

14 January 2021

Cancer Grand Challenges: pre-application webinar

Tony Dickherber & Laurie Dudley

Founded by:



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



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Queries?

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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



**Scientific
creativity on an
unprecedented
scale**

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.

**Harnessing
the power of
discovery to
tackle
cancer’s most
complex
challenges**

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)

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

There are a number of important benefits beyond the award monies to receiving a Cancer Grand Challenge award

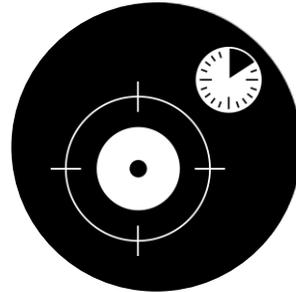
- Join a community of pioneering scientists pushing to overcome critical hurdles to progress, with ample opportunity to interact during annual Summit and other regular meetings
- Awards anticipate making unexpected discoveries and designed for flexibility to pursue new findings and opportunities with 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**



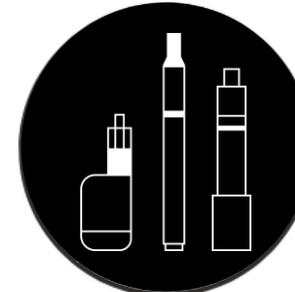
Cachexia

Understand and reverse cachexia and declining performance status in cancer patients



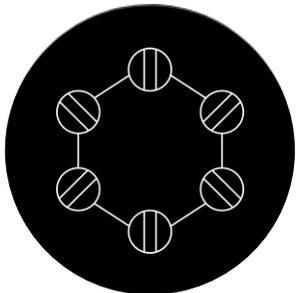
Dormancy

Identify and target dormant cancer cells



E-cigarettes

Determine the potential benefits and risks of e-cigarette use



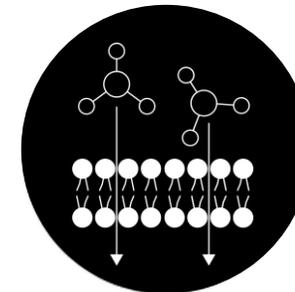
Extrachromosomal DNA

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



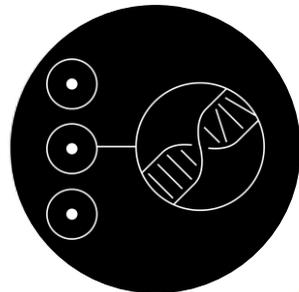
Inflammation

Determine how inflammation causes cancer



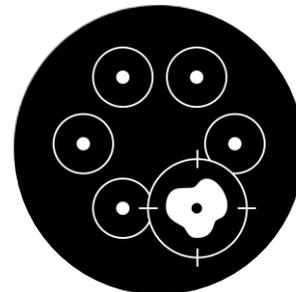
Macromolecules

Systemically deliver macromolecules to intracellular targets for therapeutic benefit in cancer



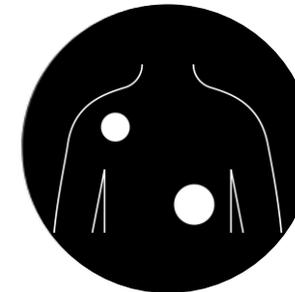
Normal phenotypes

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



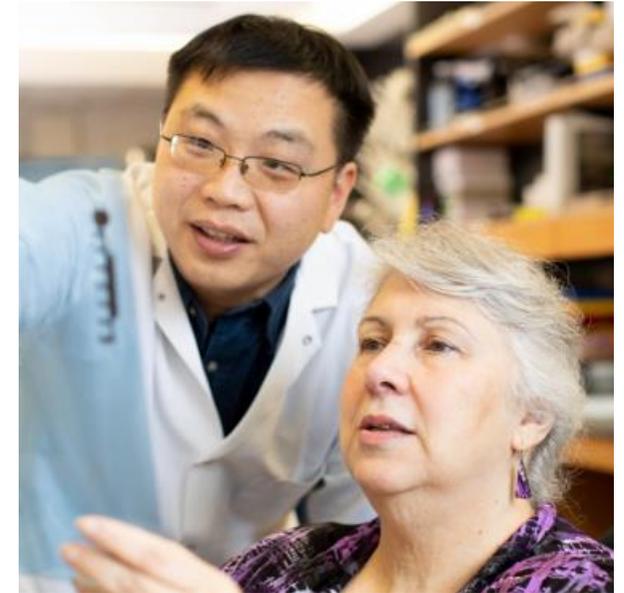
Solid tumours in children

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

WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM A COMPETITIVE TEAM?

