Israel Cancer Research Fund

52 Vanderbilt Avenue, Suite 1410, New York, NY 10017-3835
☎ 212.969.9800 • ✉ info@icrfonline.org • 🌐 www.icrfonline.org

RESEARCH GRANTS 2024-2025

For the 2024 / 2025 funding year, ICRF is supporting 79 grants valued at $5,289,999. This is broken down as follows:

2 Aging and Cancer International Collaboration Grants *(A Partnership between ICRF and Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation [SWCRF])*	**1 Pediatric Sarcoma International Collaboration Grant** *(A Partnership between ICRF, SWCRF, and Alan B. Slifka Foundation [ABSF])*
1 Technology Impact Award *(A Partnership between ICRF and Cancer Research Institute [CRI])*	**2 ICRF-Conquer Cancer Career Development Award** *(A Partnership between ICRF and Conquer Cancer [The ASCO Foundation])*
1 Abshez Initiative for Female Reproductive System Cancers Grants	**2 Brause Family Initiative for Quality of Life Grants**
1 Special Initiative in Pediatric Cancer Research Grant	**1 Shir for Life Special Initiative in Neuroblastoma Project Grant**
1 Barbara S. Goodman Endowed RCDA in Pancreatic Cancer	**15 Research Career Development Awards (RCDAs)**
4 Acceleration Grants	**8 Research Professorship Grants**
40 Project Grants	

With the 2024 / 2025 grants, ICRF's funding has now reached 2,892 grants totaling $98,347,999.

Among the areas of cancer research directly sponsored by ICRF in 2024 / 2025 are: studies in blood, bone, brain, breast, eye, head and neck, gastric, lung, oral, ovarian, pancreatic, pediatric, prostate, and skin cancers; drug development and chemoresistance; cancer stem cells; imaging and early detection; tumor metastasis; aging and cancer; inflammation and cancer; viruses and cancer; cannabinoids for cancer 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
ICRF–CRI TECHNOLOGY IMPACT AWARD *(A Partnership between ICRF and Cancer Research Institute [CRI])*	**Yifat Merbl, PhD**	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Mass spectrometry Analysis of Proteolytic Peptides – exploring the tumor degradome as new front in precision oncology and immunotherapy*	Immunotherapy
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
	Adi Zoref-Lorenz, MD, PhD	Meir Medical Center	*Hyperinflammation in Hematologic Malignancies: Characterizing and Altering the Natural History of a Lethal Syndrome*	Hyperinflammation and blood cancers
AGING & CANCER INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION GRANTS *(A Partnership between ICRF and Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation [SWCRF])*	**Haim Cohen, PhD** and **Raul Mostoslavsky, MD, PhD**	Bar-Ilan University and Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School	*Identifying Transcriptional Regulators of SIRT6 to Modulate Cancer and Aging*	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	*Identification of Age-Dependent and Diet-Dependent Modifiers of Intestinal Carcinogenesis*	How Aging and Diet affect the Development of Intestinal Cancer
PEDIATRIC SARCOMA INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION GRANT *(A Partnership between ICRF, SWCRF, and Alan B. Slifka Foundation [ABSF])*	**Benjamin Dekel, MD, PhD** and **Xiaoyang Wu, PhD**	Chaim Sheba Medical Center and University of Chicago	*Development of a Lactate-Responsive Drug Delivery System for Treatment of Ewing Sarcoma*	Developing a Novel Drug Delivery Platform for Ewing's Sarcoma

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BEVERLEY LIBRACH ABSHEZ INITIATIVE FOR OVARIAN AND FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM CANCERS GRANT	**Ruth Perets, MD, PhD**	Rambam Health Care Campus	*Regulating the Master Regulator of Ovarian Cancer*	Ovarian 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
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
ICRF–SHIR FOR LIFE SPECIAL INITIATIVE IN NEUROBLASTOMA RESEARCH GRANT	**Chen Buxbaum, MD**	Rambam Health Care Campus	*The analysis of tumor immune microenvironment in neuroblastoma*	Neuroblastoma
BARBARA GOODMAN ENDOWED RCDA IN PANCREATIC CANCER	**Erez Hasnis, MD**	Rambam Health Care Campus	*Study of OASL-mediated immune escape in pancreatic cancer*	Pancreatic Cancer

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RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS (RCDAs)	**Debbie Anaby, PhD**	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	*Transforming Breast Cancer Diagnosis: A Novel Approach for Diagnostic Precision*	Breast Cancer Imaging by Application of AI
	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
	Ofir Cohen, PhD	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	*Minimal Transcriptional Archetypes of Drug-Resistance in ER+ Metastatic Breast Cancer*	Metastatic 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
	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
	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
	Eric Shifrut, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*Mechanisms of resistance to immunosuppressive adenosine signaling in human T cells*	Immunotherapy
	Ofer Shoshani, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*The role of gene amplification in cancer proteotoxic stress*	Genomic Instability
	Zvi Yaari, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Developing Optical Sensors for Real-Time Monitoring of Breast Cancer*	Breast Cancer
	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
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

