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ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND RESEARCH GRANTS 2025-2026

For the 2025-2026 funding year, ICRF is supporting 77 grants valued at over \$4.7 million:

6 Research Professorship Grants

Awarded to 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. Receipt of a Research Professorship is ICRF's highest honor.

49 Project Grants

Designed to support projects of high scientific merit and clear potential significance for advancing the understanding, prevention, diagnosis or treatment of cancer conducted by established, independent investigators.

14 Research and Clinical Research Career Development Awards (RCDAs / CRCDA)

Mentored awards designed to enhance the research capabilities of early-career scientists who have demonstrated outstanding potential for contribution to cancer research as independent investigators.

2 Acceleration Grants

A mechanism for encouraging high-risk/high-reward science involving innovative approaches by investigators who pioneer new ways of approaching cancer biology and therapeutics.

6 Special Initiatives / Projects

A donor- or partner-funded initiative in a specific area of study.

These grants support a diverse cancer research portfolio conducted by scientists at 13 leading institutions in Israel.
To date, ICRF has surpassed \$100 million in funding for nearly 3,000 grants.

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP GRANTS	Ido Amit, PhD The Fried Family Memorial Research Professorship Grant	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Developing Precision T Cell Engagers for Acute Leukemia through Single-cell Multiomics</i>	Immunotherapy for Acute Leukemia
	Yinon Ben-Neriah, MD, PhD The Redhill Foundation Research Professorship Grant	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 The Daisy Gerber Memorial Research Professorship Grant	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Nuclear Sequestration of the 26S Proteasome as a Novel Cancer Therapeutic Platform</i>	Multiple Myeloma and other Protease-Inhibitor Responsive Tumors
	Neta Erez, PhD Funded in Partnership with the Redhill Foundation	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Uncover the role of antigen-presenting astrocytes in breast cancer brain metastasis</i>	Breast Cancer, Brain Metastases
	Talia Golan, MD The Jacqueline and Arthur Burdorf Memorial Research Professorship Grant	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	<i>Exploring resistance mechanisms and optimizing targeted therapies for BRCA1/2 mutant PDAC</i>	BRCA-Mutant Pancreatic Cancer
	Shai Izraeli, MD The Diane and Guilford Glazer Foundation Research Professorship Grant	Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel	<i>Towards the Cure of Childhood Leukemia</i>	Developing New Therapies to Cure Childhood Leukemia
PROJECT GRANTS	Sheera Adar, PhD	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	<i>Mutational signatures as predictors of lung cancer response to DNA-damaging therapies</i>	Lung Cancer

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
PROJECT GRANTS (continued)	Emily Avitan-Hersh, MD The Daisy Gerber Memorial Project Grant	Rambam Health Care Campus	<i>Uncovering the role of CXCR7 in cutaneous SCC</i>	Skin Cancer
	Nabieh Ayoub, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Targeting RBM10 deficiency in cancer with small-molecule drugs</i>	Lung Cancer
	Gilad Bachrach, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Fusolisin Inhibition for Treating Tumors Colonized by Fusobacterium nucleatum</i>	Breast Cancer, Colorectal Cancer, Pancreatic Cancer
	Tami Bar-Shalita, PhD The Redhill Foundation Project Grant	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 The Janice & Jeffrey Bly and Family Project Grant	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Genome navigation by the disordered N-terminus of the Steroid Nuclear Receptors</i>	Breast Cancer, Prostate Cancer, Ovarian Cancer, Men's Cancers, Women's Cancers
	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
	Adit Ben-Baruch, PhD	Tel Aviv University	<i>The expanding world of NUCLEAR PD-L1 functions, regulation and clinical relevance in breast cancer</i>	Breast Cancer

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
PROJECT GRANTS (continued)	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
	Itai Benhar, PhD The Nikoh Foundation Project Grant	Tel Aviv University	<i>Preferential elimination of pathological B cells using tetravalent-bispecific antibodies</i>	B cell Malignancies (Lymphoma/Immunotherapy)
	Ittai Ben-Porath, PhD The Jacki and Bruce Barron Cancer Research Scholar's Program Project Grant	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 The ICRF-Cancer Research Institute (CRI) Collaborative Project Grant	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Improving Solid Tumor Immunotherapy Through Rewiring of T-Cell's Mitochondrial Metabolism</i>	Improving Immunotherapy for solid tumors
	Galia Blum, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Enhancing Lung Cancer Treatment by Cathepsin-Targeted Chemical Tools</i>	Improving immunotherapy and radiotherapy for lung cancer patients
	Yosef Buganim, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Exploring how Extraembryonic-like Epigenetic State Promotes Cancer Development</i>	Studying Cancer Stem Cells, Initiation and Progression, using a Breast Cancer Model
	Tal Burstyn-Cohen, PhD The ICRF-Joseph Safra Memorial Project Grant for Glioblastoma Research	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Elucidating the Role of PROS1 in GBM Plasticity</i>	Brain Cancer

