



The Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF), a private charity, supports cancer research in Australia by funding significant grants to stimulate and assist our researchers to achieve major research outcomes and to develop and enhance their international competitiveness. The sources of this funding are fundraising activities conducted by ACRF and also other authorised parties representing ACRF.

ACRF has a commitment to achieving the best possible clinical outcomes through high quality basic and translational research. Grant applications in support of this general philosophy are encouraged.

The Foundation's approach to supporting cancer research is based on the following principles:

- a) We seek to support all aspects of cancer control (i.e. prevention, early detection, treatment and/or management) through research. Our focus is on providing single capital grants for major items of scientific equipment, technology and new research infrastructure. In this way ACRF can best complement existing sources of funding for staff and consumables for cancer research projects available through other cancer research agencies, such as the NH&MRC and the MRFF.
- b) We support research by groups and institutes with outstanding credentials and/or potential in cancer research, to facilitate new and sustainable programs and to provide platforms that will add to Australia's cancer research capacity. Besides demonstrating the excellence of the project and research capability, applications should demonstrate clarity of research vision and planning, sustainability, strong committed leadership, and experienced management.
- c) Pooling the efforts of teams of researchers within or across institutes can often answer research questions more effectively and/or more efficiently. We therefore welcome and encourage joint applications.
- d) ACRF is a 'seed' funding body, and may not necessarily be able to fund the full amount sought in an application. Our support should therefore be demonstrated to provide opportunities for leveraging of additional funding. We expect that applications for projects and/or programmes will demonstrate the ability to leverage support over and above the amount which the ACRF may be able to provide.

2021 APPLICATION PROCEDURES

THE ACRF SEEKS APPLICATIONS FOR NEW GRANTS TO BE AWARDED IN 2021

Eligible persons and groups (defined in the Application Guidelines) are invited to submit a single detailed written application. The ACRF Grant Application procedure is in two parts:

- 1) A written application is to be provided that conforms with the format and content specified in the 2021 Grants Format of Application located at –

<https://acrf.com.au/cancer-research-grants/research-grant-guidelines-and-applications>

This application must be received by ACRF no later than 5.00pm (Sydney time) on Friday 21st May 2021.

Due to the current extraordinary situation at a minimum one electronic copy of the grant application is required. It would be appreciated if 5 printed copies could also be provided.

Late applications will not be considered.

To avoid any potential conflict of interest members of the ACRF Medical Research Advisory Council (MRAC) who are not involved with any application or institution that has submitted an application will review all applications and select those applicants who are short-listed for interview.

For the interview of the short-listed applications a select a panel of five (5) to six (6) MRAC reviewers, both international and domestic experts, will be formed who are not conflicted with any application or institution that is making an application.

The short-listed applications will be invited to:

- Provide a 10-minute video presentation of their application two weeks prior to interview
- Present their application at the interview and answer any questions raised by the MRAC assessment panel.

At this stage due to the potential for international and domestic travel restrictions at the proposed time for the short-listed interviews it is envisaged that the interviews will be conducted virtually. As such the interview will be approximately 30 minutes in duration with no more than six (6) people associated with the application to be present. The focus of the interview is to examine the scientific merit and worthiness of the application. The interviews will be conducted via electronic medium (usually ZOOM).

If the opportunities for domestic and international travel improve in time for the short-listed interviews it may be possible to conduct in-person interviews in Sydney, or a hybrid format. A decision on the final format of the short-listed interviews will be made on the 23 June 2021.

FUNDING CATEGORIES

The ACRF funds cancer research under the following categories:

1. Capital Works
2. Major equipment grants
3. Virtual infrastructure
4. Highly specialised reagents / standards / specialised software packages etc. that are essential for the operation of the equipment or the virtual infrastructure. This must be a minor (<25%) part of the project budget.

