Cancer Grand Challenges supports a global community of diverse, world-class research teams to come together and think differently to take on some of cancer’s toughest challenges.

These challenges continue to impede research progress, and no one scientist, institution or country will be able to solve them alone. With a series of £20m awards, teams are empowered to transcend the traditional boundaries of geography and discipline, and ultimately change outcomes for people with cancer.

Right now, we’re leading a conversation to identify our next round of challenges and we want you to get involved. We’re inviting organisations, institutions and individuals to run their own workshops to help us identify the barriers to progress, which, if overcome, could lead to transformations in outcomes for cancer patients in the long term.

This document, along with the challenge consultation workshop deck, provides you with some guidance on how to run your own workshop. We’re looking for innovative, ambitious ideas – we hope you enjoy the provocative and fascinating discussions that come with hosting your workshop. Please submit your ideas by 28 November 2022.
What makes a grand challenge?

We define a cancer grand challenge as:

*An important and complex problem in cancer research, which, if solved, could have significant benefit for patients and/or the wider public in the long term; solving such a problem requires multiple scientific, technological and intellectual barriers to be overcome.*

Key features include:

- Challenges can be related to any problem relevant to understanding, preventing, detecting and/or treating cancer.
- Challenges can be new problems, or ones that have existed for many decades.
- The scale of the problem must require a multidisciplinary, global team science approach.
- The scale of the problem must mean that it couldn’t be addressed through standard research funding mechanisms.
- Any approach to addressing the challenge should require significant technical innovation.

When developing your challenge idea, please try to make it:

- 20 words or fewer in length.
- Understandable to a well-informed scientific audience beyond your own discipline or research field.

Browse previous challenges.
Running your workshop
Setting up for success

Consider the following when preparing your workshop:

Attendees
When inviting participants to your workshop, consider the background, expertise and career stages you want represented in order to help open up discussions and to stimulate fresh thinking.

Pre-work
Consider sharing background information about Cancer Grand Challenges – previous challenges or funded teams – in advance of the workshop. You may find it helpful to ask participants to send you their challenge ideas in advance so that you can circulate them to the wider group. You could also ask attendees to prepare a slide supporting their challenge idea, which would be presented at the workshop.

Logistics
Ensure your venue is equipped with appropriate IT equipment and stationery to support your workshop: a screen to share the workshop deck, flipcharts, post-it notes, markers.

Recommendations and best practice:

- Workshops generally work best in-person, but hosting a virtual session with 7-9 people over around 3.5 hours is a possible alternative.
- A recommended structure and agenda for in-person workshops can be found in the slide deck.
- Use #CancerGrandChallenges on social media and tag @CancerGrand.
Delivering your workshop

Download the Cancer Grand Challenge challenge consultation workshop deck to guide your delivery on the day. Agree who will be responsible for capturing notes on the day and submitting the challenge ideas (see below).

Submitting the outputs from your workshop

Use our webform to submit the challenge ideas generated during the workshop by 28 November 2022.

Note: A separate webform must be submitted for each challenge idea. If you generate a lot of suitable ideas, consider delegating to others to submit.

Get in touch

If you would like to discuss your planned workshop with a member of the Cancer Grand Challenge team, please get in touch at info@cancergrandchallenges.org.