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
PROJECT GRANTS (continued)	Chen Buxbaum, MD The ICRF-Shir for Life Special Initiative in Neuroblastoma Collaborative Project Grant	Rambam Health Care Campus	<i>The analysis of tumor immune microenvironment in neuroblastoma</i>	Neuroblastoma
	Merav Cohen, PhD Funded In Partnership with the Redhill Foundation	Tel Aviv University	<i>Decoding the cellular and molecular patterns that predispose breast cancer initiation</i>	Breast Cancer
	Rony Dahan, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Bispecific-cytokine fusion molecules for cancer immunotherapy</i>	Immunotherapy
	Marcelo Ehrlich, PhD The Gerald A. Weiner Memorial Project Grant	Tel Aviv University	<i>Improved bladder cancer immunotherapy: Adenovirus IRF1 delivery and histone deacetylase inhibition</i>	Bladder Cancer
	Ran Elkon, PhD	Tel Aviv University	<i>Systematic identification of novel genetic modifiers of breast cancer risk for BRCA1 carriers</i>	Breast cancer
	Shahar Frenkel, MD	Hadassah Medical Organization	<i>Retinoblastoma: methylation profile and response to hypoxia and chemotherapy</i>	Pediatric Eye Cancer
	Zvi Fridlender, MD	Hadassah Medical Organization	<i>Impact and mechanisms of neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs) on tumor and related immune cells</i>	Inflammation and Immunotherapy, Lung Cancer

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
PROJECT GRANTS (continued)	Naama Geva-Zatorsky, PhD	Technion Israel Institute of Technology	<i>The Role of Oral Microbiome in Modulating Tumor and Immunotherapy in Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma</i>	Oral Cancer
	Yoni Haitin, PhD	Tel Aviv University	<i>CLICs-mediated membrane fusion and extracellular vesicle delivery in cancer</i>	Chloride Intracellular Channel Proteins (CLICs) as Potential Cancer Biomarkers
	Oshrat Hershkovitz-Rokah, PhD	Assuta Medical Centers	<i>Rewiring disease pathways: epigenetics and multi-omics in histiocytic neoplasms</i>	Blood Cancers, Histiocytic neoplasms, Epigenetics, Inflammation
	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
	Tali Ilovitsh, PhD	Tel Aviv University	<i>Noninvasive brain tumor biopsy: Ultrasound-based detection of circulating GBM biomarkers</i>	Noninvasive Detection of Brain Tumors
	Elad Jacoby, MD Funded in Partnership with The Jacki & Bruce Barron Cancer Research Scholars' Program	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	<i>Increasing mitochondrial activity to enhance CAR-T cell anti-tumor function</i>	Blood Cancer, Pediatric Cancers, Hematologic Malignancies
	Ron Kimmel, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Risk stratification of breast cancer by deep learning analysis of H&E slides</i>	Breast Cancer

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
PROJECT GRANTS (continued)	Yaacov Lawrence, MBBS ICRF-Rolfe Collaborative Project Grant for Pancreatic Cancer	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	<i>Toward Precision Radiotherapy through Mitochondrial Manipulation</i>	Pancreatic Cancer
	Nir London, PhD The Feldberg Family Project Grant	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Development of covalent therapeutics for the KRAS G12D oncogenic mutant</i>	Lung Cancer, Pancreatic Cancer, Colorectal Cancer, Pediatric Cancer
	Ofer Mandelboim, PhD The Simon Family Foundation Project Grant	Hebrew University of Jerusalem-Hadassah School of Medicine	<i>Targeting Fusobacterium nucleatum in Cancer: Development of new treatments</i>	Blood Cancer, Colorectal Cancer, Skin Cancer, Liver Cancer, Esophageal Cancer, Pancreatic Cancer, Breast Cancer
	Katherine Margulis, PhD The Fried Family Memorial Project Grant	Hebrew University of Jerusalem-Hadassah School of Medicine	<i>Unveiling the Metabolic Landscape of Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma with DESI-MSI</i>	Oral Cancer
	Ariel Munitz, PhD The Redhill Foundation Project Grant	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
	Gabriel Nussbaum, MD, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Metabolic and immune effects of oral bacteria in pancreatic cancer development</i>	Pancreatic Cancer and the Microbiome

