



MRCG/HRB Joint Funding Scheme 2018

Research Call: Inter-disciplinary and/or inter-institutional research into the role of prehabilitation and/or rehabilitation in cancer care.

Application Deadline: Tuesday 16th of January 2018, 15:00 GMT

Call document last updated: 20.12.2017

1. Introduction

The Irish Cancer Society is a member of the Medical Research Charities Group (MRCG), which was founded in 1998 with the aim of supporting charities in Ireland to increase both the quality and quantity of healthcare research being done in Ireland. The MRCG represents the joint interests of charities specialising in restoring health through medical research, diagnosis and treatment and, where possible, the prevention of disease.

Since 2006, the work of the MRCG has been supported by the Department of Health through annual funding to the Health Research Board (HRB) for the co-funding of research projects with medical research charities. The HRB is the lead agency in Ireland supporting research linked to health and social care. Together the MRCG and the HRB operate an innovative joint funding scheme that allows members of the MRCG to support research of particular interest to specific patient populations, where they might otherwise not be in a position to finance the full cost of that research.

2. How the MRCG/HRB Joint Funding Scheme works

Please follow the link below for a detailed description of the MRCG/HRB Joint Funding scheme application, external peer review and award process:

http://www.mrcg.ie/go/mrcg_hrb_joint_funding_scheme/what_our_members_say

3. Background

There is a growing body of scientific evidence that supports prehabilitation (therapeutic intervention which occurs between the time of cancer diagnosis and the beginning of acute treatment) and rehabilitation (therapeutic intervention both during and after treatment) in the optimization of physical fitness, treatment tolerance, recovery, and survival in cancer patients.

More research is urgently needed to evaluate the most effective prehabilitation and rehabilitation interventions, and combinations thereof, for people living with and beyond cancer. However, these areas of cancer care are currently under funded in the Irish context.

In an effort to build capacity in this area, the Irish Cancer Society, as part of the MRCG/HRB Joint Funding scheme 2018, is inviting applications to support **inter-disciplinary and/or inter-institutional research into the role of prehabilitation and/or rehabilitation in cancer care.**

4. Purpose of the call

The purpose of this grant call is to support **excellent collaborative research into the role of prehabilitation and/or rehabilitation in cancer care.**

We anticipate a focus in the areas of lifestyle, diet and exercise interventions to improve outcome and overall survival for those living with and beyond cancer.

Applications are sought from clinicians, allied health care professionals and scientists already established in the field of prehabilitation and/or rehabilitation research. Research fields include, but are not limited to, biological research, occupational therapy, diet and nutrition, exercise, medical oncology and psycho-oncology. It is open to research professions including, but not limited to, research scientists, medical doctors, physiotherapists, psychiatrists, occupational therapists, nurses, pharmacists and psychologists.

The research programme outlined in response to this grant call should be of a high calibre and provide robust data as to the efficacy of the approaches being evaluated. Applications are invited for research proposals that are inter-disciplinary and/or inter-institutional. They should consider, adapt, evaluate and implement effective strategies that will provide long-term benefit for cancer care in the Irish healthcare system.

5. Addressing strategic aims

It is imperative that applicants clearly articulate the relevance of their application in addressing the strategic aims of the Charity Partners as this will be a core criterion evaluated as part of the initial selection process.

Information regarding the strategic aims and mission of the Irish Cancer Society can be found below:

The Irish Cancer Society:

Mission: The Irish Cancer Society's mission as the national cancer charity is to eliminate cancer. To achieve this, one of the Society's goals is to lead excellent, collaborative research in Ireland. The Society believes that the quality of cancer care available in Ireland depends on the quality of cancer research taking place in the country and that collaboration between scientists and clinicians is essential to driving improved medical care and better outcomes for patients. The Irish Cancer Society is the largest voluntary funder of cancer research in Ireland, investing over €30 million in cancer research since its establishment in 1963.

For details of the Irish Cancer Society's strategy, please see: <http://www.cancer.ie/about-us/50th-anniversary-strategy-statement-2013-2017>.

6. Funding:

The MRCG/HRB Joint Funding scheme 2018 provides funding for clearly defined research projects in disease areas of strategic relevance to each individual charity. MRCG/HRB awards are up to a maximum total award value of €285,000 for projects from 12 up to 36 months.

