**Trinity St. James’s Cancer Institute**

***Cancer Research Stimulus Awards***

**(TSJCI CREST Awards)**

Trinity St. James’s Cancer Institute (TSJCI) is delighted to announce the second Call of its Cancer Research Stimulus Awards, a research funding scheme that will provide seed funding to foster and develop new research collaborations across the Cancer Institute. These awards have arisen from generous philanthropic donations totalling €120,000.

**Objectives:** The programme is designed to support short-term (up to 12 months) new, innovative research projects that will enhance the ability of TSJCI researchers to:

1. Foster new avenues of cancer research
2. Generate impactful data to leverage significant external funding

**Scope and eligibility:** The focus of the proposal must be aligned with at least one of TSJCI’s Research Themes: 1. Cancer Prevention; 2. Molecular and Precision Oncology; 3. Cancer Immunology; 4. Cancer Survivorship and Supportive Care. Research proposals must involve a new partnership\* between a scientist/non-clinical researcher and a clinical researcher. Additional collaborators may be included as appropriate for your proposal. Public and patients’ participation in developing the proposal and in its execution is strongly encouraged. Importantly, you don’t have to have a track record in cancer research; rather, an excellent idea which you can deliver on.

[\*If you have a great idea but are unsure of a suitable partner, Prof. Lorraine O’Driscoll [lodrisc@tcd.ie](mailto:lodrisc@tcd.ie) and Dr. Patricia Doherty [Patricia.Doherty@tcd.ie](mailto:Patricia.Doherty@tcd.ie) will be delighted to help find an appropriate match].

This Call is open to all in TCD and SJH (and affiliated hospitals) who are permanent members of staff or whose contracts would last for the duration of the project. Proposals will be accepted for projects that are challenging and innovative, giving rise to high impact future collaborative funding applications, publications, IP and/or clinical trials. Applications will be reviewed by a panel including external members and representatives from TSJCI, including cancer patient representation.

**Funding limit:** The budget requested should be appropriate to the scale and impact of the project proposed. The maximum funding that can be requested per proposal is €12,000.

**Duration of the award**: Up to 12 months from the start date of the award. Successful applicants must be in a position to start their projects by September 2024.

**Reporting:** Successfully applicants must engage with TSJCI Patient Representative Group (PRG) from month-3 of their project. Reporting with be in the form of (i) a podium presentation at TSJCI Research Day 2024 and (ii) a final written report, submitted within 3 months of the grant period and demonstrating evidence of the intended output e.g., a submitted grant application using the data generated as a result of this funding, etc. Funding not used for the purpose for which it was granted must be returned.

**Application process:** Please provide your application (min. font size 11, 2.5cm margins, single spaced) addressing the headings in the template provided below and adhering to word and page limits.

Any application exceeding these limits will not be reviewed.

Please submit your application via e-mail to: ndhiarme@tcd.ie, no later than **5pm on Thursday, the 29th of February 2024**.

[ Note further info. on TSJCI Research Cancer be found at <https://www.stjames.ie/cancer/research/> ]

**TSJCI Crest Awards Application Form**

**Funding total requested €\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Investigator A**

Name:

Position:

Expertise and contribution to proposed work (250 words max)

**Investigator B**

Name:

Position:

Expertise and contribution to proposed work (250 words max)

**List any other Collaborators involved (optional)**

*Reminder*: Research proposals must involve a new partnership between a scientist/non-clinical researcher and a clinical researcher. Other scientist/non-clinical researchers and clinical researchers may be included as collaborators, if appropriate.

*Note:* The proposal may be submitted by either Investigator (or their nominee) and must CC the other Investigator and to the collaborators, as relevant.

**Title of Project:**

|  |
| --- |
| **TSJCI’s Research Themes to which this proposal is aligned:**  [place an “X” beside whichever Theme(s) are relevant  1. Cancer Prevention  2. Molecular and Precision Oncology  3. Cancer Immunology  4. Cancer Survivorship and Supportive Care |

**Ethics:** Have you obtained, or will you obtain, ethical approval from the relevant authority?

Y/N/NA

**Scientific Proposal**

(2 pages max, including background and preliminary data (optional) and references.

Indicate how this research has potential to benefit patients, whether that potential be in the short-, medium- or long-term):

|  |
| --- |
| **Outline any public / patients’ participation in the development and execution of this project**  (half page max): |

**How will this award impact both research groups, including their securing extramural funding for cancer research at TSJCI?** (half page max):

|  |
| --- |
| **Budget Breakdown and Justification** (half page max)**:** |

**Please provide Gantt chart or project timeline** (half page max)**:**

**TSJCI Crest Awards Application Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals for funding will be reviewed based on the following scoring criteria:

* **Significant Scientific, Scholarly Merit: 30%**

Evidence of innovative, transformative research and scholarship with potential to be of benefit to cancer patients

* **Impact: 20%**

Clear indication of how the proposed research or scholarship will have impact due to the significance of the scholarly work and its broader benefit to society.

* **Record of Achievement & Interdisciplinary Research Team: 15%**

The record of achievement of both Investigators (and any proposed research team members) will be evaluated, with particular emphasis on the peer network this project advances and the interdisciplinary nature of the research team.

* **Public Patient Involvement and/or Societal Engagement: 15%**

Research is considered ‘engaged’ when it is developed in collaboration *with* patients, community members and partnering organisations rather than *for* or *about* them. Such public and patient participation improves the relevancy of the research question, the quality of the approach, and the likelihood that what is discovered through the research can and will be used. Societal engagement describes the myriad of ways in which the activity and benefits of the proposed research can be shared with the public. Engagement is by definition a two-way process, involving interaction and listening, with the goal of generating mutual benefit.

* **High Potential for Extramural Funding: 20%**

Demonstrable ability to attract future public and/or private funding with clear definition of the extramural funding pathway.