

Subject title:

Gut Cancer Foundation: Call for Applications – Pancreatic Cancer Research Funding Round

The Gut Cancer Foundation is calling for applications for:

Clinical trial, clinical study, or pre-clinical research investigating Pancreatic cancer to the value of \$100,000 (GST excl).

GCF will consider applications from all relevant health professions, who are able to combine their clinical work with research, or researchers investigating how to improve detection, diagnosis, the quality of life and potential survival for people living with pancreatic cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand.

GCF will consider both new research or existing projects with preference given to those applications most closely aligned with GCF's strategic aims and current research priorities:

- Improving access for New Zealanders to clinical trials
- Supporting NZ clinicians to combine their clinical work with research projects
- The development of a dedicated clinical research workforce for upper and lower GI cancers with a focus on increasing Māori participation
- Supporting research and trials that increases equitable outcomes and access for Māori, and other underserved populations in Aotearoa New Zealand

The GCF pancreatic cancer research funding round is available in (but not limited to) the speciality areas of cancer surgery, radiation oncology, medical oncology, palliative care, cancer genetics, radiology, anatomical pathology, nutrition, nursing, psychiatry, or public health.

General information

For clinical trials and clinical studies, awards will be distributed on a patient-by-patient basis. Successful recipients will be expected to invoice for each patient recruited to the trial.

Awards to pre-clinical research projects will be distributed through 2 payments of \$50,000. The 2nd payment will be conditional on the satisfactory receipt of a 6 monthly review.

The report will be reviewed by GCF's Scientific Advisory Committee who will advise the GCF board on the distribution of the second payment.

All recipients would be expected and required to acknowledge funding support from GCF in oral or written reports about their work. The successful applicant must be prepared to have a profile posted on GCF's website www.gutcancer.org.nz and promoted through GCF's marketing material.

Six monthly progress reports are required using the provided accountability template.

Applications should be made on the Research Proposal form attached and need to include the proposed research, and information about the applicant, description of how their time will be allocated, and demonstration of value to their career.

Applications must be received by GCF by email to liamw@gutcancer.org.nz by **5 pm, Friday 21st October 2022**. Please note that your host institution may have an earlier closing date and GCF strongly encourages you to adhere to the internal deadline. Please also ensure that you also fulfil any institutional requirements for submission.

The decision will be made by GCF's Scientific Advisory Committee and ratified by the Gut Cancer Foundation board of directors. Applicants will be notified by of the final decision by 21st November 2022.

See information about GCF below.

Liam Willis



Gut Cancer Foundation Executive Officer

The Cause

The Gut Cancer Foundation (GCF) is a charity committed to positive change and creating an everlasting impact for all Aotearoa New Zealanders affected by gut cancers.

This group of cancers affects the bowel, pancreas, stomach, gallbladder/ biliary tract, liver, and oesophagus. It's collectively the most common form of cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand, with over 5,700 people diagnosed each year. Yet despite its prevalence, gut cancers remain under-represented in awareness and funding. We seek to make a difference funding innovative research, being a voice for cancers of the digestive system, and providing vital information and education to improve and save the lives of all New Zealanders.

GCF's strategic aims include:

- Funding leading research and innovation
- Providing awareness and education
- Achieving equitable outcomes and access for all New Zealanders
- Building a sustainable organisation

Cancer Statistics

- From the most recent release of the NZ Ministry of Health Cancer Statistics (2019) 5,721 Aotearoa New Zealanders were diagnosed with a gastro-intestinal cancer. That's 15.5 people a day.
- In 2017, 2584 Aotearoa New Zealanders died from a gastro-intestinal cancer. That's 7 people a day. Over half of the people diagnosed with gastro-intestinal cancers will die within 5 years of diagnosis.
- 723 Aotearoa New Zealanders were diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2019
- Recent reports suggest the 5-year survival rates for pancreatic cancer patients in NZ is just 12%

Clinical Research Project in Pancreatic Cancer

There is a clear need for a better understanding of pancreatic cancers, how and why they develop, how they present and how they are best treated. Despite implementing optimal treatment for these cancers there is still an urgent need for new advances to improve the survival odds.

Publicly-funded health services are obliged to concentrate their scarce resources on doing the basics of getting known treatments to the right people, at the right time and to an appropriate level of quality. In cancer this can be mapped along the patient experience e.g. prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care.

To future-proof the health of the community however, health services need research that will generate new knowledge to ensure they provide not just best care today but better care for tomorrow.

GCF Research Priorities

GCF's current research priorities are focused on the following areas:

- Improving access for Aotearoa New Zealanders to clinical trials
- Supporting clinicians to combine their clinical work with research projects
- The development of a dedicated clinical research workforce for upper and lower GI cancers with a focus on increasing Māori participation
- Supporting research and trials that increases equitable outcomes and access for Māori and other underserved populations in Aotearoa New Zealand

GCF Strategic Plan

GCF's strategy overview can be seen below:

Gut Cancer Foundation Strategic Plan 2022/23



Our Vision			
We are committed to positive change and creating an everlasting impact for all New Zealanders affected by gut cancers.			
Our Mission			
We fund innovative research, are the voice of cancers of the digestive system, and provide vital information and education to improve and save the lives of all New Zealanders.			
Strategic Priorities			
Leading research and innovation	Raising awareness and providing education	Achieving equitable access and outcomes for all New Zealanders	Building a sustainable organisation
<p>We facilitate access to leading-edge clinical trials for New Zealanders.</p> <p>We fund innovative research into the causes and treatments of gut cancers to ensure New Zealanders have access to the best care possible.</p> <p>We fund research and support the brightest minds to accelerate research and contribute to global advancements.</p> <p>We collaborate with Australian and international research organisations to provide greater benefits to gut cancer patients in New Zealand.</p>	<p>We educate people on how to prevent gut cancers to reduce the numbers of people developing these diseases.</p> <p>We raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of gut cancers to ensure people get diagnosed earlier.</p> <p>We provide comprehensive information on these cancers to ensure patients and their families are best equipped to make decisions.</p> <p>We are the voice of people living with gut cancers and advocate on their behalf to ensure they have equitable access to treatment and care.</p>	<p>We are committed to improving outcomes for Māori, Pasifika and minorities affected by gut cancer.</p> <p>We upskill our board and staff on cultural safety and cultural capability.</p> <p>We are committed to uphold the principles and values of The Treaty of Waitangi to ensure our mission is one that delivers for all New Zealanders.</p> <p>We partner with expert and authentic organisations to ensure we engage with Māori and Pasifika communities in a meaningful and intentional way.</p>	<p>We work to increase our brand presence to become a well-known organisation for all New Zealanders.</p> <p>We strategically diversify and develop innovative new revenue streams and initiatives to safeguard our future.</p> <p>We foster a donor-centric culture with a focus on building long-term relationships.</p> <p>We look after and recognise the talent of our staff and continue to strengthen and diversify our board.</p>