

**Q1. Are applications restricted to specific areas of research in early detection?**

**A1.** The remit of this Early Detection Grants funding round is strategically focused on research that aims to enable the detection of pancreatic cancer at an early stage. This can include pragmatic approaches to the identification, stratification, and referral of early-stage symptomatic patients, through to innovative research to uncover the earliest possible initiation and development processes of cancer that can be exploited in its asymptomatic detection. Please see the 'Guidance for Applicants' document on our website for examples of relevant research areas (NB: this is not an exhaustive list and all areas of research in the early detection of pancreatic cancer are eligible).

**Q2. What if there are delays due to staff recruitment or other issues? Can I change the start date later?**

**A2.** Applicants are expected to estimate a *realistic* start date allowing for time for recruitment of new staff and obtaining necessary study approvals. Projects should be underway within 9 months of receiving notification of funding. We anticipate that notifications will be sent in March 2024.

We also understand that changes to start date can occur after the notification of funding and therefore award holders can alter their start date before signing their Letter of Award. However, any revision to start dates cannot exceed 9 months following funding notification.

**Q3. If I am successful in receiving funding, can I apply for extensions to the project if unable to complete it in timeframe proposed in the original application?**

**A3:** Projects funded under this scheme should not exceed a duration of 4 years. The feasibility of completing the project within the stated timelines in the proposal will be taken into consideration by the Early Detection Grants Review Panel when recommending applications for funding. Please be pragmatic when planning your investigations and timelines. No-cost extensions for funded awards will not be guaranteed. If they are deemed necessary, they will be strictly limited. Costed extensions will not be considered in the vast majority of circumstances. Please refer to the Terms & Conditions for this scheme on our website for further details.

**Q4. I do not have ethical approval for my application. Can I still apply?**

**A4.** Yes. You can still apply if you do not have ethical approval. However, if successful we would expect you to have ethical approval before your grant starts and provide copies of documents to evidence this.

**Q5. Do I have to use a certain referencing style?**

**A5.** We ask that references are included in full, e.g. with full authors and without 'et al'. This information is important for reviewers for both conflicts of interest and the review itself. Applicants can choose a specific system though we encourage consistency throughout.

#### **Q6. Why are we being asked to write a lay summary?**

**A6.** Applications to this scheme will be reviewed and scored by Pancreatic Cancer UK's Early Detection Grants Review Panel, which includes lay representatives who have personal experience of pancreatic cancer.

The lay reviewer's role is not to comment on the science of the application, but to ensure that the research proposed is of relevance and importance to people with pancreatic cancer. The lay summary therefore needs to contain enough information for the lay reviewers to assess the relevance and importance and should also be written in such a way that a non-scientist can understand the project plans – this may be the only section of the form to which a lay reviewer will refer.

The lay summary is also used by Pancreatic Cancer UK on its website and may be used for marketing purposes. Applicants should therefore ensure that confidential information is not included in this section.

It is vitally important that your lay summary passes the 'so what?' test and demonstrates through a lay description of a pathway to impact why the research would be important to people with pancreatic cancer.

You can get help with writing your lay summary from Pancreatic Cancer UK's Research Involvement Network. This Network is a group of people affected by pancreatic cancer who are willing to help with the design and delivery of research. To access the Network, visit our website. Requests need to be sent to the Pancreatic Cancer UK Research Team in advance of the submission deadline to allow sufficient time for the Network to respond.

#### **Q7. I don't see my research in the strategy areas; am I still able to apply?**

**A7.** Our early detection research areas of focus in the strategy are not exhaustive. What we have highlighted are approaches that we believe are relevant to the delivery of key research strategy objectives: faster identification of people with symptoms; and identification of people at an asymptomatic stage and/or at-risk of developing pancreatic cancer. If you believe that the approach you are proposing to adopt helps deliver those objectives, then we welcome your application. However, you will be asked to justify why that is the case, in detail, at all stages of application.