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

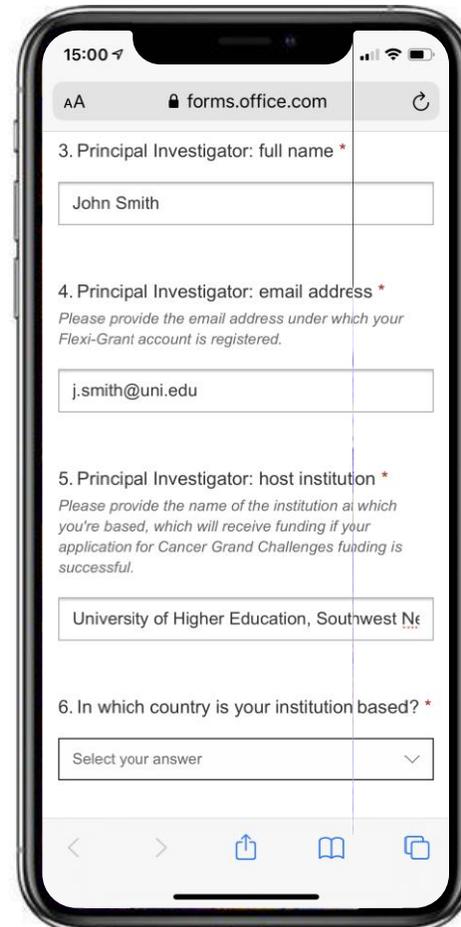
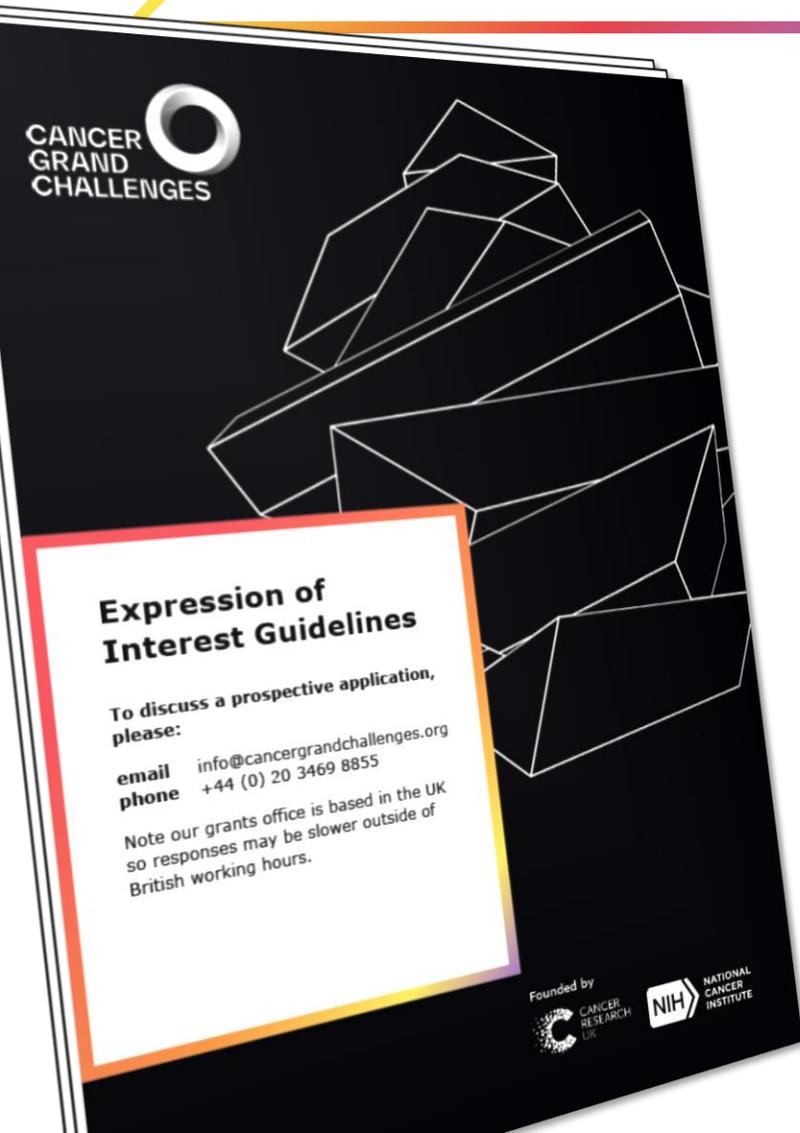
- Teams include a lead PI and multiple Co-Is
- Funded teams will recruit a full time Programme Manager and at least one Patient Advocate
- When thinking about your team:
 - New and unusual collaborations
 - International teams
 - Multidisciplinarity
 - Diversity
 - Training
 - Patient advocate involvement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



1. Read our guidelines

2. Complete the pre-submission questionnaire

3. Complete your expression of interest



15:00

forms.office.com

3. Principal Investigator: full name *

John Smith

4. Principal Investigator: email address *

Please provide the email address under which your Flexi-Grant account is registered.

