PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT
PDAC

- GUIDELINES -

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

For any questions, please call (+32 2 268 48 16) or e-mail us (apply@anticancerfund.org).

Anticancer Fund

Instructions for Applicants

SCOPE

A successful translation of good preclinical research into a clinical research project partly depends on the ability of researchers to get the right expertise and follow-through, and to secure time and funding[1].

With this grant opportunity, we aim to stimulate academic investigators to transfer their preclinical findings into clinical research by allowing them to secure time and multidisciplinary support to develop their hypotheses into a clinical trial. We are looking for interventions with sound preclinical data in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma that is mature enough to be taken forward into a clinical trial. The aim of the grant is to aid investigators in developing and transforming their preclinical results into a high-quality clinical trial by providing seed funding to develop the protocol.

Note that the grant is meant for research where no additional preclinical work is needed to proceed to the clinical trial. Note also that the grant is not meant for conducting that clinical trial. However, the ACF will encourage awarded investigators to secure funding for the clinical trial proposal from other funding bodies. We have foreseen a financial incentive for the investigators who successfully secure funding for the full clinical trial.

We are looking for innovative approaches focussing on interventions with the ultimate goal to improve survival in this specific patient population – although that might not necessarily be the primary objective of the clinical trial being designed.

To enhance the success of the project, we encourage investigators to collaborate with mentors who have successfully conducted clinical trials in the past.

We welcome applications from all over the world and do not have geographical restrictions.

As the ACF seeks proposals in line with its vision and mission, the proposed intervention must be commercially neglected (as defined in detail in the eligibility criteria).

We encourage applicants to register to the EORTC/ESMO/AACR or any other accredited workshop on Methods in Clinical Cancer Research*. If the protocol development grant is awarded, the cost of the participation fee (up to 3.000 €) can be additionally secured from the ACF.

We encourage applicants to contact apply@anticancerfund.org for any question related to this grant and to check eligibility of their proposal in case of doubt.

[1] *Seyhan, A.A. Lost in translation: the valley of death across preclinical and clinical divide – identification of problems and overcoming obstacles. transl med commun 4, 18 (2019). https://doi.org/10.1186/s41231-019-0050-7*

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Projects are eligible if they meet all of the following criteria:

1. The application needs to evaluate an intervention in the field of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma.
2. The ultimate aim of the intervention is to improve patients' survival.
3. The intervention should be based on peer-reviewed published preclinical data. The publication(s) should be attached to the application. Data and research should be solid, and the next appropriate step of the research is an evaluation in a clinical trial.
4. All interventions (e.g. medicinal products, surgical techniques, radiation modalities or combination here of) are allowed, **except**
   a. Compounds (chemical/biological) that are still in drug development.
   b. Medicinal products without marketing authorisation or approval from competent authorities (i.e., FDA, EMA, national) for any indication (cancer or not cancer related indication).
5. Clinical lead researcher(s) with a track record of clinical trials need to be involved and named in the proposal.
6. There are no geographical restrictions. All nationalities and countries are permitted to submit their proposals.

In case of doubt for any of these criteria, we recommend contacting us before working on the application to assess eligibility.

GRANT

- We anticipate awarding two projects.
- The available grant per project is 25.000 € for staff costs to develop and write the clinical trial protocol.
- Grant duration up to 12 months.
- Additional rewards:
  - Paid participation in an accredited workshop on Methods in Clinical Cancer Research up to 3.000 €;
  - Letter of support for future grant applications;
  - 10.000 € will be granted after having secured funding for the full clinical trial within 4 years from signing of the grant agreement.

Submission and Selection process

This is a **1-step process.**

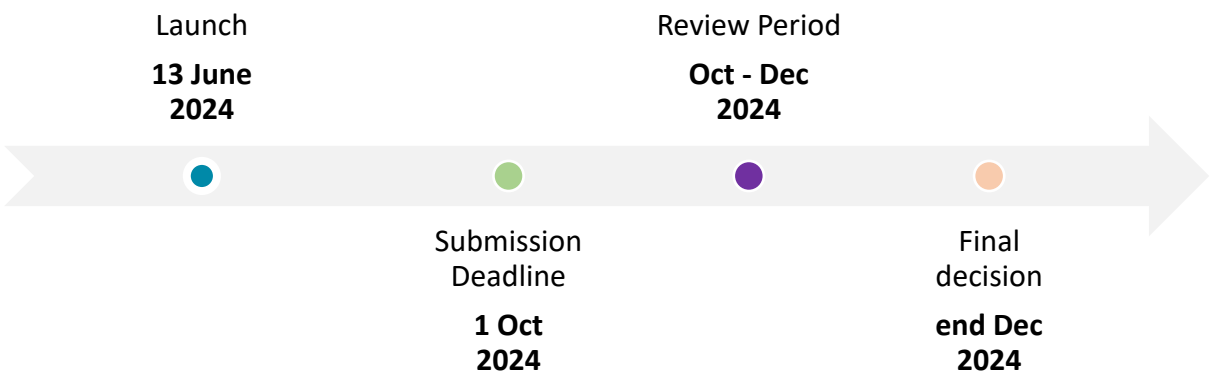
We ask all applicants to complete the application form and attach the peer-reviewed publication(s) on which the application is based.

----- ----- Deadline for submission is Tuesday 1 October 2024, 23:59 CET ----- -----

The application form can be downloaded here.

The final selection is expected to be communicated **end December 2024** with a starting date in the first half of 2025.

Key Dates



** 25th Workshop on Methods in Clinical Cancer Research is scheduled to take place from 14-20 June 2025. More information will be available on https://event.eortc.org/mccr2025/.*
*Applications will open in early **December 2024** and close in early **February 2025***

The Anticancer Fund (ACF) is a Belgian non-profit organisation with an international scope, dedicated to expanding the range of treatment options for cancer patients. The fund depends on donations and private funding to finance its work. With no commercial shareholders or interference from special interest groups or the pharma industry, it focuses exclusively on the evidence-based potential of new cancer treatments to respond to unmet patients' needs. More information on https://www.anticancerfund.org/.