All-Ireland NCI Cancer Consortium (AICC) Research & Innovation Grant Scheme 2024

Scheme Information Webinar

12th March 2024

15:30-16:30

Mr. Gavin Lawler, *Programme Manager*

Dr. Chiara Mizzoni, *Project Officer*

Research & Innovation Infrastructures Unit

HRB — Health Research Board

Research. Evidence. Action.

Agenda

Presentation

Contact Details
AICC Specific Qs

Questions &
Answers

Follow up on any
outstanding
questions

Slides + Recording
Available

AICC Background

- Launched **October 1999**
- Unified governments of **Ireland, Northern Ireland & United States** & enhanced diplomatic relations working together against cancer
- Aimed to **reduce cancer incidence & mortality across the island of Ireland** via **cross-border and trans-Atlantic collaborations** in cancer research & education
- Under previous MOU:
  - **333 trainees** from the island of Ireland participated in the NCI Summer Prevention Programme
  - **15 Fellows** from the island of Ireland progressed through the NCI Prevention Fellowship Programme
  - **9 Fellows** from the island of Ireland undertook the Cancer Health Economics Fellowship Programme

AICC MOU Renewed in 2021

New MOU signed **March 2021**:

- Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly TD
- Northern Ireland Minister for Health Robin Swann MLA
- Dr Norman E Sharpless MD

- Serves as an enabling framework, supporting cancer care and cancer research priorities, and offering more opportunities to develop North-South and All Ireland-US collaborations.

- Builds on previous successes and provides an excellent framework to support national coordination of cancer research which is one of the key research actions in the **National Cancer Strategy 2017-2025**.

AICC Current Structures

1. **Steering Group** representatives of the three signatory parties

2. **Implementation Group**
    (Chaired by Dr. Mairead O'Driscoll, CEO HRB & Professor Cherith Semple, University of Ulster)
    Representatives from health agencies include:
    - National Cancer Control Programme and equivalent in NI
    - National Cancer Registries (North and South)
    - HRB
    - NCI
    - HSC Public Health Agency (NI)
    - Research community (Cancer Trials Ireland, AICRI)

3. **Working Groups** in the **three cancer priority areas**

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AICC Working Group Priority Areas

1. **Cancer Care Delivery and Survivorship**

2. **Clinical Research and Trials**

3. **Genomic and Precision Medicine**

Invest in research that delivers value for health, the health system, society, and the economy

Research that makes a difference

HRB
Health Research Board

Strategy
2021–2025

AICC 2024
Grant Scheme Details

HRB Health Research Board

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AICC 2024

Aim:

- Support **innovative, dynamic, and collaborative** cancer research activities to benefit all-island cancer patients with a dedicated funding stream

Objectives:

- **Stimulate**, develop and improve all-island and trans-Atlantic cancer research **collaborations, networking, & engagement**

- **Prime cancer research** activity within the **3 AICC priority areas**

- **Support** high quality, innovative cancer research **pilots, mapping activities, projects and/or training initiatives**

- Engage the **all-island, multi-disciplinary cancer research community**

Eligibility

- Open to **Host Institutes** based in either jurisdiction (**Ireland/Northern Ireland**)

- All Lead Applicants required to have **cross border** collaborators as **co-applicants**

  > e.g. a Lead Applicant from Ireland requires a co-applicant from Northern Ireland and vice versa.

- Also required to have an **NCI collaborator**
  - *Applications focused solely on cross-border initiatives may apply without NCI collaboration with sufficient justification for their exclusion*

- Aligned to one or both jurisdictions' cancer strategies

- Aligned to HRB Strategy 2021-2025

Out of Scope

- Developing infrastructure for biobanking, databases or patient registers*
- Applications without a predominant research element
- Applications from individuals supported by alcohol or tobacco industry
- Infrastructure involving building work, fit-out of buildings, or purchase of major pieces of equipment
- Applications involving basic biomedical research
- Research intended to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer.
- Applications using cell lines, animals or their tissue that do not constitute pre-clinical research
- **Solely literature reviews, audits, questionnaires/surveys, or technology development (although these elements may be part of an integrated mapping activity, pilot or project/research study)**