#### **Q8. Can I apply for Pancreatic Cancer UK's Early Detection Grant if I am an early career researcher?**

**A8.** Applications from early/mid-career researchers as lead applicants or co-investigators responsible for the delivery of the work are welcome but must be supported or co-led by a supervisor deemed an expert in their field.

#### **Q9. Do my collaborators need to sign off the grant before/after I submit it?**

**A9.** This is not required at the Expression of Interest stage. Any collaborators will need to provide a letter of support confirming their cooperation in the research before the submission of the full application. This should outline their reasons for collaborating and explain their role in the project (which should correlate with the proposal).

**Q10. To whom should we address any letters of collaboration?**

**A10.** Any letters of collaboration should be addressed to the Director of Support, Research and Influencing at Pancreatic Cancer UK, (Anna Jewell). These should be included as an appendix on the application.

**Q11. Do you need CVs for each participant?**

**A11.** We expect CVs to be provided for the lead applicant and all co-applicants. CVs should be included in the appendices using the template provided. Any publications included on the CV must include the full author list as per our referencing style detailed in Q5. In order to reduce burden on reviewers, please limit CVs to one A4 page wherever possible.

**Q12. My research involves the use of animals; what information do you need?**

**A12.** For the expression of interest stage, applicants do not need to provide detailed information of any animals used within their proposed study. However, if invited to full application stage, applicants will need to provide a full justification within the research proposal and state whether the model that they are using has been genetically modified. Applicants will be required to provide the power calculations that were used to determine the appropriate sample size. If statistical calculations have not been used to determine the appropriate number of animals to be used, applicants should explain why not and provide the alternative basis for calculation. Additionally, applicants will need to demonstrate that they are implementing the replacement, refinement and reduction of animals in research concordant with guidance from the NC3Rs.

**Q13. Why does it take so long to hear the final outcome of the grant round?**

**A13.** Pancreatic Cancer UK's Board of Trustees makes the final funding decision based on the recommendations of the Early Detection Grants Review Panel. We aim to let applicants know the final outcome as soon as we can after the Board of Trustees meeting. Please find further details of the review process in the 'Guidance for Applicants' document on our website.

**Q14. How much funding will be awarded under each Early Detection Grant?**

**A14.** Pancreatic Cancer UK will fund a maximum of £500,000 for projects lasting between 3 to 4 years.

**Q15. I do not hold a tenured position at my institution; can I still apply for an Early Detection Grant?**

**A15.** Lead applicants can apply if they do not hold a tenured position at a UK university. At least one of the participants on the project, however, should hold tenure at a UK university. By approving the grant application, the Host Institution also must show support for the applicant through commitment to facilitate the research proposed. Applicants are advised that the proposal will be assessed against a number of criteria including the track record of the lead applicant and expertise of the wider team. Please contact [Pancreatic Cancer UK's Research Team](#) with any queries before applying, so that we can discuss your circumstances and advise accordingly.

**Q16. My project might include costs that are considered patient care, NHS Treatment or NHS Support costs. Can I clarify this after my application has been submitted?**

**A16** No. You must liaise with the relevant departments at your institution and/or NHS Trust to confirm whether they will fund the relevant NHS costs before the application deadline. All applicants should contact their NHS Trust and NIHR CRN before applying to ensure that these costs will be met. A letter of support indicating as such should be uploaded with your full application as an appendix. If you have any questions about the eligibility of costs, please contact [Pancreatic Cancer UK's Research Team](#) before applying, so that we can discuss your circumstances and advise accordingly.

**Q17. How will my application be assessed?**

**A17.** Applications for this scheme will undergo Pancreatic Cancer UK's review process, which complies with the Association of Medical Research Charities' best practice guidelines. Details of the review process and funding criteria are outlined in the 'Guidance for Applicants' that accompanies this funding round, which can be found on Pancreatic Cancer UK's website.

**Q18. Can the awards be used to support PhD students?**

**A18.** No. Although we welcome the involvement of early career researchers, Early Detection Grants are not means to train PhD students and so we will not cover fees, stipends or consumables used for this purpose.