GENERAL

1. Grant Applications for amounts between \$1.5m and \$5m are sought (average grant awarded in the annual grant round for the past 5 years = \$2.6 million).
2. Applications should clearly explain:
 - What's new and/or different in the proposed research program and its potential to significantly enhance one or more aspects of cancer control (prevention, early detection, treatment and/or management)
 - How the funds being sought from ACRF for infrastructure and/or equipment will help to ensure successful outcomes of the applicants' research program
 - Why the research team, based on their past and current research performance, as well as their professional talent, makes them the appropriate team to conduct the proposed research and to achieve the stated aims.
3. Applicants should include evidence of how any funds granted by ACRF will be leveraged to source additional funds required to undertake the research program.
4. Applications should include evidence for professional management of the equipment of facilities being funded.
5. Applications featuring multi-disciplinary teams working collaboratively are encouraged.
6. Applications describing collaborative research programs between institutions are strongly encouraged. If a collaborative program is proposed, one or more institutions /entities must be specified as the **lead institution(s)**, and will usually be recognised as the institution(s) not eligible for further funding over the next three (3) annual funding rounds if the application is successful. The lead institution(s) would be responsible for the funded equipment and infrastructure, and it would be expected that the majority of the funded equipment would be housed and maintained by them. The ACRF reserves the right to determine which collaborative institutions are ineligible for further funding.

Recognising that ACRF funded equipment and research infrastructure is expected to be made available on an equitable financial and priority basis to all cancer researchers in Australia, a clear statement of the practical basis of such equitable access, including any arrangements for the local subsidy of access costs (direct or indirect through the institution for support as an in kind contribution to the cost of the proposed equipment), should be given in the application, and should be disclosed to all potential users if the application is funded.

7. Discussion of the potential for translational impact of the research should be included.

8. When assessing grant applications, the following criteria are considered in addition to other information sought:
 - o Research Excellence
 - o Fit with Cancer
 - o Synergies/Amplified Outcomes
 - o Uniqueness & Platform
 - o Opportunity to leverage funds
 - o Management and Governance
 - o Vision & Planning
 - o Budget
 - o Proposed plans for the recognition and profiling of ACRF

9. Any Application that the Applicant has previously made and is pending for any item included in the Application for the ACRF Grant must be listed in the Application. An explanation must be provided as to the proposed course of action should the Applicant be successful with the ACRF application and any of the other identified applications.

CONDITIONS

- 1) Recommendations to the ACRF's Board by our Medical Research Advisory Committee (*MRAC) are made on the basis of scientific merit and potential.
- 2) ACRF will not consider applications seeking funding for salaries, research consumables and services, or the costs associated with running clinical trials.
- 3) Previous grant recipients (research centres and/or chief investigators) are eligible to again apply for funding after the expiration of three (3) annual Grant rounds from their previous successful application.
- 4) In the event that the application under consideration is from a consortium of research institutes which may be sharing any one of a research platform and/or physical space and/or technology/equipment, and where one or more of those institutes was an ACRF grant awardee in the last three (3) annual Grant rounds, ACRF will determine the eligibility of the current application on a case-by-case basis. A primary consideration for determining eligibility in those circumstances will be whether the current application features one or more chief investigators who was/were part of a previous application funded by the ACRF in the last three (3) annual Grant rounds.
- 5) Particular circumstances may arise where it is appropriate for ACRF to make a grant conditional upon its receiving, by way of a royalty or otherwise, funds generated from any commercial exploitation which can be attributed to the particular grant awarded by ACRF (See the Intellectual Property statement below).

- 6) Successful applicants will enter into an agreement with ACRF, some of the conditions for inclusion being:
 - a. the Recipient having an immediate need for the funds to pay for the Facilities and/or the equipment
 - b. the Recipient entering into a binding building / construction contract for the Facilities by no later than eighteen (18) months from the date of the Agreement; and