Funding Available: 2 Tiers

Tier 1:Pilot Projects/Mapping Activities

Max. 24M Duration

Max. €100,000 Exclusive overheads

Tier 2 Projects/Training Initiatives

Max. 36M Duration

Max. €330,000 Exclusive overheads

Application Process-2 Stages

Stage 1 Expression of Interest

- March 1st - April 26th

- High level proposal via GEMS

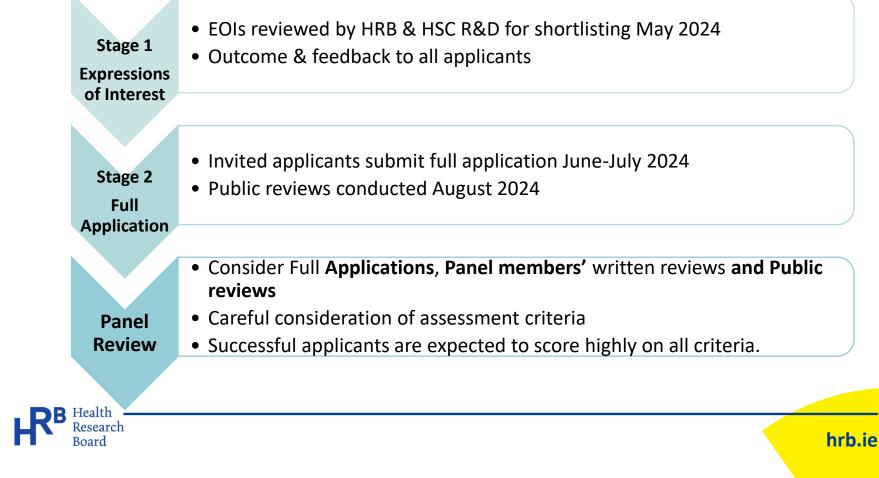- Shortlisting Panel in May

- Outcome & feedback

Stage 2 Full Application (Invite Only)

- June 04th - August 2nd

- Detailed Business Case Via GEMS

- International Panel Review September

- Followed by HRB Board Approval

Review Process

Stage 1
Expressions of Interest

- EOIs reviewed by HRB & HSC R&D for shortlisting May 2024
- Outcome & feedback to all applicants

Stage 2
Full Application

- Invited applicants submit full application June-July 2024
- Public reviews conducted August 2024

Panel Review

- Consider Full **Applications**, **Panel members'** written reviews **and Public reviews**
- Careful consideration of assessment criteria
- Successful applicants are expected to score highly on all criteria.

AICC Assessment Criteria

1) Added Value of Investment

- Proposed investment has **clear added value** above and beyond any research activities, collaboration or networking currently taking place

- HRB support **complements and leverages** other investments

- **Existing** cancer research **capabilities and collaborations** in Ireland **harnessed** to ensure impact for patients

AICC Assessment Criteria

2) Quality & Relevance of Proposed Award Activities

- Investment is **strategic and targeted** to boost all island and trans-Atlantic collaboration and partnerships in cancer research and innovation

- Spectrum of **activities/supports is appropriate** to increase cancer research in areas of need

- Coordinated approach to **engagement with the NCI** evident

- Proposed work, budget and resources are clear, **prioritised and phased appropriately**

AICC Assessment Criteria

3) Strength of Collaboration & Team

- Suitable applicant team, with complementary expertise and experience including **appropriate stakeholders** to maximise impact for patients

- **Roles and responsibilities** of proposed team are **clear**

- Proposed team **can deliver on objectives** of the award

- **Representation** from Ireland, Northern Ireland and NCI Contributors **as appropriate**

- Clear, **strong links** with relevant **HIs/Hospitals/research groups/patient organisations evident** in governance arrangements

- Accessibility and **suitability of facilities, infrastructure and other supports**, as appropriate

Application Requirements

- Applications should be made by a **Lead Applicant** on **behalf of a team** made up of **researchers, knowledge user(s) and PPI contributors**.

- Required to have **cross border collaborators as co-applicants**

- Applicants **required** to have an **NCI collaborator**

- Research proposals which are solely focused on strengthening and, or improving North-South cancer research and innovation collaborations may apply with sufficient justification of NCI exclusion.

Lead Applicant

- Hold a post (permanent or a contract that covers the duration of the award) in a HRB recognised Host Institution as an independent investigator.

  For clinicians, *an adjunct position in a HRB recognised Host Institution is acceptable*
  OR
- Be an individual who will be recognised by the Host Institution upon receipt of an award as an independent investigator who will have a dedicated office and research space for the duration of award, for which they will be fully responsible.

