



Guidelines

Clinician Research Leadership Award 2020

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1. General

1.1 Introduction

A key priority for the Irish Cancer Society is ensuring that Irish patients benefit from world class cancer research and expertise. Central to this focus is fostering and cultivating research talent to ensure that Ireland is in a position to attract and retain world-class cancer research leaders who will drive evidence-based improvements in patient care.

In line with this commitment, the Irish Cancer Society wishes to invite eligible consultants with specialisms focussed on cancer to submit an application for the Clinician Research Leadership Award 2020.

The absence of protected time for healthcare professionals involvement in research is recognised as a significant impediment to the sustained evolution of high quality Irish cancer research.

As called out in the 2017 National Cancer Strategy, the Irish Cancer Society recognises that cancer clinicians who have honed their expertise in leading international research centres and are looking to become the next generation of research leaders in Ireland particularly require support and protected time to be in a position to undertake and drive world-class cancer research in Ireland at a pivotal time in the evolution of their research career.

Therefore, the purpose of the Clinician Research Leadership Award 2020 is to buy out the time of an outstanding individual who has completed their specialist training and returned to work in a consultant post in Ireland in the last 5 years.

The successful applicant of this award will be supported with funding to **enable them to spend two days away from clinical and administrative commitments per week over a period of 2 years to focus purely on developing and growing their leadership contribution to an important aspect of Irish cancer research.**

This is intended to be a **transformative investment** for an consultant whose career focusses on cancer. The successful candidate will have already demonstrated that they are capable of

leading active cancer research but their application will need to build a strong case to the external international reviewers that this investment to buy out clinical time has a high likelihood of transforming their career trajectory to help ensure a long term sustainable cancer research leadership position in Ireland and thereby enable even more improvements in outcome for those impacted by cancer in this country. It is NOT intended to merely supplement existing day to day research activity.

1.2 Funding

The maximum total funding available is €75,000 per year. The maximum funding period is 24 months (i.e. maximum of €150,000 over 2 years).

Please note that this award will fund protected time for the recipient and is **not** for funding a specific research project or consumables.

2. Eligibility Criteria

2.1 Candidates must:

- Have completed specialist training and returned to work in a consultant post in Ireland in the last 5 years (preceding June 2020)*
- Currently be resident and hold a consultant appointment in a public hospital in the Republic of Ireland.
- Be affiliated with a higher education institution in the Republic of Ireland that is one of the HRB's approved host institutions: <https://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-schemes/before-you-apply/all-grant-policies/hrb-policy-on-approval-of-host-institutions/>
- Demonstrate a clear and unambiguous high level of support from their host education institution, hospital, department and peers to be able to make use of this award.
- Have a minimum of 3 first or senior authorships in cancer-related, peer-reviewed publications, either fully published or demonstrably about to be published *.
- Be a clearly active and contributing member of Cancer Trials Ireland.
- Have a promising track record in cancer research exemplified by, for example, clinical trials, national/international research partnerships, publications, funding secured etc.

***Accommodation for Impact of Extended Leave**

The Society recognises that applicants may have had to take a period of extended leave from their careers for a number of reasons including carers, maternity, paternity, adoptive, parental and medical leave.

To ensure equity for those who have had to take extended leave in the past, where relevant, there will be an opportunity for applicants to extend their period of eligibility for this award or justify reasonable shortcomings in their application portfolio commensurate with these

circumstances to the external reviewers. Please contact grants@irishcancer.ie for more information.

Extended leave will also be taken into consideration during the assessment of applicants.

2.2 Eligible Oncology-specialist fields include:

- Surgery
- Radiation
- Haematology
- Molecular medicine/Pathology
- Psychiatry/Psycho-oncology
- Paediatrics
- Gynaecology
- Palliative Medicine
- Medical oncology
- Geriatric oncology
- Radiology

* Candidates holding a Senior Clinical Psychologist appointment in the area of psycho-oncology will also be considered. Consultant must hold the requisite qualifications necessary for a consultant-level appointment in their chosen field. Eligible candidates will only be considered from specialities that spend the vast majority, if not all of their time focussing on cancer care.

3. What does an ideal candidate look like?

This section is to give applicants an idea of what the award is hoping to achieve and the type of candidate that we are seeking.

