Israel Cancer Research Fund

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

POLICIES GOVERNING ICRF CLINICAL RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS (CRCDAs)

Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) Clinical Research Career Development Awards (CRCDAs) are designed to enable early-career medical or pediatric oncologists with clear research potential to participate in mentored post-fellowship research training that will provide a strong foundation for a career in clinical research. CRCDAs are available to investigators in the formative phase of their careers who have demonstrated outstanding potential for contribution to clinical cancer research as independent investigators and who will benefit by additional mentored experience in a scientific environment that is conducive to the development of an independent research career. A candidate must have an MD degree and at least two years of fellowship training in oncology, including medical or pediatric hematology-oncology or a related oncologic specialty, but not more than five years of subsequent relevant professional experience prior to the start date of requested funding.

CRCDAs are intended to support research with a clear clinical focus by highly-qualified, early-career investigators with strong track records and a commitment to an independent career in clinical cancer research. Individuals who have attained senior faculty or equivalent status are considered to have achieved the objective of this program and to be ineligible.

CRCDAs may not be used simply to substitute one source of salary support for another for an individual who is already conducting full-time research, nor do they provide support to the institution or substitute for institutional support of an investigator.

Mentoring

Because the goal of CRCDA funding is to promote the development of early career investigators, each investigator must establish a formal mentoring program. Each CRCDA applicant must identify at least two Mentors committed to overseeing the applicant's progress from among senior investigators at the applicant's institution. Letters of support and a detailed Mentorship Plan must accompany the application; and Mentors must provide an annual report on progress in career development.

Duration and Amount of the Grant

The duration of a CRCDA is three (3) years, at a level of $45,000 per year, as determined by the Scientific Review Panel and the availability of funds. Funding for the second and third years is contingent upon progress in the preceding funding period, as documented in a progress report due annually on June 30.

Terms of the CRCDA

1. ***Commitment to Research:*** Individuals who receive a CRCDA are to devote at least half of their time to clinical research activities. Such activities may include giving or receiving research training, supervising the research of others, and participating in workshops and scientific or professional meetings. The principal involvement must be with the actual conduct of research. It is expected that the other portion of the grantee's time will be devoted to direct patient care at the funded institution. During the period of the grant, the institution is expected to reduce or defer demands for teaching, service or committee duties that do not contribute directly to the development of the candidate's research career.

2. ***Nomination by the Sponsoring Institution***: Candidates must be nominated by a public or private nonprofit institution engaged in healthcare and healthcare-related research and located in Israel. The application must originate jointly with the institution and the proposed nominee, and must describe fully all proposed research, teaching, and medical activities. A letter from the Dean, relevant Department Chair, or other appropriate senior hospital/university official should accompany the application guaranteeing protected time for research and research-related activities and detailing the institutional support available to the applicant during the period of the grant, as well as its future plans for the applicant after completion of the grant term.

3. ***Relationship of the Grantee to the Sponsoring Institution:*** Although an individual is considered as the grantee, grants are made to eligible institutions on behalf of the grantee. The grantee is an employee of the institution to which the grant is made and his or her status, title, salary, and staff privileges are determined by the institution according to its established policies for individuals holding 12-month appointments, except as otherwise set out in this statement.

4 ***Concurrent Applications Not Permitted:*** A CRCDA application may not be submitted concurrently with another clinical research career development-type application that would duplicate the provisions of the CRCDA, nor may a grantee accept another clinical research career development award that would duplicate the provisions of the ICRF grant. Potentially duplicative grants include clinical investigator awards, academic and teacher investigator awards, and postdoctoral and senior fellowships.

Allowable Grant Costs

ICRF funds cannot be used for clerical or other administrative expenses, for overhead charges, or for work performed outside of Israel. However, for CRCDA applicants only, salary may be requested for the PI, up to a maximum of $20,000 per year, provided that the PI's research and training efforts encompass at least 50% of his or her time at the institution. CRCDA funds may also be used for attendance at cooperative cancer treatment group meetings and expenses for training in clinical research methodology and biostatistics. Up to $1,000 per year may be used for travel to a scientific meeting.

