Cancer Grand Challenges: pre-application webinar

Tony Dickherber & Laurie Dudley
WEBINAR AGENDA

1. NCI and CRUK collaboration for Cancer Grand Challenges
2. Unique aspects of the program
3. How the challenges are determined
4. The application and review process
5. How awards will be issued and managed

Queries?
info@cancergrandchallenges.org

Laurie Dudley
Cancer Research UK

Tony Dickherber
US National Cancer Institute
Building on the success of CRUK’s Grand Challenge, through this transatlantic partnership we are doubling the investment over the next three rounds, allowing a minimum of four teams to be funded each round!

- £20m awards to give diverse, international research teams the freedom to think differently, act creatively and explore truly innovative science
- 2-stage application process: Expression of Interest, followed by full application for shortlisted teams
- £30,000 seed funding for shortlisted teams to build their proposal
- Teams must be international and can include co-investigators from commercial entities (<70% in any one country)
- Approaches must be multidisciplinary – researchers from all disciplines are encouraged to apply
- Approach must involve patient advocate involvement and engagement
WHAT MAKES FOR A CANCER GRAND CHALLENGE?

We set ambitious challenges to inspire new thinking, providing diverse, global teams with up to £20m (c. $25m) over 5 years to unleash their scientific creativity.

- Designed to overcome significant barriers and so the problems identified should not be able to be quickly solved.

- The answer to the question would be transformative in the cancer landscape.

- Accessible and meaningful to a wide range of researchers across a variety of disciplines to encourage novel thinking and approaches.

- The work proposed should not be achievable through “standard” funding mechanisms and only made possible by the level of investment (up to £20m over 5-years) and a team-centered approach.
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Paul Nurse (Chair)
The Francis Crick Institute (UK)

René Bernards
Netherlands Cancer Institute (NL)

Suzanne Cory
University of Melbourne (AU)

Judy Garber
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (US)

Margaret Grayson
Chair, CGC Advocacy Panel (UK)

Ed Harlow
Harvard University (US)

David Hunter
University of Oxford (UK)

Nic Jones
The University of Manchester (UK)

David Lane
A*STAR (SG)

Crystal Mackall
Stanford University (US)

Jill Mesirov
University of California San Diego (US)

Barbara Rimer
University of North Carolina (US)

Charlie Swanton
The Francis Crick Institute / UCL (UK)

Karen Vousden
The Francis Crick Institute (UK)

www.cancergrandchallenges.org
**CANCER GRAND CHALLENGES PROCESS**

**2019**
- **International consultation workshops:** Milan, Madrid, Amsterdam, London, Edinburgh, Rockville MD
- **Open online consultation:** inviting challenge ideas from researchers and people affected by cancer across the globe

**2020**
- **Jan:** Challenge setting meeting
- **14 Oct:** Programme launch

**2021**
- **22 April:** Expression of interest deadline – short (~10-page) overview of your proposal to tackle a challenge
- **May:** Scientific committee shortlist teams – 10-12 teams selected
- **22 June:** Shortlisted teams announced and receive £30,000 seed funding. Full application invited.
- **Oct:** Full application deadline
- **Nov/Dec:** Team interviews conducted by Scientific Committee

**2022**
- **Awards** – up to 4 teams selected

[www.cancergrandchallenges.org](http://www.cancergrandchallenges.org)
There are a number of important benefits beyond the award monies to receiving a Cancer Grand Challenge award

- Join a community of pioneering scientists pushing to overcome critical hurdles to progress, with ample opportunity to interact during annual Summit and other regular meetings

- Awards anticipate making unexpected discoveries and designed for flexibility to pursue new findings and opportunities with available resources

- Enter long term relationship with esteemed members of the Scientific Committee with regular opportunities for guidance and feedback

More than just £20 million awards
THE CHALLENGES

Cachexia
Understand and reverse cachexia and declining performance status in cancer patients

Dormancy
Identify and target dormant cancer cells

E-cigarettes
Determine the potential benefits and risks of e-cigarette use

Extrachromosomal DNA
Understand the biology of ecDNA generation and action and develop approaches to target these mechanisms in cancer

Inflammation
Determine how inflammation causes cancer

Macromolecules
Systemically deliver macromolecules to intracellular targets for therapeutic benefit in cancer

Normal phenotypes
Understand how cells and tissues maintain ‘normal’ phenotypes whilst harbouring oncogenic mutations and how they transition to become a tumour

Senescence
Understand and exploit senescence to improve cancer treatment

Solid tumours in children
Develop novel therapies to target unique features in solid tumours in children

www.cancergrandchallenges.org
Ultimately, we are looking for the best teams with the best ideas to address the challenges.

• Teams include a lead PI and multiple Co-Is
• Funded teams will recruit a full time Programme Manager and at least one Patient Advocate
• When thinking about your team:
  • New and unusual collaborations
  • International teams
  • Multidisciplinarity
  • Diversity
  • Training
  • Patient advocate involvement and engagement
• Size, management and governance
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

1. Read our guidelines
2. Complete the pre-submission questionnaire
3. Complete your expression of interest

Expression of Interest Guidelines

To discuss a prospective application, please:
email info@cancergrandchallenges.org
phone +44 (0) 20 3469 8855

Note our grants office is based in the UK so responses may be slower outside of British working hours.

14 January 2021
Our Scientific Committee comprises eminent scientists from a diverse range of fields.

- No limit/target for number of EOIs to shortlist against each challenge
- Up to 12 teams can be shortlisted
- Assessment criteria:
  - Relevance
  - Quality
  - Innovation
  - Team
  - Impact
- Shortlisted teams also reviewed by CGC Advocacy Panel
- Feedback provided where possible
Full applications

• Up to £30k seed funding
• Written application ~20,000 words
• Deadline October 2021
• Interviews Nov/Dec 2021
More information and resources

EOI guidelines, patient advocacy materials and more at cancergrandchallenges.org

Subscribe to our newsletter (via website or emailing us)

Contact us:
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  • +44 (0) 20 3469 8855

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