associated DNA Methylation Patterns</i>	Comparing Normal Organ Development with Cancer Initiation and Progression
	Noga Ron-Harel, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Engaging Cellular Metabolism to Enhance T Cell Therapy in Aged Patients</i>	Investigating the Effect of Aging on the Efficacy of Immunotherapy
	Efrat Shema, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Deciphering the Epigenome of Gliomas Driven by Oncohistones and IDH Mutations</i>	Brain Tumors
	Tal Yardeni, PhD	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	<i>Mitochondrial Augmentation into TILs as a Novel Approach For Melanoma Treatment</i>	Testing a new type of immunotherapy to treat melanoma
	Keren Yizhak, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Identifying Biomarkers of Response to Immunotherapy using Immune Single-Cell RNA-Seq Data</i>	Finding biomarkers to predict whether a patient will respond to cancer immunotherapy
	Assaf Zinger, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Modulating Triple Negative Breast Cancer Microenvironment Using Biomimetic Nanoparticles</i>	Triple Negative Breast Cancer

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ACCELERATION GRANTS	Yotam Drier, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>The Role of Enhancer RNA Methylation in Tumorigenesis</i>	Finding Novel Bio-markers to Predict Patient Prognosis
	Oren Parnas, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Revealing the Origin of Pancreatic Cancer Metastases</i>	Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer and Preventing Metastasis
	Angel Porgador, PhD	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	<i>A Novel Strategy for Predicting the Response to Immunotherapy</i>	Predicting Responses to Immunotherapy using Lung, Kidney, Head and Neck Cancer Models
	Gali Prag, PhD	Tel Aviv University	<i>Augmented Degradation of Beta-Catenin by Molecular Glue: A New Modality for CRC Therapy</i>	Identifying Potential Drug Targets using Colon, Rectal, and Skin Cancer as Models
RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP GRANTS	Yinon Ben-Neriah, MD, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Targeting Hematopoietic Cell Vulnerabilities in Acute Myeloid Leukemia and Precursor State</i>	Development of Drugs for Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)
	Aaron Ciechanover, MD, DSc	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Unraveling the Tumor-Suppressing Mechanisms Involved in Ubiquitin-Mediated Activation of NF-kappaB</i>	The Ubiquitin System, Inflammation, and Cell Proliferation
	Jacob Hanna, MD, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>New Cancer Therapy Related Mechanistic and Applied Frontiers with Patient Specific iPSCs</i>	Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells
	Avram Hershko, MD, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Roles of the Ubiquitin System in the Control of Cell Division and in Cancer</i>	Ubiquitin System

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RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP GRANTS <i>(continued)</i>	Shai Izraeli, MD	Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel	<i>Towards the Cure of Childhood Leukemia</i>	Developing New Therapies to Cure Childhood Leukemia
	Rotem Karni, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>RNA Processing Modulation for Cancer Therapy</i>	RNA Splicing and Therapeutics
	Ofer Mandelboim, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Development of New Checkpoint Inhibitors Based on Novel TIGIT Ligands</i>	Immunology and Immunotherapy
	Ronit Satchi-Fainaro, PhD	Tel Aviv University	<i>P-Selectin-Targeted Nanomedicines and Immunotherapy for Brain Metastases Prevention</i>	Designing Treatment to Prevent Metastases to the Brain
PROJECT GRANTS	Osnat Ashur-Fabian, PhD	Meir Medical Center	<i>Therapeutic Potential of Targeting the DIO3 Enzyme for Boosting Ovarian Cancer Treatments</i>	Overcoming Treatment Resistance in Ovarian Cancer
	Nabieh Ayoub, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Targeting DNA Replication Stress for Eliminating RBM10-Deficient Lung Adenocarcinoma</i>	Lung Cancer
	Tami Bar-Shalita, PhD	Tel Aviv University	<i>Neurofeedback for Preventing Cancer-Therapy-Related Chronic Pain and Cognitive Impairment</i>	Preventing chronic pain and cognitive issues due to breast cancer therapy
	Naama Barkai, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>The Contribution of Histone Chaperone to Nucleosome Exchange within Cells</i>	Genomic Instability and DNA Repair

