

KCRNC-KCC-CUASF KIDNEY CANCER RESEARCH GRANTS TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

The Kidney Cancer Research Network of Canada (KCRNC) has entered into a collaboration with Kidney Cancer Canada (KCC) and the Canadian Urological Association Scholarship Fund (CUASF) to provide financial support for research within the Canadian kidney cancer research community.

Key Dates

Application Submission Deadline: Monday February 17, 2020

Notification of Finalist by: March 2, 2020

Finalists Presentation (if required): During Canadian Kidney Cancer Forum April 2-3, 2020

Notification of Award: During Canadian Kidney Cancer Forum April 2-3, 2020

Submission of Research Update to KCRNC: 12 Months following receipt of first funding payment

Objectives and Scope

The objective of the KCRNC-KCC-CUASF Kidney Cancer Research Grant Program is to support peer-reviewed research that promotes excellence in kidney cancer research.

Grants will be awarded to the successful applicant(s) (or applicant's institution on behalf of the applicant, if applicable). It is anticipated that 2 grants will be awarded, for \$50,000 each, for 1 year. Up to \$100,000 in total funds (\$50,000 from CUASF and \$50,000 from Kidney Cancer Canada). Funding will be provided over a 12- month performance period. Amount per grant to be funded is dependent on the requests and the quality of the applications.

Eligibility

The KCRNC Project Manager will receive and process the submitted proposals. Proposals will be awarded grants based on the following:

- This research award is designated to support a faculty member or trainee in Canada.
- The supervisor must be an active member of KCRNC and/or CUA.
- Agrees to provide a progress report, including publication plan, to KCRNC for dissemination of study results.

Eligible Research Proposals

The research proposals must be in kidney cancer research. Basic science and clinical research projects will be accepted. Preference may be given to junior investigators and to new/pilot projects that have not been previously funded.

The study must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding; no renewals will be considered. The proposed application should include a 'stand alone' project.

Non-eligible Research Proposals

The following types of proposals will not be eligible:

- Proposals for projects that are adequately funded from another source, including government or industry sponsors, will not be eligible unless said funding is shown by the applicant to be directed to a portion of the overall project/research that is separate and distinguishable from the portion to which the proposal relates.
- Proposals for pharmaceutical product development (including studies on non-approved indications for drugs) and/or product comparison, or product promotion will not be considered.

Review Criteria

The KCRNC-KCC-CUASF Grant proposals will be reviewed and approved by appointed KCRNC, Kidney Cancer Canada and CUASF grant review members. Research proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Scientific Merit:
 - a. Rationale
 - b. Originality
2. Methodology
3. Impact
 - a. Contribution to advancement of scientific knowledge in relevant therapeutic field
 - b. Clinical relevance or potential clinical value and applicability
4. Feasibility
 - a. Feasibility of study design, methodology, analysis
 - b. Adequate power and sample size
 - c. Proposed timelines
5. Budget
6. Qualifications of applicant and supporting team
7. Institutional Support and Resources

RATING SCALE:

Score	Rating Scale Description	Priority for Funding
4.8 – 5.0	Outstanding proposal with original and innovative aims. Research proposed is at the forefront internationally and led by outstanding team. The research addresses extremely important questions, challenges existing paradigms and will substantially improve our knowledge of renal cell carcinoma.	Highest
4.5 – 4.7	Exceptional quality research that is highly significant, innovative and internationally competitive. Driven by an exceptional team, the research addresses crucial questions and will have a major impact on our understanding of renal cell carcinoma.	High
4.2 – 4.4	Excellent quality research that addresses very important and original questions. The research will have a significant impact on the relevant scientific field.	High
3.8 – 4.1	High quality research that can be classified as very good, bordering excellent. The results will likely contribute considerably to knowledge in the scientific field.	Medium
3.4 – 3.7	Very good research that has the potential to improve our current knowledge of kidney cancer. Some minor weaknesses in the proposal, while diminishing enthusiasm, can easily be corrected.	Medium
3.0 – 3.3	Good quality research that may yield important results. There are concerns with the proposal that can be addressed during the term of the grant.	Low
Below 3.0	Research proposal has potential. However, there are weaknesses that need to be reconciled for it to be successful. The proposal is in need of further development before being competitive.	None

Application Submission Process

- The completed application form plus all supporting documents are required.
- The completed application must be submitted via email to the KCRNC Project Manager, no later than Dec 29, 2017. Confirmation of receipt will occur within 5 business days.
- Documentation received after the closing date or incomplete applications may not be returned to the applicant.

Guidelines for Application Format

The following are suggestions for preparation of the research proposal.

The research proposal is not to exceed **5 typewritten pages in 12 font** (plus application form, references, figures and supporting documentation).

The headings suggested include:

- 1) Statement of Objective(s)
- 2) Brief review of literature and background information
- 3) Hypothesis(es)
- 4) Design & Methodology
- 5) Analysis of Data

- 6) Proposed Budget
- 7) Summary Page

In addition, the following supporting documentation must accompany the application:

- 1) Evidence of appropriate Ethics Committee approval or application for approval must be included along with the consent forms where human subjects are involved in the study.
- 2) Letter of support and commitment from the chair of the Department/Division indicating the level of institutional and university support.
- 3) Two Letters of Recommendation.
- 4) Current curriculum vitae of the applicant and the supervisor.

Applicants may be asked to prepare a brief presentation at the CKCF 2018 for final decision by the KCRNC-KCC-CUASF selection committee. Applicants will be notified by March 02, 2020 if this is required.

Obligations for Award Recipients

- 1) Presentation of the results of their research at the KCRNC Forum (which will be supported financially) as well as other national meetings and to submit their work for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- 2) Acknowledge support from KCRNC-KCC-CUASF in all presentations and publications.
- 3) Submit an interim progress report by and a final report by dates determined at the time of the award.
- 4) Submit a copy of any publications to the KCRNC Project Manager.

Financial Considerations

The amount of each Grant should include direct costs (labour and study costs), institutional overhead costs (if any), study drug costs (if applicable), and indirect costs (publication, software license fees, and REB fees). Each payment will be made in installments according to milestones, with a maximum of 50% of the funding delivered at the beginning of the project. Institutions are expected to waive overhead fees that might otherwise apply to industry-funded research.

Enquiries

Address all enquiries to: Ranjena Maloni, KCRNC Project Manager at: ranjena.maloni@uhnresearch.ca or Tel: 647-269-0489.