



Cancer Research UK's Grand Challenge - Opening of Applications

Cancer Research UK has called for applications (Expressions of Interest) for its Grand Challenge grants for funding of up to **GBP £20 million over five years**. This scheme is intended to stimulate a focused, multinational, interdisciplinary research effort to tackle significant problems in cancer research, bringing in new thinking, innovation and technology from other disciplines and sectors. It is intended to **drive global collaboration and support research that would not be able to happen without a team approach and funding of this scale**.

Applicants can be from any country, any discipline, any academic institution or commercial entity and at any career stage. Cancer Research UK expects that teams will be international in nature with roughly 25% of the team being based in a different country from the rest of the consortium. There is no requirement for any of the team members to be based in the UK. Academic-commercial collaboration is encouraged. Principal Investigators cannot be named as PI on more than one Grand Challenge but may be named as a Co-Investigator on more than one Grand Challenge Expression of Interest.

The eight Grand Challenges for this call are:

- **Tissue Specificity** - Devise approaches to prevent or treat cancer based on mechanisms that determine tissue specificity of some cancer genes
- **Tumour Vaccinology** - Create novel tumour vaccinology approaches that establish or enhance successful immune responses beyond what is revealed by current checkpoint therapy
- **Treatment Regimens** - Define mechanistic rules for combinatorial treatments to overcome resistance and avoid toxicity
- **Dormancy** - Identify and target tumour cells that remain dormant for many years after seemingly effective treatment
- **Lethal vs non-lethal** - Distinguish between lethal cancers which need treating, and non-lethal cancers that don't
- **Artificial Intelligence** - Detect cancer earlier by interrogating medical and non-medical data sets using machine and deep-learning
- **Microbiota** - Improve treatment responses by manipulating the composition and status of the microbiota
- **Cancer Causes** - Determine the mechanisms that cause cancer without known mutagenesis, such as obesity, in order to devise novel interventions

Cancer Research UK anticipates that as a guideline, a team would typically include:

- A Principal Investigator
- Multiple Co-Investigators
- Patient representative(s) (please refer to the [Guide to Grand Challenge Public and Patient Involvement](#))

Important Dates:

Mandatory [pre-submission questionnaire](#) due: 14 September 2017

UQ internal close for Expressions of Interest: Thursday 28 September 2017

Expressions of Interest close at Cancer Research UK: 12 October 2017

Shortlisted teams receive seed-funding (up to GBP £30,000) to develop full application: January 2018

Full applications from shortlisted teams close: May 2018

Further information, including the Grand Challenge Expression of Interest Guidelines, is available from the Cancer Research UK website at <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/funding-for-researchers/how-we-deliver-research/grand-challenge-award?wssl=1>.

Enquiries on the scheme may be directed to grants-manager@research.uq.edu.au.

UQ Research & Innovation
3 July 2017