This award is intended to be a **transformative investment** in an individual who demonstrates great potential in driving and leading innovative new Irish cancer research. The individual will have spent time in clinical practice outside of Ireland, but will have returned to work in Ireland within the last 5 years.

The ideal candidate is someone who has a demonstrable track record in cancer research commensurate with their career stage and some involvement in, for example, clinical trials and studies. They will present a credible case to a review panel consisting of top international cancer experts and Irish patients that our investment can greatly grow and leverage on their existing background to tangibly advance a sector of cancer research in Ireland over and above what has already been achieved.

Applicants may not have the most extensive research track record but the experience they have will display their passion for research and the potential for them to utilise dedicated time to undertake new research aimed at having a positive impact on patients.

The ideal candidate will have previously demonstrated that they can build successful national (outside their own hospital) and international networks with others in the cancer

research space, not only those within their own environment but with people and networks from different disciplines.

Their plans for the award will be strong and have demonstrable potential to be impactful, while also being realistic about what is achievable in the time bought-out from this award. They will also display their passion to achieve these plans and their ambition to lead them forward.

The candidate will enjoy the full support of their peers and institution to permit them to be taken out of front line activities for the two days per week. Their host institution must also make an unambiguous commitment to support their work and be able to undertake the necessary administration (contract sign off, financial reports etc) associated with the award in a timely manner.

In short, the ideal candidate is someone who is on the cusp of becoming a great leader in cancer research in Ireland, enjoys a fully supportive institutional environment and the buy-out time afforded by this award would present them a unique and transformational opportunity to achieve this.

4. Mentorship

A cornerstone of many high performing researchers is their integration into an ongoing network of direct and indirect mentorship and supportive counsel. The Society wishes to call out and reinforce the importance of this often undervalued aspect of a leaders career development and evolution.

As part of the application the expert review panel will examine the candidate's articulation of the arrangements that are and will be in place to support collaboration with and mentoring of them. These may include individuals and/or committees who will undertake these roles; individuals of any relevant background who will ensure a rounded evolution of the applicant's further career, will help benchmark, will broaden their expertise base and collaborative network (nationally/internationally) and foster and champion the further development of the candidate.

Mentors may also provide guidance and support in terms of the academic aspects of the award such as grant administration, laboratory, technical or other healthcare expertise (nursing, dietetics, physiotherapy etc) that may be required by the applicant during the award.

At least one of those fulfilling these roles should be an established senior academic or clinician with a proven track record for research, and affiliated with a HRB approved host Institution within Ireland.

5. Application Process

How to Apply

Applications must be completed and submitted through the Irish Cancer Society Gateway Grant Tracker online system. In order to submit an online application you are required to register at the following address: <https://grants.cancer.ie>.

Please log in to this grant portal early in your application planning to ensure familiarity with the system and we encourage applicants to try to avoid completing the application immediately before the deadline to reduce the stress than can be caused by unanticipated issues arising.

5.1 Overview of the Application Process

When you enter your login details you will be directed to the Home page. From here you can:

1. Make a new grant application
2. Access previous grant applications

5.2 Making an application

To make a new grant application click on the 'My Applications' tab on the left hand side of the page, and click the 'New Application' button.

You will then be asked what Grant Type you would like to apply for. Click 'Apply' for the Grant Type detailed as 'Clinician Research Leadership Award 2020'.

Once you have clicked 'Apply' a pop up screen will appear in which the eligibility criteria are detailed. Please read each criteria and indicate if you meet that criteria by placing a tick in the box next to the criteria, leaving the box blank where you do not meet the criteria.

You will not be able to proceed if you cannot confirm that all criteria are met.

6. Application form

Once you have confirmed that you meet all the eligibility criteria you will be directed to the application page.

There are 9 sections in the application form

1. Introduction
2. Project Outline
3. Applicant Details
4. Mentorship/Collaboration Plan
5. Plans for the Award
6. PPI Plan
7. Dissemination Plan
8. Buy-Out Time
9. Organisational Support

1. Introduction

Information on the Clinician Research Leadership Award 2020.