The total salary of the investigator (ICRF and institutional contribution) must be based on a full-time, 12-month staff appointment, and be consistent with both the established salary structure at the institution and with salaries provided by the institution to other staff members of equivalent qualifications, rank and responsibilities in the department concerned. The CRCDA is awarded with the expectation that additional research support and salary funds from the institution will be available to the grantee during the period of the grant, and that full-time employment of the grantee will be assured for a minimum of 3 years after completion of the CRCDA, with appropriate funding for continued clinical research activities.

Type of Clinical Trials that may be Supported

Phase I (tolerance and toxicity) trials may be performed under a CRCDA proposal provided that an experienced clinical investigator (mentor) provides assurance of appropriate supervision. Phase II and Phase III trials may be proposed for support of this type, and may involve more than one institution, provided that the appropriate consortium agreements are obtained.

Pharmaceutical Industry Involvement

Financial support and proprietary drug provision are permitted, provided that a letter from the manufacturer or supplier clearly indicates they will have no control or influence over publication or dissemination of results of the project.

Application Templates

Templates for applying for an ICRF research grant can be downloaded 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: grants@icrfonline.org

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GENERAL POLICIES GOVERNING ICRF GRANTS

The Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) supports cutting-edge research that will impact prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. To apply for an ICRF grant, the Principal Investigator (PI) must be an Israeli citizen planning to carry out all proposed research in Israel. (Proof of Israeli citizenship must be furnished upon request.)

Application Submission, Evaluation and Grant Activation:

RECEIVED BY THE ICRF	*NOTIFICATION OF DECISION*	*ACTIVATION OF GRANT*
January 6, 2025, 12pm (noon) EST	May 1, 2025, and thereafter	September 1, 2025

Important Points Regarding Application Submission:

- ***Applications that do not provide all required information will be rejected without review.***
- ***Only one (1) application per PI will be accepted for each submission deadline.***
- ***An individual may be PI on only one (1) ICRF grant at any given time.*** *Thus, a PI currently funded by ICRF may apply for another ICRF grant* ***only if*** *the start date is after the current funding period ends.*
- ***The Principal Investigator (PI) assumes full responsibility for the entire content and language in the application, including any components produced by generative artificial intelligence (AI), and must acknowledge that responsibility upon application submission.***
- *Email addresses for all investigators and institutional personnel contained within the application submitted to ICRF will be added to the ICRF email list. Those individuals will receive regular updates and other important information. Recipients will have the option to unsubscribe from said emails.*

Application Evaluation and Funding Notification:

- Applications are evaluated by Scientific Review Panels (SRPs). Review criteria are:
  - ♦ Potential to advance the understanding, diagnosis and/or treatment of cancer within the next 5-10 years.
  - ♦ Scientific merit and innovation.
  - ♦ Feasibility, availability of key materials and resources, strength of preliminary data, and a realistic timeline.
  - ♦ Qualifications of the applicant, based on prior training and demonstrated expertise.
  - ♦ Scientific productivity, as evident in the publication record, especially during any previous ICRF-supported research.
  - ♦ Facilities, materials, resources and scientific environment available for the duration of the project.
  - ♦ For mentored awards: soundness of the mentoring plan and the mentors' commitment to the PI.
- Applications are scored using the US NIH scale of 1-9 (1 is the top score, 9 is the lowest score).
- Following review, applications are ranked to generate a funding priority list.
- Priority rankings and recommendations based on scientific review are presented to the ICRF International Scientific Council for further consideration and then to the ICRF Board of Trustees for final approval.
- Applicants are notified of funding priority rather than a numerical score.
- ICRF makes an initial round of funding commitments to applications at the top of the priority list. Subsequent funding commitments are announced individually, depending upon availability of funds.
- Applications that are not funded upon initial submission may be revised and resubmitted for further consideration.