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PROJECT GRANTS <i>(continued)</i>	Irit Ben-Aharon, PhD	Rambam Health Care Campus	<i>Investigating the Short and Long-Term Effects of In-Utero Exposure to Chemotherapy</i>	Studying how breast cancer chemotherapy may affect the children of pregnant patients
	Uri Ben-David, PhD	Tel Aviv University	<i>Mapping the Genomic Landscape and Functional Consequence of Chromothripsis in Human Cancer</i>	Preventing chromosome errors that lead to cancer
	Ittai Ben-Porath, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Roles of p16 and Senescence in the Epidermal UV Radiation Response and Early Tumorigenesis</i>	Skin Cancer
	Michael Berger, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Improving Solid Tumor Immunotherapy Through Rewiring of T-Cell's Mitochondrial Metabolism</i>	Improving Immunotherapy for solid tumors
	Benjamin Berman, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Tracking DNA Methylation Loss to Understand the Origins and Evolution of a Tumor</i>	Identification of New Cancer Biomarkers
	Galia Blum, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Enhancing Lung Cancer Treatment by Cathepsin-Targeted Chemical Tools</i>	Improving immuno and radiotherapy for lung cancer patients
	Tal Burstyn-Cohen, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Elucidating the Role of PROS1 in GBM Plasticity</i>	Improving therapies for brain tumors
	Tomer Cooks, PhD	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	<i>Fibroblast Reprograming by Extracellular Vesicles from Pancreatic Tumors with Mutant p53</i>	Pancreatic Cancer and the p53 Mutation

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PROJECT GRANTS <i>(continued)</i>	Rony Dahan, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Dendritic Cell Targeted Agonists for Cancer Immunotherapy</i>	Immunology and Immunotherapy
	Michael Elkin, PhD	Hadassah University Medical Center	<i>Metabolic Endotoxemia: A New Molecular Target between Obesity and Breast Cancer</i>	Obesity and Breast Cancer
	Ayelet Erez, MD, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Preventing Cancer Cachexia by Regulating Amino Acid Metabolism</i>	Preventing Loss of Skeletal Muscle due to Cancer Treatment
	Neta Erez, Ph.D.	Tel Aviv University	<i>Uncovering Stromal and Immune Co-Evolution in the Microenvironment of Bone Metastasis</i>	Role of the Tumor Microenvironment in Breast Cancer Metastases to the Bone
	Lucio Frydman, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>High Field Deuterium MRI: A Transformative Tool in the Study and Diagnosis of Cancer</i>	Using New MRI Techniques to Diagnose Pancreatic Cancer
	Avi-Hai Hovav, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Early Carcinogenic Mechanisms Dysregulating Langerhans Cell Development and Promote OSCC</i>	Early Detection and Treatment for Oral Cancer
	Dan Levy, PhD	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	<i>Role of Lysine Methylation in the Regulation of Mitotic Events under Replication Stress</i>	Genomic Instability and DNA Repair
	David Meiri, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Antitumoral Effects of a Distinct Combination of Cannabinoids via Notch1 Pathway in T-ALL</i>	Using Cannabinoids to Treat Blood Cancers

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PROJECT GRANTS <i>(continued)</i>	Eran Meshorer, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Histone Turnover in Glioblastoma</i>	Brain Tumors
	Ariel Munitz, PhD	Tel Aviv University	<i>Transcriptional Regulation of Eosinophils in the Tumor Microenvironment</i>	Studying how a type of white blood cell works with the tumor micro-environment to prevent cancer metastasis
	Yarden Opatowsky, PhD	Bar-Ilan University	<i>Preventing Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy (CIPN) in Cancer Patients</i>	Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy
	Niv Papo, PhD	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	<i>Map Ligand Binding Selectivity Landscapes toward Engineering Target-Specific Inhibitors</i>	Engineering Novel Inhibitors for Targeted Cancer Therapy
	Rina Rosin-Arbesfeld, PhD	Tel Aviv University	<i>Targeting Wnt Signaling in Hematological Malignancies</i>	Blood Cancers
	Ruth Scherz-Shouval, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Dissecting the Stromal Landscape of Colitis-Associated Cancer</i>	Colorectal Cancer
	Gideon Schreiber, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Targeting interferon signaling to improve kinase inhibitor treatment of leukemia</i>	Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)
	Yuval Shaked, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>The Analysis of Brain Metastasis in Immunotherapy Resistant Tumors</i>	Studying how brain metastases form in immunotherapy-resistant patients