2. Project outline

- Expected grant start date
 - This is an estimate start date. Contracts for this award must be finalised by December 2020, with a contract start date of Q1 2021. We would however, anticipate practical commencement of the research by summer 2021, allowing for locum arrangements etc.
- Host institute
 - The HRB approved host institute that you are based at. The grant contract will be administered by this host institute.
- Hospital name and address
 - The hospital that you are employed at and from which the clinical time will be bought out from.
- Oncology-specialist field
 - Please indicate which oncology-specialist field you work in. Eligible Oncology-specialist fields are listed in Section 2.2.

3. Applicant details

Applicant CV

In this section you are required to upload your CV, completed using the CV template.

To upload your CV click 'Attach' then locate the file to be attached, then click 'Attach'.

Extended leave (optional)

Assessment of applicants will take into consideration any extended leave taken. This in recognition of the fact that activities undertaken during a period of time may be justifiably less than that of peers due to a period of extended leave during that time period or that you may be eligible to extend the maximum period of eligibility beyond the 5 year maximum.

Please indicate if you have taken extended leave since returning to Ireland. Eligible leave includes- carers, maternity, paternity, adoptive, parental, medical leave.

Please detail the amount of time taken and how it can be justified to have impacted the duration the reviewers will be considering when assessing you and/or your output over this time.

4. Mentorship

As part of the application, the applicant must articulate a considered approach to plans for real engagement with individuals or committees who will support and mentor their further evolution as a research leader.

One person must be nominated who will agree to be listed and contribute their support to the application. This person must be an established senior academic or clinician with a proven track record for research, and affiliated with a HRB approved host Institution within Ireland.

Add mentor on system

Your nominee will have to confirm participation in the application.

To add them, you can search for them by entering their email. If the mentor has already created an account then they will appear on the list. To add them as your nominee click 'Select'. Please note that on saving, the contact will be added to the application and they will receive a notification of this via email.

If your nominee does not already have an account you can click 'Add a New Contact' and enter their name and email address. Please note that on saving, the contact will be added to the Application as a mentor/collaborator. They will receive a notification of this via email.

Information on the mentor

Please detail why you have chosen your mentor and how the arrangements they are contributing to will support your growth as a rounded research leader over the period of the award.

Please detail any other individuals or committees that will support and mentor your further evolution as a research leader. **(300 words max)**

Upload mentor

In this section you are required to upload the CV of your mentor, completed using the CV template.

To upload the CV click 'Attach' then locate the file to be attached, then click 'Attach'.

5. Plans for the Award

5.1. Research Experience

The Clinician Research Leadership Award aims to invest in an individual that can greatly grow and leverage on their existing background to tangibly advance a sector of cancer research in Ireland over and above what has might be expected.

Please detail your research experience to-date and in an oncology-related specialist field.

Place special emphasis on both nationally and internationally collaborative research success, which may include clinical trials, outlining your role in the management and/or coordination of such collaborative research. **(500 words max)**

5.2. Planned Research Projects and Collaborations

Please outline current and planned research projects and collaborations both nationally and internationally, and how the time afforded to you by this award will allow you to develop and grow them over and above what would be possible without the buy-out time.

Please include details of what organisations and individuals you will need to engage with and how you will engage with them. **(700 words max)**

This should include-

- Research projects and collaborations
- Commercial projects and collaborations
- Involvement with cancer clinical trials*

*Please note that a Letter of Support from Cancer Trials Ireland is required as part of this application.

As the national clinical cancer research organisation, Cancer Trials Ireland is in a pivotal position to provide supportive infrastructure to best leverage from the award and hence there must be a clear articulation of activity and support from this vital national research group.

5.3. Transforming Research Landscape

Please describe how the plans detailed in Question 5.2 will ensure change in your field in the next 2 to 5 years as a result of you receiving this award. How does this fit into your vision for cancer research in the area? **(500 words max)**

In particular, this should include how the following will be impacted and enhanced:

- The lives of those affected by cancer
- Research networks in Ireland
- Innovative cancer research in Ireland
- Broadening the portfolio of opportunities to improve cancer outcome (quantitatively/qualitatively)

5.4. Motivation for applying for the award

This award is intended to be a **transformative investment** in an individual who is on the cusp of becoming a leader in cancer research in Ireland.