7. Eligibility Criteria

The Principal Investigator (PI) **will serve as the primary point of contact during the review process and during the award. The PI** will be responsible for the scientific and technical direction of the research programme and **has primary fiduciary responsibility and accountability for carrying out the research within the funding limits awarded and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract governing the award.**

7.1 The Principal Investigator must

- Hold a post that covers the duration of the award in a recognised Research Institution as an independent investigator, **or**
- be a contract researcher recognised by the Research Institution as an independent investigator who will have a dedicated office and research space for the duration of award, for which he/she will be fully responsible, **or**
- be an individual who will be recognised by the Research Institution upon receipt of the MRCG/HRB award as a contract researcher as defined above. The Principal Investigator does not necessarily need to be employed by the Research Institution at the time of the application submission
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The Principal Investigator must demonstrate that they have the skills, knowledge and supports necessary to direct the proposed research and to be actively engaged in carrying the research through to completion. Generally this means that the PI will:

- i. Show appropriate evidence of expertise matched to the nature and context of the project;
- ii. Show evidence of achievement as an independent researcher in their chosen research

field by:

- a) Demonstrating a record of research output, with at least three publications of original research in peer reviewed journals. Where appropriate, they should also provide evidence of other outputs such as published book chapters, reports to government and/or any other relevant outputs that have resulted in a significant impact in their field.
- b) Demonstrating record of independence by showing that they have secured at least one peer-reviewed research grant for a research project/s, as either the lead applicant or a co-applicant. Funding received for travel to seminars/conferences and/or small personal bursaries will not be considered in this regard.
- iii. Show evidence that they possess the capability and authority to mentor, manage and supervise less experienced researchers and to manage relationships with co-applicants, collaborators and the host institution.

Where an applicant fails to meet the eligibility criteria, the application will be deemed ineligible and will not be accepted for review. The MRCG/HRB will contact the Principal Investigator in the event that this situation arises.

Only one application per Principal Investigator to this scheme will be considered. Where the PI is based outside of Ireland, where possible they should seek Co-applicants or Collaborators in Ireland in order to build capacity here.

7.2 Co-Applicant

A Co-Applicant has a well-defined, critical and substantial role in the proposed research stated explicitly in the application. Each Co-Applicant should view the application form and approve content prior to submission. A Co-Applicant may receive funding for items such as running costs and personnel but will not receive support towards his/her own salary if they are in salaried positions. However, Co-Applicants can request their own salary, depending on their role and percentage of time dedicated to the research project, for the duration of the award if they are contract independent investigators (**up to a maximum of 5 Co-Applicants can be listed**).

The terms of any co-application should be determined early and relevant agreements should be in place by the onset of the project. The MRCG/HRB advise that consideration should be given to issues such as governance arrangements, intellectual property rights, reporting and access to data and samples when working up co-application agreements.

8. Submission

All applications must be submitted by email to research@irishcancer.ie by **Tuesday 16th of January 2018, 15:00 GMT.**

It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to ensure that applications are completed in full and all the necessary documentation is received by the Charity Partners on, or before the closing dates indicated. Once you have submitted your application, you cannot edit or unsubmit it.

8.1 To be sent in electronic PDF format before **Tuesday 16th of January 2018, 15:00 GMT:**

1. **Application Form:** This must be submitted as a single file
2. **Figures** (if applicable): As an additional document
3. **Gantt Chart** (or alternative)
4. **Collaborator Agreement Form** from each nominated collaborator (if applicable)

Note: Please note each document will have a size limit of 2MB. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that each PDF is an accurate facsimile of the final working version of the application.

8.2 To be sent in hardcopy format by **5pm on Tuesday 16th of January 2018**

- i. **Signature Page:** All applications for funding must have an associated Signature Page signed by the Principal Investigator and the Dean of Research/CEO/equivalent authorised personnel of the Research Institution using the signature page provided. ***All signatures must be originals. Electronic versions of signatures are not acceptable (Size limit of 2MB).***
- ii. The hardcopy Signature Page should be sent by registered post to the Research Department, Irish Cancer Society, 43/45 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4 and should be received by the Society no later than **5pm on Tuesday 16th of January 2018.**

8.3 Checklist for submission

For all applications

Application form	
Figures supporting project description (1 document)	
Gantt chart	
Signature page	

Where applicable

Collaboration Agreement Form	
Infrastructure Agreement Form	
Letters of support	
Warrant for international Host Institutions only	

9. Downloads

Please read the documentation carefully in advance of queries and submission.

10. Key Dates

Call Open	November 2017
Deadline for applications	Tuesday, 16 th of January 2017
Irish Cancer Society external peer review	January 2017
Irish Cancer Society forwards shortlisted applications to HRB	12th February 2018
Right-to Reply Phase	Early – mid February 2018
Charity Selection Committee	Late Feb-March 2018
HRB Application Deadline	9th April 2018
Joint Funding Committee Meeting	Early June 2018
HRB Board Meeting	June 2018
Applicant Notification	July 2018
Contracts Issued	From August 2018
Research Project Start Date	From September 2018

11. Webinar

A link to view the Irish Cancer Society MRCG/HRB Joint Funding Scheme 2018

Webinar will be available soon.

12. Contact Details

All enquiries & correspondence relating to this scheme should be addressed to:

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