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ACCELERATION GRANTS (continued)	**Moshe Elkabets, PhD**	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	*A Novel therapeutic Strategy for eliminating metastatic tumors*	Metastasis, using Breast, Head and Neck Cancer Models
	Oren Parnas, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Revealing the Origin of Pancreatic Cancer Metastases*	Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer and Preventing Metastasis
	Efrat Shema, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Liquid biopsy for diagnosis and therapeutic tracking of pediatric brain cancer*	Pediatric Brain Tumors
RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP GRANTS	**Ido Amit, PhD**	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Developing Precision T Cell Engagers for Acute Leukemia through Single-cell Multiomics*	Immunotherapy for Acute Leukemia
	Yinon Ben-Neriah, MD, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Targeting Hematopoietic Cell Vulnerabilities in Acute Myeloid Leukemia and Precursor State*	Development of Drugs for Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)
	Aaron Ciechanover, MD, DSc	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Nuclear Sequestration of the 26S Proteasome as a Novel Cancer Therapeutic Platform*	Multiple Myeloma and other Protease-Inhibitor Responsive Tumors
	Talia Golan, MD	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	*Exploring resistance mechanisms and optimizing targeted therapies for BRCA1/2 mutant PDAC*	BRCA-Mutant Pancreatic Cancer
	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

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RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP GRANTS ***(continued)***	**Shai Izraeli, MD**	Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel	*Towards the Cure of Childhood Leukemia*	Developing New Therapies to Cure Childhood Leukemia
	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	**Sheera Adar, PhD**	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	*Mutational signatures as predictors of lung cancer response to DNA-damaging therapies*	Lung Cancer
	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
	Emily Avitan-Hersh, MD	Rambam Health Care Campus	*Uncovering the role of CXCR7 in cutaneous SCC*	Skin 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

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PROJECT GRANTS ***(continued)***	**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
	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
	Itai Benhar, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*Preferential elimination of pathological B cells using tetravalent-bispecific antibodies*	B cell Malignancies (Lymphoma/Immuno-therapy)
	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
	Galia Blum, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Enhancing Lung Cancer Treatment by Cathepsin-Targeted Chemical Tools*	Improving immuno and radiotherapy for lung cancer patients
	Yosef Buganim, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Exploring how Extraembryonic-like Epigenetic State Promotes Cancer Development*	Studying Cancer Stem Cells, Initiation and Progression, using a Breast Cancer Model
	Tal Burstyn-Cohen, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Elucidating the Role of PROS1 in GBM Plasticity*	Improving therapies for brain tumors

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PROJECT GRANTS ***(continued)***	**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	*Bispecific-cytokine fusion molecules for cancer immunotherapy*	Immunotherapy
	Neta Erez, PhD	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
	Shahar Frenkel, MD	Hadassah Medical Organization	*Retinoblastoma: methylation profile and response to hypoxia and chemotherapy*	Pediatric Eye Cancer
	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
	Yoni Haitin, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*CLICs-mediated membrane fusion and extracellular vesicle delivery in cancer*	Chloride intracellular channel proteins (CLICs) as potential cancer biomarkers
	Tali Ilovitsh, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*Noninvasive brain tumor biopsy: Ultrasound-based detection of circulating GBM biomarkers*	Noninvasive Detection of Brain Tumors

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PROJECT GRANTS ***(continued)***	**Ron Kimmel, PhD**	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Risk stratification of breast cancer by deep learning analysis of H&E slides*	Breast Cancer
	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
	Gabriel Nussbaum, MD, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Metabolic and immune effects of oral bacteria in pancreatic cancer development*	Pancreatic Cancer and the Microbiome
	Yarden Opatowsky, PhD	Bar-Ilan University	*Preventing Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy (CIPN) in Cancer Patients*	Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy
	Gideon Schreiber, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	*Targeting interferon signaling to improve kinase inhibitor treatment of leukemia*	Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)
	Thomas Schultheiss, MD, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Extracellular Matrix and Cellular Tension in Mesenchymal Epithelial Transition*	Cancer Stem Cells and Metastasis
	Yuval Shaked, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*The Analysis of Brain Metastasis in Immunotherapy Resistant Tumors*	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

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PROJECT GRANTS ***(continued)***	**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
	Julia Shifman, PhD	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
	Reuven Stein, PhD	Tel Aviv University	*Friends or Foes: The roles of meningeal and perivascular macrophages in brain metastasis*	Metastasis to the Brain
	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, to improve diagnostics and treatment options
	Israel Vlodavsky, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Impact of Heparanase-2 on Pancreatic Cancer - Mode of Action and Clinical Significance*	The role of an enzyme in diagnosing and preventing tumor growth, focusing on pancreatic cancer

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PROJECT GRANTS ***(continued)***	**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
	Eylon Yavin, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Development of diagnostic RNA sensors for Glioma*	Detecting Residual Brain Tumor Tissue after Surgery
	Joel Yisraeli, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	*Treating Lung and Colorectal Carcinomas by Targeting IGF2BP1*	Lung and Colorectal Cancers
	Assaf Zinger, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	*Resected Tumor Biomimetic Nanoparticles for Personalized and Prophylactic Immunotherapy*	Immunotherapy for Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

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