

INNOVATOR GRANTS

Pancreatic Cancer

Request for Proposals and Information for Applicants



Background

The Cancer Council NSW (TCCNSW) has developed a new granting scheme, known as Innovator Grants, to promote the development and sharing of innovative cancer research ideas, which address agreed research goals in pancreatic cancer.

Pancreatic Cancer Research Priorities

The following seven research priorities in pancreatic cancer have been agreed through the various consensus methods employed by TCCNSW.

- Define genetic and environmental factors which influence the overall risk and natural history of pancreatic cancer
- Define markers of prognosis and therapeutic responsiveness which will facilitate the development of stratified and ultimately personalised therapies for pancreatic cancer
- Develop a better understanding of tumour biology including that of the normal pancreas, and pancreatic carcinogenesis
- The development and assessment of novel therapies and therapeutic strategies for pancreatic cancer
- Validate the optimal / timely / consistent management for all stages of pancreatic cancer
- Define the most common disease- and treatment-related sequelae of pancreatic cancer on patients and their carers, and identify strategies for managing them
- Develop strategies to identify patients with pancreatic cancer at a potentially curable stage

For more information about STREP Grants and the Stage 2 process and outcomes please contact TCCNSW (see details below).

Strategic Research Partnership Grants

TCCNSW awards STREP Grants to facilitate collaboration with research teams to solve high priority research questions with a tangible impact on cancer.

Core funding is provided to strengthen and improve the effectiveness of research teams designed to solve pressing issues in cancer treatment and control, and to facilitate the uptake of innovations into practice.

STREP grants are funded for five years and proceed in stages:

1. Stage 1 consolidates and procures critical capacity and support a core research agenda undertaken by the funded STREP Grant teams

2. Stage 2 is concerned with identifying high priority research objectives relevant to the objectives of each STREP Grant awarded by TCCNSW
3. Stage 3 expands TCCNSW's research procurement and collaboration toward further agreed objectives including those identified at Stage 2.

Stage 1 in Pancreatic Cancer

TCCNSW has entered into a Strategic Research Partnership with the NSW Pancreatic Cancer Network, led by Dr Andrew Biankin of the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, to develop a portfolio of research in pancreatic cancer. The Partnership has an emphasis on investing in research that will have a tangible impact on policy and practice in the control of pancreatic cancer.

For more information about the NSW Pancreatic Cancer Network please visit the website www.pancreaticcancer.net.au

Stage 2 in Pancreatic Cancer

Stage 2 in pancreatic cancer (identifying high priority research objectives) is now complete. The seven research priorities detailed above were agreed by national and international experts in pancreatic cancer (via telephone interviews, an online Delphi process, and a face-to-face nominal group meeting), as well as people affected by cancer (through consumer focus group discussions).

Stage 3 in Pancreatic Cancer

Now that Stage 2 in Pancreatic Cancer is complete, we are proceeding with Stage 3 – the procurement of agreed objectives. Key to the success of Stage 3 in each STREP Grant is research procurement by innovative means, not simply through the traditional methods currently employed by TCCNSW. Therefore, TCCNSW has initiated this Innovator Grants scheme to procure research against the agreed research priorities in pancreatic cancer (outlined above).

Objectives

The specific objectives of awarding Innovator Grants are to:

- Procure and fund research that addresses the priorities and identified by the STREP Grant Stage 2 process (detailed above)
- Inspire new ideas in cancer research
- Develop an innovative idea into a research proposal
- Provide financial support for innovative and original research projects of high quality and potential
- Encourage new researchers to enter the field of cancer research and to explore innovative research ideas that are often difficult or impossible to fund from traditional sources
- Support innovative, high impact approaches to cancer researchers who address a central problem or question in cancer research from synergistic and complementary perspectives
- Accelerate advances in cancer research to support The Cancer Council NSW's goal of conquering cancer.

The Award

Up to \$100,000 will be provided to the recipients' institution in the form of a one-year Innovator Grant to support the research project outlined in the application. Grant funding may be used for such purposes including, but not limited to those listed below:

- Direct research expenses attributable to the proposed research, which may include the salary of research assistants or technicians. The chief investigator may use the award to cover up to 50% of his/her own salary.
- Expenses for training in new techniques that will benefit the research project
- Expenses related to the presentation of research data at scientific meetings or through other means that will contribute to the dissemination of the scientific knowledge gained from the research project

Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be considered in selection:

- The clarity of the research outcome to be achieved and its relationship to CCNSW's published priorities in pancreatic cancer.
- The extent to which the proposed study employs an innovative research approach in the field
- The scientific quality and significance of the research project and its potential to be carried forward into wider application
- The originality of the research project (i.e., the extent to which it is non-duplicative of other efforts);
- Whether the study is designed appropriately to provide answers to the research questions posed; and
- Degree of impact the research may have on the field related to CCNSW's research objectives.
- The initiative, independence, and previous accomplishments of the applicant; and
- The presence of a defined end result by which success can be measured.

Eligibility

- Research groups working in Australian institutions are eligible to apply.
- Applications must address at least one of the pancreatic cancer research priorities identified (see above)
- Applications must be supported by the host institution.

The Tobacco Industry

The Cancer Council NSW will not award an Innovator Grant to any researcher who:

- Is an applicant for or is in receipt of funds from the tobacco industry, or organisations deemed by The Cancer Council to be associated with the tobacco industry, regardless of whether the funds are received indirectly, through collaborators or by other means;
- Is employed in a research institute or organisation or, in the case of universities, Faculty or School that allows applications or receives funds from the tobacco industry, whatever the use of those funds may be; or

- Is employed in a University that accepts funds from the tobacco industry for health related research or services, wherever in the University that research may be done or those services supported.

The Cancer Council will terminate its support for a research program if the above provisions relating to support from the tobacco industry are breached or it believes that the integrity of the research is threatened by influence from tobacco interests. Applicants should therefore verify compliance with this requirement, as subsequent disclosure will result in termination of funding and a request for return of funds already expended.

Applications

- While Innovator Grant applications are open all year round, our preference is to receive them on or before 19th December 2008
- Applicants should complete the Innovator Grants Application Form, available from The Cancer Council website at www.cancercouncil.com.au
- Maximum 4 pages in total (2 page research description plus contacts, lay description, budget, references and signatures)
- Adhere to the recommended length for each section
- All documents must be on standard A4 paper
- Minimum font size is 10 point. Preferably Arial, Helvetica or Times New Roman
- Application materials to be submitted include:
 - 1 electronic copy of the completed Application Form via email to rong@nswcc.org.au
 - 1 signed hard copy of the Application Form to:

Postal address

Mr Ron Gale
Research Strategy Unit
The Cancer Council NSW
PO Box 572
KINGS CROSS NSW 1340

Courier address

Mr Ron Gale
Research Strategy Unit
The Cancer Council NSW
153 Dowling Street
WOOLLOOMOOLOO NSW 2011

Contact with TCCNSW

Mr Ron Gale
Research Strategy Unit
The Cancer Council NSW

Telephone: (02) 9334 1766
Email: rong@nswcc.org.au