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
PROJECT GRANTS (continued)	Amir Orian (Oryan), MD, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Oncoproteins stabilization; from mechanisms to PROTAC-like based therapy in sarcoma</i>	Bone Cancer, Skin Cancer, Sarcoma
	Yardena Samuels, PhD The Irving Himel and Family Project Grant	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Developing Synergistic Immunotherapeutic Strategies for TCR-T Cell Therapy in Pancreatic Cancer</i>	Pancreatic Cancer
	Thomas Schultheiss, MD, PhD The Diane and Guilford Glazer Foundation Project Grant	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Extracellular Matrix and Cellular Tension in Mesenchymal Epithelial Transition</i>	Cancer Stem Cells and Metastasis
	Yuval Shaked, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>The Analysis of Brain Metastasis in Immunotherapy Resistant Tumors</i>	Brain Metastases, Immunotherapy Resistance
	Meir Shamay, PhD The Dr. Jerry Gross Memorial Project Grant	Bar-Ilan University	<i>A Novel Assay for Drugs that Inhibit KSHV Latency in Primary Effusion Lymphoma</i>	Identifying Drugs for Virus-Associated Cancers, Lymphoma
	Yoav Shaul, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>The role of the metabolite dihydropyrimidines as regulators of ferroptosis</i>	Studying How to Block Tumor Metastasis in Breast Cancer
	Eilon Sherman, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Mechanistic understanding of anti-HER2/3 CAR signaling for enhancing its performance</i>	Breast Cancer, Ovarian Cancer
	Reuven Stein, PhD	Tel Aviv University	<i>Friends or Foes: The roles of meningeal and perivascular macrophages in brain metastasis</i>	Metastasis to the Brain

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<p>PROJECT GRANTS (continued)</p>	<p>Yuval Tabach, PhD</p>	<p>Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School</p>	<p><i>Cancer Resistance Gene Signatures Predict Targets for Prevention and Intervention</i></p>	<p>Studying How Some Species Avoid Cancer to Improve Diagnostics and Treatment Options</p>
	<p>Israel Vlodavsky, PhD</p>	<p>Technion, Israel Institute of Technology</p>	<p><i>Impact of Heparanase-2 on Pancreatic Cancer - Mode of Action and Clinical Significance</i></p>	<p>Pancreatic Cancer</p>
	<p>Yosef Yarden, PhD The ICRF-Mark Foundation Collaborative Project Grant</p>	<p>Weizmann Institute of Science</p>	<p><i>Lung Cancer: Immune-Based, Game-Changing Strategies to Overcoming Resistance to EGFR Kinase</i></p>	<p>Preventing Resistance to Therapy in Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer</p>
	<p>Eylon Yavin, PhD Funded in Partnership by the Dr. Jerry Gross Memorial Fund</p>	<p>Hebrew University of Jerusalem</p>	<p><i>Development of diagnostic RNA sensors for Glioma</i></p>	<p>Detecting Residual Brain Tumor Tissue after Surgery</p>
	<p>Joel Yisraeli, PhD The ICRF-Lung Cancer Research Foundation Collaborative Project Grant</p>	<p>Hebrew University of Jerusalem</p>	<p><i>Treating Lung and Colorectal Carcinomas by Targeting IGF2BP1</i></p>	<p>Lung Cancer, Colorectal Cancer</p>
	<p>Assaf Zinger, PhD The Jacqueline and Arthur Burdorf Memorial Project Grant</p>	<p>Technion, Israel Institute of Technology</p>	<p><i>Resected Tumor Biomimetic Nanoparticles for Personalized and Prophylactic Immunotherapy</i></p>	<p>Immunotherapy for Triple-Negative Breast Cancer</p>
<p>Research & Clinical Research Career Development Awards</p>	<p>Debbie Anaby, PhD The Jacqueline and Arthur Burdorf Memorial Research Career Development Award</p>	<p>Chaim Sheba Medical Center</p>	<p><i>Transforming Breast Cancer Diagnosis: A Novel Approach for Diagnostic Precision</i></p>	<p>Breast Cancer Imaging by Application of AI</p>

