



Cancer Grand Challenges

Challenge setting consultation

BACKGROUND:

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

As part of the Future Leaders' Conference, we are inviting you to participate in a consultation to shape the next set of challenges and share your collective knowledge as early career researchers. An important goal of the Future Leaders' Programme and this conference is to foster a strong network of scientists that will be leaders in their respective fields of cancer research. This activity will allow you to get to know each other and, experience the breadth of perspectives and passions across this exciting community.

The grand challenges are the obstacles that continue to impede progress and no one scientist, institution or country will be able to solve them alone. Cancer Grand Challenges teams' are empowered to rise above the traditional boundaries of geography and discipline to ultimately change outcomes for people with cancer.

You can see previously funded and unfunded challenges [here](#).

How do we develop challenge ideas?

To help us identify the next set of Cancer Grand Challenges, each funding round takes place over a two-year timeframe, which begins with broad engagement with the global research community to develop challenge ideas. **And this is where you come in.**

The Cancer Grand Challenges concept is simple: **tackle the toughest challenges in cancer research through global team science**

WHAT MAKES A GOOD CANCER GRAND CHALLENGE?

An approach to tackle one or more specific barriers that, when removed, would help solve an important problem in cancer research and/or have significant potential for the benefit of cancer patients. A Cancer Grand Challenge should be broad enough in scope to not limit potential, yet specific enough to drive a critical pathway towards tangible outcomes. In considering potential opportunity areas, it is important to articulate a question that will stimulate a wide range of approaches with the greatest potential for impact, whilst still maintaining a clear objective and realistic outputs.

YOUR INPUT

PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE:

Please rank the previously unfunded challenges based on your interests.

Ranking the previously unfunded challenges will help us allocate you to a team. At the conference, as a team, you will have the chance to discuss whether this challenge should be reissued, modified or no longer considered for CGC, and as such, modify the focus of the idea and developed this during the planned activities.



After ranking the unfunded challenges and answering the poll, you could start reflecting on some of these questions: What do you think is the toughest challenge in cancer research? Which obstacles, if tackled, could drive major progress against the disease?

DURING THE CONFERENCE:

Attendees will be grouped based on their ranked ideas and interests, ensuring diversity of expertise, geography, seniority, CGC team and research focus.

Throughout the conference, you will have the chance to get to meet your teammates, and there will be time for collaboration and brainstorming sessions, so that you can build on and refine these ideas, as a group. Clear guidance and support will be provided during the conference.

The objectives of the challenge-setting activities are:

- to enable you to expand your network with people you wouldn't necessarily interact scientifically;
- to get to know your teammates scientifically;
- to allow you to expand your research horizons by providing you with time to think strategically and holistically about questions that go beyond your immediate area of research;
- And of course, to provide ideas that will help our Scientific Committee select the next set of Cancer Grand Challenges

As a team, you will have the opportunity to pitch your ideas to a panel of experts at the end of the conference. This panel will include some of the conference speakers and patient advocates.

Please, note that you will not be evaluated or reviewed on this pitch, and that the panel will be aware of the extremely limited time you will have had, as a team, to prepare for it. This activity is much more about "getting to know each other" than it is about "getting a clear articulation of the next cancer grand challenge." We encourage you to embrace that spirit of collegiality, expand your network and explore new collaborations. As such, we expect you to make the most of this process and be open to respectfully discuss your ideas, share your knowledge, learn from others and enjoy the process.

AFTER THE CONFERENCE:

The outputs we receive from the consultation (including those from this conference, plus those arising from thinktanks around the world) will be synthesised and shared with the Cancer Grand Challenge Scientific Committee, who are meeting in January 2025 to articulate the final challenges. The new set of challenges will be announced during the Cancer Grand Challenges Summit in March 2025.

The collective insights from the consultation will act as an important stimulus to help shape and structure the challenge setting discussion, and we thank you greatly for contributing to these efforts.

Several ideas pitched during the 2022 Future Leaders' Conference were selected by the Scientific Committee as cancer grand challenges, indicating that the ideas coming from the community of Future Leaders were valued and seriously considered by the Committee.