Please detail your motivation for applying for this award and how this award could be transformative to you and your career. In this section please also describe why you are the best candidate for the award. **(600 words max)**

6. PPI plan

The Irish Cancer Society is dedicated to putting patients, families, survivors, supporters, and the public at the very heart of what we do. Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) in the research process ensures that research is meaningful and of benefit to those affected by cancer.

Along with building research collaborations nationally and internationally it is important that the successful applicant also uses the time bought out to build relevant PPI networks in Ireland. By building these networks it is expected that the applicant will incorporate PPI in their current and future research, for example including PPI applicants as part of future grant applications.

Please detail plans to build on existing or establish new PPI networks in Ireland that are relevant to your research and how you plan to include PPI in your research going forward. **(300 words max)**

7. Dissemination Plan

Please provide an outline of the dissemination plan describing how outcomes from your time as Clinician-Researcher will be shared with-

- Scientific, clinical and healthcare communities
- Key patient and public stakeholders

(250 words max)

8. Buy-Out Time

Please detail the plan you will have in place to facilitate your absence from clinical and academic duties at your host institution/s.

The plan should include details on who will cover your academic and clinical activities during the buy-out time and what days of the week you plan on using the buy-out time **(300 words max)**

9. Organisational Support

As the grant will be managed by the host institute but the time-bought out by the award will be time from clinical work in the hospital it is critically important that the applicant has support from both the-

- Host institute
- Hospital

The terms and conditions of the award will be managed by the **host institute**. The host institute must be aware of the application and be demonstrably able to process and discharge all aspects of the award contract should the applicant be successful. This will likely require grant terms and conditions negotiation, financial reporting etc.

Cancer treatment services are busy and manpower is limited. Therefore, it is very important that the **hospital** is aware of the application and that there is clear evidence that the broader team/institutional environment of the applicant's clinic is fully supporting this application in any and all ways possible and that the award may be leveraged by additional local supports.

It is the responsibility of the host institute to ensure that the applicant has the full support of the hospital. It must be clear from the organisational letters of support that the host institute and hospital have been in communication about the application.

Failure to follow through in a timely manner on the commitments made, in the acceptance, processing or discharge of this award may invalidate the selection and lead to it being awarded to the secondary candidate.

The organisations may wish to complement this award with other strategic innovations in support of leveraged research activity.

Organisational support question

Please detail the steps, both in the host institute and in the hospital, that will be need to be taken to ensure organisational sign-off for this award (two days a week time bought-out for two years) should you be successful.

If you have academic/teaching/other commitments these must also be considered. **(400 words max)**

Organisational Letters of Support

An unequivocal and strong letter of support is required from both the host institute and the hospital.

The letter of support must make clear that the organisation is aware of the application and fully commit to supporting processing the award should the applicant be successful

It must also be clear in both letters of support that the host institute and hospital have communicated on the application and agree to support the application.

The 'Organisational Letter of Support' template must be used (downloadable in this section on the online application form).

The letter of support must be on headed paper and signed by the relevant senior authorised representatives within your host organisation.

Upload organisational letters of support

To upload the letters of support click 'Attach', locate the files to be attached and then click 'Attach'.

4. Submission of the Application

Once it has been verified that all required questions are answered in the correct manner on the application then the application can be submitted.

In the Validation section of the application please click "Save and Close" and then click on the "Submit" button in the right hand side of the Application Summary page.

The application deadline is **3pm Wednesday 2nd September 2020**.

5. Assessment Procedure

Incomplete and ineligible applications and those submitted after the deadline will not be assessed.

Applications will be assessed by an international panel of experts supported by patient experience.

6. Application Checklist

The following must be completed ONLINE by **3pm Wednesday 2nd September 2020**.

1. Completed Application Form
2. Applicant CV
3. Mentor CV
4. Mentor Letter of Support
5. Cancer Trials Ireland Letter of Support
6. Host Institute Letter of Support
7. Hospital Letter of Support

7. Contact

If you require assistance with the online application system or have any queries about the application, please contact us: Email: grants@irishcancer.ie

Please note queries relating to the application will only be answered up to Monday 31st August 2020.

Questions in relation to any issues with the online system will be taken until close of the award.