

The Anil Kapoor Kidney Cancer Research Grant

TERMS OF REFERENCE 2026-2027

Background

The Canadian Urological Association Scholarship Fund (CUASF), the Kidney Cancer Research Network of Canada (KCRNC), and Kidney Cancer Canada (KCC) provide financial support for research within the Canadian kidney cancer research community.

Funding Commitment

Kidney Cancer Canada has approved and irrevocably committed \$100,000 in 2026 to fund one grant through this competition. CUASF has committed an additional \$100,000 to fund a second grant. The subsequent review and selection process will determine the recipients of the committed funding but will not affect the organizations' obligation to provide the approved grant funding, subject only to receiving at least two eligible applications that meet the minimum requirements of the competition.

Key Dates

Application Submission Deadline: **December 20th, 2026**

Tentative Notification of Finalist Date: **January 20th, 2027**

Tentative Finalists Presentation Date: Kidney Cancer Research Network of Canada (KCRNC) meeting to be held over. **February 25th – February 27th, 2027**

Submission of Research Updates to KCRNC: 6 months, 1 year, and 1-year post-grant.

Project updates will be requested at future CKCF Meetings.

Application Submissions

All applications are to be submitted electronically via the CUASF website (www.cuasf.org).

An email confirmation will be sent following the receipt of your submission.

The top three finalists will be notified end of January 2027.

Finalists must be available to present their research proposal during the CKCF 2027 Meeting, scheduled **February 25th – February 27th, 2027, in Toronto, ON** from Applicants must also agree to have the session recorded and posted online as an on-demand viewing session.

If you have any questions or require support preparing or submitting your application, please email Marisa.defrancesco@cua.org

Objectives and Scope

The objective of The **Anil Kapoor Kidney Cancer Research Grant** is to support peer-reviewed research that promotes excellence in kidney cancer research.

The review 'committee', made up of appointed CUASF grant review members, selects the top 3 submissions, who are invited to present live at the CKCF 2027 Meeting, taking place. If fewer than 3 submissions are received or submission quality merits fewer acceptances, the review committee reserves the right to select fewer than 3 submissions for final presentation. Each of the top selected presenters will present for 20 mins followed by 5 minutes Q&A per presenter. After the presentations, the evaluation committee deliberates and ranks the pitches. After the keynote, the judges announce the winners.

Two grants of \$100,000 will be awarded through this competition: one funded by CUASF and one funded as the Warren Y. Soper Kidney Cancer Research Grant through Kidney Cancer Canada. The recipients will be selected through the review and presentation process described above.

Eligibility

CUASF will receive and process the submitted proposals. Applicants will be awarded grants based on the following:

- This research award is designated to support a trainee or faculty member in Canada.
- The applicant or the supervisor must be an active member of KCRNC and the CUA (or must co-apply to either organization at the time of submission if not already a member).
- Agrees to provide a progress report, including publication plan, to KCRNC for dissemination of study results.
- Grant preference may be given to first time recipients.

Eligible Research Proposals

The proposals must be in the field of 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; renewals may not be considered. Extensions can be considered for legitimate project delays, with decisions made on a case-by-case basis by the committee. The proposed application should be a 'stand alone' project without other funding.

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 Anil Kapoor Kidney Cancer Research Grant proposals will be reviewed and approved by appointed CUASF grant review members (the 'review committee'). 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 Kidney Cancer
 - 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:

Applications will be ranked on a scale of 1 to 10, ranking will be based on the following:

- Study Topic in Line with Grant/Award Priorities (Impact)
- Proposal Synopsis (Importance of Research Question)
- Objectives/Hypotheses
- Background
- Design and Methodology (Feasibility)
- Investigator/Environment/Supervisor/Infrastructure
- Appropriateness of Budget
- Most Pertinent Strengths of Submission
- Most Pertinent Weaknesses of Submission

Guidelines for Application Format

The research proposal is not to exceed **5 pages in size, Times New Roman font size 12** (not including application form, references, figures and supporting documentation). Do not use condensed/narrow font sizes or type density. Smaller text in tables, charts, figures, and graphs is acceptable, as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%. Use a minimum of single line spacing. Do not use narrow line spacing. Insert a margin of 2 cm (3/4 inch) – minimum – around the page.

The headings suggested including:

- 1) Statement of Objective(s)
- 2) Lay Summary (up to 250 words)
- 3) Brief review of literature and background information
- 4) Hypothesis(es)
- 5) Design & Methodology
- 6) Analytic Plan
- 7) Budget
- 8) Overall Impact Statement/Summary

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) Current curriculum vitae of the applicant and/or the supervisor.

Obligations for Award Recipients

- Presentation of the results of their research at a future KCRNC Forum (which will be supported financially) as well as other national/international meetings and submit their work for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- Acknowledgement of support from KCRNC–KCC-CUASF in all presentations and publications.
- Submission of an interim progress report at 6 months, 1 year, and 2 years post funding (if applicable).
- Submit a copy of any publications to the KCRNC Project Manager.
- Duplicate applications submitted to multiple grant competitions within the CUASF will not be funded should both be selected for funding. Only 1 grant submission in this scenario would receive funding

Financial Considerations

The amount of each Grant should include direct costs (labour and study costs), 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.

Teams are encouraged to submit their ethics applications as early as possible and prior to CKCF. This will ensure help to avoid delays in the project start date if grant is awarded. Amendments can always be submitted post approval.

Enquiries

Address all enquiries to:

Canadian Urological Association Scholarship Foundation

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