

CANCER **RESEARCH** WALES
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Grant Application Guidelines

Cancer Research Wales Grant Application Guidelines

Background

Cancer Research Wales was established in 1966 as the South Wales Cancer Research Council. The name was changed to Cancer Research Wales (CRW) in 1990 in order to support requests for funding of research projects across Wales, and as part of its research strategy will endeavor to so, where possible.

The charity supports laboratory and clinical cancer research in partnership with the clinical and laboratory services at Welsh Universities, NHS Hospitals and other academic cancer research institutions across Wales. CRW has provided and continues to provide considerable support for clinicians and scientists and allied health professionals wishing to undertake research.

CRW has always been keen to support early stage researchers, both basic scientists and clinicians who wish to pursue a career in cancer research, by making grants available to enable them to study a higher degree such as a PhD. The charity has also aspired to provide partnership grants with the NHS and academic institutions in Wales to help them achieve major research and development objectives.

Objectives

(1) CRW aims to reduce the impact and burden of cancer on the people of Wales through the support, promotion and development of world class cancer research. For full details of the type of research that will be supported please read the Cancer Research Wales Research Strategy 2018-2023.

(2) To establish and maintain close links with other scientific and medical departments within universities and other research organisations involved in cancer research or closely related subjects, the outcome of which will potentially lead to advancing knowledge of cancer and possibly lead to new diagnostic techniques and treatment strategies for cancer.

(3) To fund high quality research using a stringent objective and transparent peer review process for all received proposals. Each proposal is thus peer reviewed by at least 3 independent specialist scientific experts based outside Wales (both within and outside the UK). The referees are also recommended to identify any ethical issues or risks to human participants that need further attention.

Applicants are not allowed to lobby CRW staff or referees involved in the peer review process. Such lobbying may lead to funding for research proposals being denied. Additional information in support of an application after the original submission date is not normally accepted. Following the peer review anonymous copies of the reviewers' assessments are provided to the applicants, together with feedback on the scientific committee's final decision based on competitive scoring derived from referee's assessments.

(4) To continue to ensure that monies raised by CRW are primarily used in research or the furtherance of support for early stage researchers to undertake cancer research training within Wales.

(5) To support appropriate cancer research proposals suitable for CRW funding concerning cancer prevention, early diagnosis and improved treatments.

(6) To note relevant research strategies of government, NHS institutions and research funding bodies operating within Wales. However, as an independent charity we cannot be bound by such

strategies in determining which research proposals should be funded. Successful applications for funding of research proposals are therefore determined by fit with the current Cancer Research Wales research strategy, advice received from the independent specialist scientific peer review process, and the amount of research funds available to the charity at the time of application.

Cancer Research Wales Scientific Committee

Dr Chris Gaffney, former consultant and radiation oncologist, Velindre Cancer Centre

Professor Chris Fegan, former consultant haematologist and head of research and development, Cardiff and Vale Health Board. Emeritus Professor, School of Medicine, Cardiff University,

Dr Steve Man, Reader in Cancer Immunology, Division of Cancer and Genetics, Cardiff School of Medicine, Cardiff University

Professor Huw Griffiths, Emeritus Professor, Medical Physics, Swansea University

Dr Heather Wilkes, General Practitioner and Head of Practice, Briton Ferry Health Centre & Clinical Lead of All Wales Rapid Diagnostic Centres

Research Grants and the Application Process

Cancer Research Wales provides grants for cancer research which **must** be carried out in Wales. **Applications from early stage scientists** wishing to pursue a career in cancer research and leading to a higher degree are particularly encouraged.

Principal investigators must hold a tenured position within a Welsh University or hold a consultancy level post within a Welsh NHS Institution. Less senior appointees may be included as co-investigators or collaborators

All applications will be subject to a rigorous external peer review by recognised experts in the particular area of research. Normally applications are only considered for potential funding when external referees rate the project as **outstanding** or **forefront**.

The Charity cannot guarantee that all applications will be funded even if a high rating is obtained. Evidence of collaboration with other research groups/institutions is considered an important criterion in favour of selection. Successful applicants will be required to provide both **an annual scientific and lay progress reports and an expenditure report** of the project.

The charity also requires a fully signed contract **agreement on Intellectual Property Rights**. The principal investigator along with the designated researcher are expected to **meet once yearly with the Cancer Research Wales Scientific Communications Manager** to discuss progress and research results. They may also be required to give a short presentation to the Charity Trustees and Scientific Committee on their progress at an Annual Scientific Meeting. In keeping with the ethos of the charity, successful applicants will be expected to engage and participate in fundraising events that are organised throughout the year.

Resubmission of Grants

Resubmission of grants that have proven unsuccessful in previous rounds will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances and where the applicant has demonstrated significant alterations to

the original submission. Investigators should contact the Head of Research prior to re-submission.

