



Irish Cancer Society Research

Collaborative Cancer Survivorship Research Centre 2021

Expression of Interest Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Applicant Roles and Eligibility

- **Can the eligibility criteria for the Lead Applicant be shared between two Joint Lead Applicants?**

The Centre requires strong and experienced leadership capable of overseeing a project of this scope and size. The eligibility criteria reflects that requirement. These eligibility criteria may be shared amongst two Joint Lead Applicants. However, in such cases, **both** Lead Applicants would still need to have an appropriate level of research experience.

- **How many Co-Applicants can be included in the application?**

Up to 15 Co-Applicants may be included in an application. Co-Applicants must be the Director, Deputy Director, Research Theme Lead, or a Funded Investigator.

- **What is the difference between the Research Theme Lead and a Funded Investigator?**

A Research Theme Lead holds responsibility for the management of a particular research theme. They will be an experienced and established independent researcher in that particular area. A Funded Investigator will work under the Research Theme Lead to deliver a component of a research theme. The Funded Investigator will also be an independent researcher but may be more junior. The Funded Investigator may support the Research Theme Lead in the supervision of Research Support Staff, PhD Students, or early career post-doctoral researchers.

- **What is the difference between the Director and the Deputy Director?**

The Deputy Director is an optional leadership role in the Centre that would work under and support the Director. The Director will have overall responsibility for leading the Centre. The Deputy Director role also allows applications with Joint Lead Applicants to retain both parties in a post-award leadership role.

- **Are clinical-academic posts allowable?**

Yes, clinical-academic posts are allowable. However, any person employed on such a role must work exclusively on the Centre for the time budgeted. For instance, if a 100% FTE clinical-academic post is included in the budget, then 100% of that person's time must be spent working on Centre-related activities.

- **Will people on contract positions that do not cover the duration of the award be considered eligible to be a Co-Applicant?**

Co-Applicants must be employed for the entire duration of their involvement in the Centre. For instance, if a Co-Applicant is only involved in the first two years of the project, then their employment must cover these first two years. Roles can be created as part of the award.

- **Who is responsible for forming the Oversight Committee?**

The Irish Cancer Society will establish the Oversight Committee. Conversely, the Applicant Group are responsible for forming the Scientific and Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

- **How many collaborators can be included in an application?**

There are no limits to the number of collaborators that can be included, however, the relevant section will have word limits in describing the collaborations. Official Collaborators are not formal participants in the application form.

Research Project Eligibility

- **When you say survivorship, what do you mean?**

Survivorship, for the purpose of this award, covers the period of time from diagnosis to treatment outcome (including palliative and end-of-life care). Survivorship includes, but is not limited to, prevention and early detection of recurrent cancer; long term effects of cancer and its treatment; quality and experience of treatment and care; psycho-social effects of cancer and its treatment; self-management; health information and literacy; genetic risk and counselling; physical and practical needs e.g. financial, employment, mobility; etc.

- **Can basic or translational biomedical research be included?**

Up to 20% of the total grant budget may be allocated to translational research, where such research underpins the survivorship aspects of the programme. For example a study examining the impact of exercise on cancer biomarkers. Basic biomedical science is not eligible.

- **Can the focus of research be on children and adolescents, or on metastatic cancer?**

While applicants should not submit proposals targeting a single cancer type, applications, which focus on subsets of people with cancer, are allowable. As such, a Centre focused on childhood cancer or metastatic cancer would be allowed.

- **Sometimes ‘Survivorship’ is not considered an ideal term for all those Living with cancer.**

The Society recognises that the term survivorship may not always be the most suitable or favourable. However, in the absence of a single well-agree appropriate term, we have used survivorship for this grant. By survivorship, we refer to the time following a cancer diagnosis, whatever that trajectory takes.

Institution eligibility

- **Do Participating Institutions need to be listed on the HRB’s approved institution list?**

No. Only the Host Institution is required to be listed on the HRB’s approved institution list.

- **What are the requirements to be a Participating Institution?**

Participating Institutions must be not-for-profit organisations based on the island of Ireland. Participating Institutions should have appropriate governance structures in place to manage research finances.

- **Can the Centre be located in Northern Ireland?**

While the Host Institution must be based in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Irish institutions may be involved in the Centre as a) Official Collaborators, or b) Participating Institution which receive funding of up to 10% of the total grant budget.

- **Can international researchers or organisations become involved?**

International researchers and organisations can be included in the applications as an Official Collaborator. However, international researchers or organisations outside of the island of Ireland cannot be allocated any budget.

Funding and budget

- **How many awards are available?**

This is funding available for one award.

- **Can budget be allocated to cover the salary of the Director?**

Generally, the Society will not pay the salaries of permanent tenured staff. However, budget can be allocated to cover significant backfill/buy-out time of the Director to allow them to take time away from their normal duties to work on the Centre.

- **What costs can be allocated to institutions in Northern Ireland?**

Budget (up to 10% of total costs) can be allocated to Northern Irish institutions under any of the available budget categories e.g. Personnel, running costs, equipment, training and education, dissemination, and PPI.

- **Will the funding cover research infrastructure?**

While the grant can be used to purchase well-justified small equipment items, it cannot be used for 'bricks and mortar' infrastructure.

- **Can a Public and Patient Involvement Coordinator be budgeted?**

A Public and Patient Involvement Coordinator would be classified as Research Support Staff, which are eligible for budget allocation.

Submission of Application

- **Who needs to sign off and approve an application?**

All Lead Applicant(s) and Co-Applicants must approve the application before it can be submitted. Once it is submitted, the application form will be routed to signatories. The signatories will include a) an authorised person at the Host Institution, and b) the Joint Lead Applicant (where applicable).

- **Do signatories get time after the application deadline to sign off on my application?**

No. All signatories must approve the application before the application deadline. No additional time is given for sign-off.

Full Application

- **When will applicants find out if they are shortlisted to submit a full application?**

Early April 2021.

- **How long will I have to complete the full application?**

Applicants will have approximately 12-13 weeks to complete the full application.

- **What will the full application entail?**

The full application will look for more specific and in-depth details on the proposed centre, covering the same areas requested at Expression of Interest stage. Applicants will also be required to address the review panel's comments through revision of the application form. Applicants will be required to submit letters of offer from, for example, the Host Institution, all Participating Institutions, and any leveraged external funding source.