- c. payment of the first instalment of the Grant being made by no later than 18 months from the date of the Agreement; and
 - d. payment of any further instalments of the Grant being made by no later than thirty-six (36) months from the date of the Agreement; and
 - e. Annual reporting to ACRF, in lay and scientific language, on research outcomes
 - f. Providing various forms of recognition to, and promotion of, ACRF including hosting an official opening function attended by a prominent Australian and which is designed to enhance the profile of the ACRF.
- 7) NSW applicants should note that if successful the Cancer Institute NSW may provide additional funding of up to \$100,000 per year for three (3) years (i.e. maximum of \$300,000) for personnel to operate the equipment. NSW applicants must identify the skills that would be required and justify the need for technical personnel in the application. The awarding of this funding is at the discretion of the Cancer Institute NSW.
 - 8) Applicants should note that if successful the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation (OCRF) will assess their application for its implications for the early detection, prevention and treatment of ovarian cancer. If applicable OCRF may provide additional funding of up to \$300,000 per year for 3 years (i.e. maximum of \$900,000) for personnel to operate the equipment provided by the ACRF Grant. Applicants must identify the skills that would be required and justify the need for technical/scientific personnel in the application. The awarding of this funding is at the discretion of OCRF.
 - 9) Applicants should note that if successful the Snowdome Foundation ('Snowdome') will assess their application for its implications for translational blood cancer research that fits within Snowdome Funding Criteria as stated on snowdome.org.au. If applicable Snowdome may provide additional funding of up to \$150,000 per year for 3 years (i.e., maximum of \$450,000) subject to Snowdome sourcing funding for personnel to operate the equipment provided by the ACRF Grant. Applicants must identify the skills that would be required and justify the need for technical/scientific personnel in the application. The awarding of this funding is at the sole discretion of Snowdome.
 - 10) Applicants should note that if successful the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Foundation (APCR) will assess their application for its implications for the early detection, prevention and treatment of prostate cancer. If applicable APCR may provide additional funding of up to \$100,000 per year for 3 years (i.e. maximum of \$300,000) for personnel to operate the equipment provided by the ACRF Grant. Applicants must identify the skills that would be required and justify the need for technical/scientific personnel in the application. The awarding of this funding is at the discretion of APCR.
 - 11) Applicants should note that if there is a successful Western Australian application, the Cancer Research Trust (CRT) may provide additional funding up to \$100,000 per year including on-costs, for a term of 3 years (i.e. a maximum of \$300,000) for personnel to operate the equipment. Western Australian applicants must identify the skills that would be required and justify the need for technical personnel in the application. The awarding of this funding is at the discretion of the Cancer Research Trust.
 - 12) The decision of the ACRF Board in relation to the successful grant applicants is final.

*The MRAC members, appointed by the Board of the Foundation, are established scientists of exceptional national, and in many cases international, repute. Procedures are similar to those employed by the NHMRC and include assessment of applications by referees and independent expert assessors, as well as electronic or face-to-face interviews (depending on the circumstances) of selected short-listed applicants and, if deemed necessary by ACRF, a site visit.

Any potential conflicts of interest for MRAC members are identified when applications have been received and those conflicted members are not involved in the grant assessment and recommendation process.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY

The Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF) reserves the right, in appropriate circumstances, to conclude an arrangement with a successful grant applicant to share in the financial rewards of the commercial exploitation of Intellectual Property generated wholly or in part as a consequence of the award of a Grant.

In implementing this policy, the ACRF Board of Trustees has approved the following guidelines:

- a) The awarding of a grant shall not be conditional upon the Foundation receiving an income from the commercialisation of Intellectual Property developed by the applicants.
- b) Under exceptional circumstances, where there is a clear link between the utilisation of the grant and the development of commercialisable Intellectual Property, ACRF may choose to negotiate an appropriate arrangement about sharing of the income from that intellectual property.
- c) Any income so derived by ACRF will be used for funding future Grants
- d) ACRF will not take on the responsibility for seeking, maintaining or enforcing Intellectual Property protection
- e) Any arrangements made by ACRF must not affect in any way the tax exempt position of ACRF.

CONTACT DETAILS

All correspondence and enquiries should be forwarded to:

Dr Ian Brown
Chief Scientific Officer
Australian Cancer Research Foundation
GPO Box 9989
SYDNEY NSW 2001

E-mail: ibrown@acrf.com.au

For administrative information or assistance, please contact:

Mrs Cheryl Riddington
EA to CEO and CSO
Australian Cancer Research Foundation

Physical Address
Suite 3.02, Level 3
77 King Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

E-mail: criddington@acrf.com.au

Telephone: (02) 9223 7833

Facsimile: (02) 9223 1800

The closing date for applications is 5:00pm, Friday 21 May 2021.

One electronic copy of the grant application is required to be submitted by email to ibrown@acrf.com.au and criddington@acrf.com.au.

Late applications will not be considered.