No Cost Extensions

No-Cost Extensions will only be considered in exceptional circumstances

Examples of exceptional reasons for unexpected delays in funded programmes are (but not limited to)

1. Major equipment failures
2. Major laboratory/building issues
3. Unforeseen problems with specimen/sample/data collection
4. Unforeseen problems around acquiring ethical approval or permits
5. Unavailability of facilities intrinsic to the project
6. There is a programmatic need to continue the research with the objectives and benefits clearly defined. The charity may request a written application that can be sent for peer review.

We would not expect to see no-cost extension requests for, but not limited to, the following:

1. To use unspent funds on supplementary work, or on work not specified in the original grant as awarded.
2. To allow additional papers to be completed and submitted to conferences/journals
3. To bridge employment of key staff – keeping them employed until new (unrelated) grants start which will continue their employment.
4. To allow linked projects to finish together.
5. To use an underspend that appears excessive to the charity.

At all times the Charity retains the right to say no to any no-cost extension request

Types of research grants funded are in line with other charities and are as follows:-

PhD Studentships

PhD studentships provide support for 3 years for a defined piece of cancer research.

Grants will provide the stipend and tuition fees for the PhD trainee. They will also include support for consumables, travel costs for presentation of research data, data preservation, data sharing and dissemination costs.

All successful grants **will not exceed £100,000** and must have satisfied the competitive external peer review process, and are subject to yearly review.

CRW Clinical PhD Research Fellowships

Clinical Research Fellowships are a new initiative introduced to provide support for clinicians when supervised by an established researcher leading to the qualification of PhD. The support will be for a defined piece of cancer research to be carried out within a host Welsh University or NHS research facility. The applicant will normally be the supervisor and must be recognised by the host degree awarding institute.

The objectives of the application grant should be driven by a clear hypothesis and should represent research work of a standard of a normal PhD. Fellowship grants will provide the salary

of the Research Fellow, consumables, travel costs for presentation of research data, data preservation, data sharing and dissemination costs.

Successful grants will not exceed £240,000 and will have satisfied the competitive external peer review process, and are subject to yearly review.

Innovation Grants

These are intended to support small clinical research or pump prime scientific projects for the testing of a proof of principle hypothesis within the field of basic, translational or clinical cancer research. Successful grants **will not exceed £20,000** and are anticipated to serve as forerunners for larger grant applications.

The investigator should first discuss the nature of the project with the Head of Research. The applications will be subjected to external peer review and will be allocated at the discretion of the research committee.

Project Grants

Two types of Cancer Research Wales project grants will be made available to promote the sustainability of promising research. These grants will support the furtherance of previously funded PhD research for the duration of 1 to 3 years in order to help accelerate progress and bridge the translational gap that often exists between the bench and bedside.

Level 1 (Early Career Development Fellowships):

These grants will provide support for promising post-doctoral scientists to accelerate their research careers beyond their PhD studies. Successful grants will not exceed £150,000 and will have satisfied the competitive external peer review process.

Level 2 Project Grant:

In exceptional circumstances, a higher level of funding may be made available that has the potential to quickly bridge the translational gap and impact clinical practice. Normally, these grants will only be made available for the continuation of research previously funded by Cancer Research Wales. Successful grants will not exceed £300,000 and will have satisfied the competitive external peer review process, and are subject to yearly review.

Any investigator wishing to apply for a level 2 project grant should first discuss the nature of the project with the Head of Research.

Programme Grants

The Programme grant scheme may provide long-term support to a research team for broad, multidisciplinary research where the aim is to answer an interrelated set of questions. They are awarded to outstanding individuals with an established scientific track record and are generally held for five years. They are awarded following strict peer review. Successful grants **will not exceed £1M**. The award is initially for 3 years and subject to acceptable annual progress reports. The final 2 years funding will be subject to a satisfactory interim progress report as determined by external peer review.

Programme grants are offered periodically with details posted on the CRW website when such grants are made available.

Partnership Grants

Where appropriate Cancer Research Wales will consider partnership grants that provide core funds for one to five years for managed consortia and partnerships and for supporting more diverse groupings of researchers. Partnership Grants allow resources to be pooled and add value to high-quality scientific programmes that cannot alone be funded by any single organisation or institute.

The partnership will be between CRW and a recognised Welsh academic institution normally a university or an NHS research institution. Each partner will provide 50% of the total grant funding which in total will not exceed £100,000 for PhD studentships, £150,000 for level 1 project grants, £300,000 for level 2 project grants, £240,000 for Clinical PhD Fellowships, and up to £1M for programme grants.

All applications for partnership grants are subjected to rigorous external peer review by 3 recognised experts in the relevant area of research which may be arranged by either partner, with reports shared between the partners. Normally partnership grants will be considered alongside full grant applications and therefore should be submitted within the most appropriate grant scheme.

For all potential applications for partnership grants, the investigator should first discuss the nature of the project with the Head of Research.

For more information please contact Dr Lee Campbell, Head of Research, at Cancer Research Wales: Tel 029-20316283 or e-mail: Lee.Campbell@cancerresearchwales.org.uk