j.smith@uni.edu

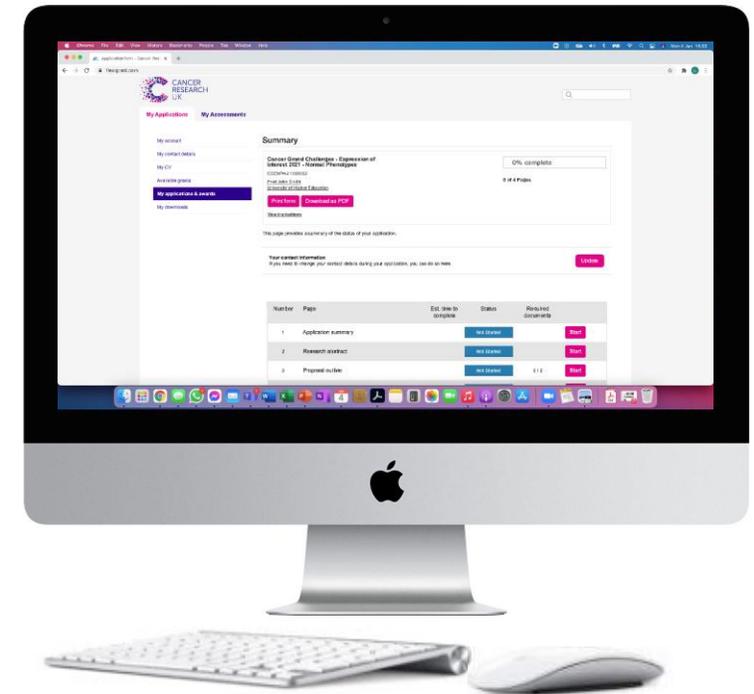
5. Principal Investigator: host institution *

Please provide the name of the institution at which you're based, which will receive funding if your application for Cancer Grand Challenges funding is successful.

University of Higher Education, Southwest N

6. In which country is your institution based? *

Select your answer



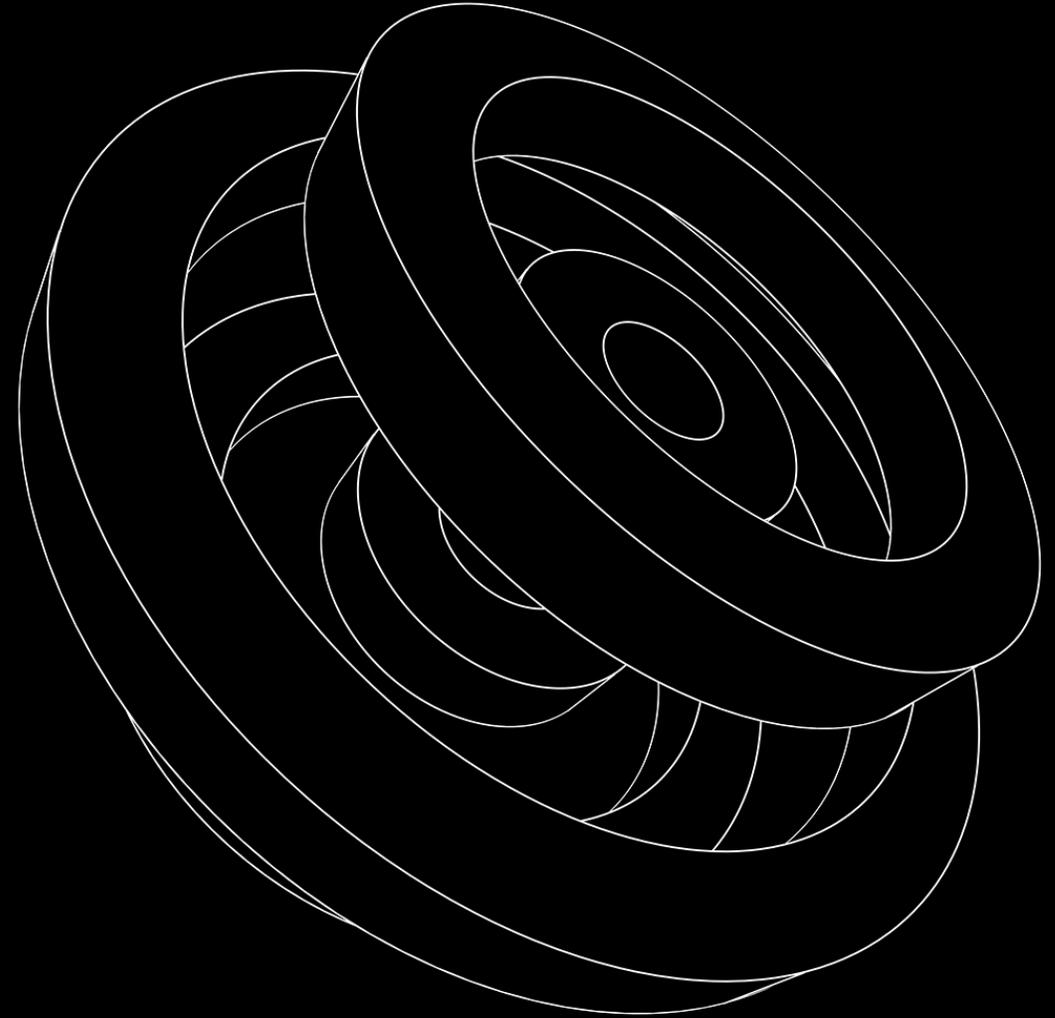
Our Scientific Committee comprises eminent scientists from a diverse range of fields.

- 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

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Contact us:

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