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RCDAs / CRCDA <i>(continued)</i>	Avinoam Bar-Zion, PhD The Fernande and Marco Zevy Family Career Development Award	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Drug Delivery to Brain Tumors using Cognitive Ultrasound Blood-Brain-Barrier Opening</i>	Brain Cancer, Glioblastoma, Pediatric Cancer
	Ofir Cohen, PhD The Bev Zadikoff Research Career Development Award for Metastatic Breast Cancer	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	<i>Minimal Transcriptional Archetypes of Drug-Resistance in ER+ Metastatic Breast Cancer</i>	Metastatic Breast Cancer
	Albert Grinshpun, MD	Shaare Zedek Medical Center	<i>Precision Monitoring: A Novel Method for Early Detection of Side Effects in Oncology</i>	Breast Cancer
	Erez Hasnis, MD The Barbara S. Goodman Endowed Research Career Development Award in Pancreatic Cancer	Rambam Health Care Campus	<i>Study of OASL-mediated immune escape in pancreatic cancer</i>	Pancreatic Cancer
	Aeid Igarria, 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
	Yaakov Maman, PhD Machla Liebe Librach Stomach Cancer Research Fund Research Career Development Award	Bar-Ilan University	<i>Harnessing the Signature of Helicobacter Pylori Genotoxicity for Gastric Cancer diagnosis</i>	Gastric Cancer
	Yaara Oren, PhD The Barbara and Fred Kort Foundation Research Career Development Award	Tel Aviv University	<i>Delineating the Mechanisms Underlying Escape from Therapy-Induced Senescence</i>	Preventing cancer cells from reoccurring after treatment

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC
RCDAs / CRCDA <i>(continued)</i>	Eric Shifrut, PhD The Daisy Gerber Memorial Research Career Development Award	Tel Aviv University	<i>Mechanisms of resistance to immunosuppressive adenosine signaling in human T cells</i>	Immunotherapy
	Ofer Shoshani, PhD The Jacqueline and Arthur Burdorf Memorial Research Career Development Award	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>The role of gene amplification in cancer proteotoxic stress</i>	Genomic Instability
	Yochai Wolf, PhD Funded in Partnership with the Barbara and Fred Kort Foundation	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	<i>Improving current GD2-based melanoma therapy by using an mRNA-CAR approach</i>	Skin Cancer, Melanoma, Men's and Women's Cancers
	Zvi Yaari, PhD The Daisy Gerber Memorial Research Career Development Award	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Developing Optical Sensors for Real-Time Monitoring of Breast Cancer</i>	Breast Cancer
	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
ACCELERATION GRANTS	Moshe Elkabets, PhD	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	<i>A Novel therapeutic Strategy for eliminating metastatic tumors</i>	Metastasis, Using Breast, Head and Neck Cancer Models

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ACCELERATION GRANTS <i>(continued)</i>	Efrat Shema, PhD The Diane and Guilford Glazer Foundation Acceleration Grant	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Liquid biopsy for diagnosis and therapeutic tracking of pediatric brain cancer</i>	Pediatric Brain Tumors
SPECIAL INITIATIVES / PROJECTS	Haim Cohen, PhD and Raul Mostoslavsky, MD, PhD The ICRF-Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation (SWCRF) Aging & Cancer International Collaboration Grant	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
	Eran Elinav, MD, PhD The Special ICRF Initiative in Pediatric Cancer Research Grant	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Using clinical and microbiome features to predict responses in childhood acute leukemia</i>	Blood Cancers, Pediatric Cancers, Pediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
	Asaf Madi, PhD The ICRF-Cancer Research Institute (CRI) Collaborative Immunotherapy Project Grant	Tel Aviv University	<i>Refining TIL Therapy: Predicting Response and Overcoming Resistance in Melanoma Treatment</i>	Skin Cancer, Melanoma
	Yifat Merbl, PhD The ICRF-Cancer Research Institute (CRI) Collaborative Technology Impact Award	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Mass spectrometry Analysis of Proteolytic Peptides – exploring the tumor degradome as new front in precision oncology and immunotherapy</i>	Immunotherapy
	Ruth Perets, MD, PhD The Beverly Librach Abshez Initiative for Ovarian and Female Reproductive System Cancers Grant	Rambam Health Care Campus	<i>Regulating the Master Regulator of Ovarian Cancer</i>	Ovarian Cancer
SPECIAL INITIATIVES /				

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PROJECTS <i>(continued)</i>	Adi Zoref-Lorenz, MD, PhD The ICRF-Conquer Cancer (The ASCO Foundation) Collaborative Career Development Award	Meir Medical Center	<i>Hyperinflammation in Hematologic Malignancies: Characterizing and Altering the Natural History of a Lethal Syndrome</i>	Hyperinflammation and Blood Cancers

