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RESEARCH GRANTS 2024-2025

For the 2024 / 2025 funding year, ICRF is supporting 77 grants valued at \$5,253,333. 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 Technology Impact Award <i>(A Partnership between ICRF and Cancer Research Institute [CRI])</i>	1 ICRF-Conquer Cancer Career Development Award <i>(A Partnership between ICRF and Conquer Cancer [The ASCO Foundation])</i>
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	9 Research Professorship Grants
38 Project Grants	

With the 2024 / 2025 grants, ICRF’s funding has now reached 2,890 grants totaling \$98,311,333.

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

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BEVERLEY LIBRACH ABSHEZ INITIATIVE FOR OVARIAN AND FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM CANCERS GRANT	Ruth Perets, MD, PhD	Rambam Health Care Campus	<i>Regulating the Master Regulator of Ovarian Cancer</i>	Ovarian Cancer
THE BRAUSE FAMILY INITIATIVE FOR QUALITY OF LIFE GRANTS	Ahinoam Lev-Sagie, MD	Hadassah University Medical Center	<i>Genital Graft Versus Host Disease (GGVHD) Following Transplantation and the Vaginal Microbiome</i>	Preventing GGVHD in Women after Bone Marrow Transplantation
	Avi Priel, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Cancer Pain and Medical Cannabis: Defining the Pain Pathway Target of Cannabinoids</i>	How Cannabinoids Can Be Used to Treat Cancer Pain
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
ICRF–SHIR FOR LIFE SPECIAL INITIATIVE IN NEUROBLASTOMA RESEARCH GRANT	Chen Buxbaum, MD	Rambam Health Care Campus	<i>The analysis of tumor immune microenvironment in neuroblastoma</i>	Neuroblastoma
BARBARA GOODMAN ENDOWED RCDA IN PANCREATIC CANCER	Erez Hasnis, MD	Rambam Health Care Campus	<i>Study of OASL-mediated immune escape in pancreatic cancer</i>	Pancreatic Cancer

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RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS (RCDAs)	Debbie Anaby, PhD	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	<i>Transforming Breast Cancer Diagnosis: A Novel Approach for Diagnostic Precision</i>	Breast Cancer Imaging by Application of AI
	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
	Ofir Cohen, PhD	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	<i>Minimal Transcriptional Archetypes of Drug-Resistance in ER+ Metastatic Breast Cancer</i>	Metastatic 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
	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
	Yaakov Maman, PhD	Bar-Ilan University	<i>Harnessing the Signature of Helicobacter Pylori Genotoxicity for Gastric Cancer diagnosis</i>	Gastric Cancer

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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
	Eric Shifrut, PhD	Tel Aviv University	<i>Mechanisms of resistance to immunosuppressive adenosine signaling in human T cells</i>	Immunotherapy
	Ofer Shoshani, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>The role of gene amplification in cancer proteotoxic stress</i>	Genomic Instability
	Zvi Yaari, PhD	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	Yotam Drier, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>The Role of Enhancer RNA Methylation in Tumorigenesis</i>	Finding Novel Biomarkers to Predict Patient Prognosis

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ACCELERATION GRANTS (continued)	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
	Oren Parnas, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Revealing the Origin of Pancreatic Cancer Metastases</i>	Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer and Preventing Metastasis
	Efrat Shema, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Liquid biopsy for diagnosis and therapeutic tracking of pediatric brain cancer</i>	Pediatric Brain Tumors
RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP GRANTS	Ido Amit, PhD	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	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>Nuclear Sequestration of the 26S Proteasome as a Novel Cancer Therapeutic Platform</i>	Multiple Myeloma and other Protease-Inhibitor Responsive Tumors
	Talía Golan, MD	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	<i>Exploring resistance mechanisms and optimizing targeted therapies for BRCA1/2 mutant PDAC</i>	BRCA-Mutant Pancreatic Cancer
	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	Sheera Adar, PhD	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	<i>Mutational signatures as predictors of lung cancer response to DNA-damaging therapies</i>	Lung Cancer
	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
	Emily Avitan-Hersh, MD	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 DNA Replication Stress for Eliminating RBM10-Deficient Lung Adenocarcinoma</i>	Lung Cancer

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PROJECT GRANTS <i>(continued)</i>	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
	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
	Itai Benhar, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Preferential elimination of pathological B cells using tetravalent-bispecific antibodies</i>	B cell Malignancies (Lymphoma/Immunotherapy)
	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
	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
	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

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PROJECT GRANTS <i>(continued)</i>	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 Reprogramming by Extracellular Vesicles from Pancreatic Tumors with Mutant p53</i>	Pancreatic Cancer and the p53 Mutation
	Rony Dahan, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Bispecific-cytokine fusion molecules for cancer immunotherapy</i>	Immunotherapy
	Neta Erez, PhD	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
	Shahar Frenkel, MD	Hadassah Medical Organization	<i>Retinoblastoma: methylation profile and response to hypoxia and chemotherapy</i>	Pediatric Eye Cancer
	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
	Tali Ilovitsh, PhD	Tel-Aviv University	<i>Noninvasive brain tumor biopsy: Ultrasound-based detection of circulating GBM biomarkers</i>	Noninvasive Detection of Brain Tumors
	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 <i>(continued)</i>	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
	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
	Yarden Opatowsky, PhD	Bar-Ilan University	<i>Preventing Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy (CIPN) in Cancer Patients</i>	Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy
	Gideon Schreiber, PhD	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Targeting interferon signaling to improve kinase inhibitor treatment of leukemia</i>	Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)
	Thomas Schultheiss, MD, PhD	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>	Studying how brain metastases form in immunotherapy-resistant patients
	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

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PROJECT GRANTS <i>(continued)</i>	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, PhD	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
	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
	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 Vlodavsky, 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>	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
	Eylon Yavin, PhD	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Development of diagnostic RNA sensors for Glioma</i>	Detecting Residual Brain Tumor Tissue after Surgery
	Assaf Zinger, PhD	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Resected Tumor Biomimetic Nanoparticles for Personalized and Prophylactic Immunotherapy</i>	Immunotherapy for Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