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PROJECT GRANTS <i>(continued)</i>	Meir Shamay, PhD	Bar-Ilan University	<i>A Novel Assay for Drugs that Inhibit KSHV Latency in Primary Effusion Lymphoma</i>	Identifying drugs for virus-associated cancers, focusing on lymphoma
	Yoav Shaul, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>The Regulatory Role of the Oncometabolite Dihydropyrimidine in Cancer Cell Plasticity</i>	Studying How to Block Tumor Metastasis in Breast Cancer
	Julia Shifman, Ph D	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Design and Evaluation of Cell-Permeable Protein Therapeutics for Targeting Ras</i>	Designing Drugs that Target Ras Mutations
	Liran Shlush, MD, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Prevention of AML Among Carriers of Spliceosome Mutations</i>	Prediction and Prevention of Leukemias
	Ravid Straussman, MD, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>The Microbiome of GBM and Normal Brain: Characterization and Translational Opportunities</i>	Studying the Presence of Bacteria in Brain Cancer
	Yuval Tabach, PhD	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	<i>Cancer Resistance Gene Signatures Predict Targets for Prevention and Intervention</i>	Studying how some species avoid cancer, in order to improve human diagnostics and suggest treatment options
	Israel Vlodaysky, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Impact of Heparanase-2 on Pancreatic Cancer - Mode of Action and Clinical Significance</i>	Role of an enzyme in diagnosing and preventing tumor growth, focusing on pancreatic cancer

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PROJECT GRANTS <i>(continued)</i>	Reuven Wiener, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Mechanistic Understanding of Ufmylation for Anti-Cancer Drug Development</i>	Protein Regulation for Drug Development
	Yosef Yarden, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Lung Cancer: Immune-Based, Game-Changing Strategies to Overcoming Resistance to EGFR Kinase</i>	Preventing Resistance to Therapy in Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer
	Joel Yisraeli, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Developing a Small Molecule Inhibitor for Igf2bp1 – A Novel Targeted Therapy for Lung Carcinoma</i>	Targeted Therapy for Lung Cancer
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS	Aviad Ben-Shmuel, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Elucidating the Modulation of Natural Killer Cells by the Cancer Stroma in Breast Cancer</i>	Breast Cancer
	Ehud Herbst, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Combining Genetics and Natural Product Chemistry Towards Biomining Novel Anticancer Drugs</i>	Discovering Potential Cancer Treatments from Bacteria
	Adi Rechtes, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>rRNA 2'-O-Methylation as a Regulator of Leukemia Growth and a Potential Therapeutic Target</i>	Leukemia

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AGING & CANCER INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION GRANTS <i>(A Partnership between ICRF and Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation [SWCRF])</i>	Haim Cohen, PhD and Raul Mostoslavsky, MD, PhD	Bar-Ilan University and Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School	<i>Identifying Transcriptional Regulators of SIRT6 to Modulate Cancer and Aging</i>	How the SIRT6 Protein affects Cancer and Aging
	Fuad Iraqi, PhD and Charles Brenner, PhD	Tel Aviv University and City of Hope National Medical Center	<i>Identification of Age-Dependent and Diet-Dependent Modifiers of Intestinal Carcinogenesis</i>	How Aging and Diet affect the Development of Intestinal Cancer
PEDIATRIC SARCOMA INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION GRANT <i>(A Partnership between ICRF, SWCRF, and Alan B. Slifka Foundation [ABSF])</i>	Benjamin Dekel, MD, PhD and Xiaoyang Wu, PhD	Chaim Sheba Medical Center and University of Chicago	<i>Development of a Lactate-Responsive Drug Delivery System for Treatment of Ewing Sarcoma</i>	Developing a Novel Drug Delivery Platform for Ewing's Sarcoma