- ICRF reserves the right to use Artificial Intelligence-(AI)-based tools to screen the text and figures of applications. However, AI tools may not be used to evaluate ICRF grant applications. Sharing either the content or original ideas of an ICRF proposal or proposal reviews violates reviewer confidentiality and the integrity of the review process.

Fiscal Requirements and Considerations for the Principal Investigator (PI) and Sponsoring Institution:

- The Principal Investigator (PI) must be an Israeli citizen (proof of citizenship must be furnished upon request) who holds a position at a sponsoring Israeli institution that can provide research space, 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.
- If a project involves the use of proprietary equipment, drugs or other reagents, Supporting Documents must include a letter from the drug manufacturer or supplier indicating that they have agreed to provide material to you and that they understand that they retain no control over publication or dissemination of the results of the study.
- If a PI or co-PI has any commercial interest in a start-up or established company, the budget must be accompanied by written assurance that no ICRF funds will be used in support of research being carried out for commercial purposes, and that there is no overlap between the goals of the ICRF proposal and the goals of that commercial entity.
- 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 October 31. 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. These reports are evaluated by the SRP Chairs/Co-Chairs. Funding may be terminated if progress is unsatisfactory, or if future plans diverge greatly from those described in the original proposal and are not well-rationalized.

In those rare instances in which progress seems inadequate, ICRF will request that the PI provide further detailed information, including additional data showing results of experiments thus far, the rationale for the change of aims, and financial documentation reporting on use of funds to date. This reply will be evaluated by the Chairs of all SRPs (or their designates), whose recommendation will be reported to the ICRF Executive Committee for further action.

No-Cost Extensions:

- Funds remaining at the end of a grant year will be automatically transferred to the subsequent grant year, if progress has been satisfactory. If a grant is terminating, a grantee may submit a request for a no-cost extension, **due by August 1**. Requests for no-cost extensions require a detailed letter of explanation from the grantee. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- If a grantee has been awarded a new ICRF grant, then the duration of the no-cost extension may be for a maximum of six months. If a grantee has not been awarded new ICRF funding, the duration of the no-cost extension may be for a maximum of one year.

- ICRF will request additional financial reports, as appropriate.

- If a no-cost extension is allowed, progress reports are required at both the initial termination date and at the termination date of the no-cost extension.

- If the funds have not been expended in their entirety at the end of the extension, ICRF reserves the right to request that the funds be returned.

Renewal of Funding:

Project Grants may be renewed; Acceleration Grants and Career Development Awards are not renewable.

Receipt of a Research Professorship grant is ICRF's highest honor. While these grants are renewable, it is important to understand that ICRF is only able to award a limited number of Research Professorship grants annually, in order to ensure our continued ability to support a diverse cancer research portfolio of excellent scientists at all levels. Therefore, past receipt of an ICRF Research Professorship grant does not guarantee renewed funding at this level.

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 must be submitted by the advertised deadline for all grants to avoid a lapse in funding.

Leaves of Absence:

ICRF recognizes that PIs may need to take unanticipated absences from their laboratories, in the case of national or personal emergencies; such leaves do not require notification or prior approval. The following policies apply to anticipated leaves of absence, such as leaves to work in other laboratories or family leave to care for a child.

- A PI anticipating an absence of three months or more from the laboratory must notify and receive approval from ICRF. Such leave may not exceed 12 months.
- Leaves of longer than three months (including sabbatical leave) 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; exceptions will be made in special circumstances (e.g. family leave).
- 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.

To obtain approval for anticipated 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, deputizing a specific individual to be responsible in the PI's absence and providing that individual's biosketch. 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.

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.

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.

Change of Institution, or Termination:

If a PI moves to another eligible institution, grant support may be continued, provided that:

- 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.
- The new institution submits to ICRF administrative paperwork supporting the change of institution.
- 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.

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.

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.

Questions? For any questions or problems, please send an E-mail message to: grants@icrfonline.org