- Be able to demonstrate evidence of achievement as an independent investigator

- May apply for either or both tiers

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Applicant Team

Co-Applicants (maximum of 8):

- Researchers, Knowledge Users and PPI Contributors

- Well-defined, critical and substantial role in the conduct and steering of the proposed research

Collaborators (maximum of 10):
- Integral and discrete role in the proposed research
- Each collaborator must complete a Collaboration Agreement Form

Funded Personnel:
- The level, expertise and experience of the proposed research personnel must match the ambition and scale of the project

Timeline

Date	
01 March 2024	Call Opening Pre-Application Stage
26 April 2024 @13:00	Call Closing Pre-Application Stage
May 2024	Shortlisting Review Meeting
04 June 2024	Call Opening Full-Application Stage
02 Aug 2024 @13:00	Call Closing Full-Application Stage
Sept 2024	Panel Review Meeting
Sept 2024	Panel recommendations presented to HRB Board
Oct 2024	Contracting stage (subject to approval)
01 Nov 2024	Earliest start date

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Application Submission Process

Grant Electronic Management System (GEMS)

Create or Update your GEMS Profile

Welcome to Health Research Board grant application system, Dr Chiara Mizzoni.

Please ensure your 'Basic Information' and 'CV' are up-to-date, these can be edited within 'Manage my Details'.

For applicants, co-applicants and sponsors

Please maintain up-to-date information for your 'basic information' and 'curriculum vitae' within 'Manage my Details' as these will be included in your application.

New Grant Application

To apply for funding from the HRB click here.

Dr Chiara Mizzoni

Home
My Applications
My Co-applications
My Research Outputs
My Reviews
Manage My Details
Contact Us
Logout

Technical Guidance Note

- **Lead Applicant** creates application on GEMS: https://grants.hrb.ie
- Register (new applicants)/log in on GEMS
- Can then be jointly completed with named **Co-Applicants**.
- Add/edit CV details in *"Manage My Details"* and *"My Research Outputs"*:

hrb.ie

Select Remit

Grant Type	Funding Round	Closing Date	More Info	Apply
Evidence for Policy Evidence for Policy	EfP 2024	15 March 2024 13:00 GMT	More info	Apply
HRCI HRB Joint Funding Scheme 2024 Health Research Charities Ireland	HRCI-HRB JFS 2024	27 March 2024 13:00 GMT	More info	Apply
Applied Partnership Awards Rolling call with <u>two</u> separate closing dates: • Cycle 1 closes 10 April 2024 • Cycle 2 closes 18 December 2024	APA 2024	10 April 2024 13:00 BST	More info	Apply
All Ireland NCI Cancer Consortium 2024 All Ireland NCI Cancer Consortium	AICC 2024	26 April 2024 13:00 BST	More info	Apply

- After you click **apply for funding**, you will see a list of the grants currently open.

- Select and click on **Apply** beside AICC 2024.

HRB Health Research Board

Complete Eligibility Questions

HRB Grant E-Management Systems (GEMS)

Eligibility Questions

Previous | Next | Save | Save And Close

Eligibility Questions

Indicate Likely Eligibility

Eligibility

After answering all questions on this page, click on **Next** or **Indicate Likely Eligibility** in the left navigation menu to validate all mandatory questions have been answered.

I have read the Guidance Notes for the AICC 2024 call?

○ Yes ○ No

I am clear about the role of the authorised signatory in the nominated Host Institution, and I am aware that I need to build sufficient time into the application process for the HI to access, review and approve my final proposal for submission to the HRB through the GEMS system.

○ Yes ○ No

By submitting this application, I agree to (a) sharing of my data outside of the European Economic Area (EEA) for the purpose of international peer review, and (b) the use of my data for assessment of my application; monitoring of successful awards; and evaluation of HRB's approach to funding and investment in research, in line with HRB policies and as detailed in the AICC 2024 Call Guidance Notes.

○ Yes ○ No

I confirm I hold a post in a HRB recognised Host Institution in the island of Ireland as an independent investigator or (2) I am a clinician who holds an adjunct position in a HRB recognised Host Institution, or (3) I am an individual who will be recognised by the Host Institution upon receipt of an award as an independent investigator who will have a dedicated office and research space for the duration of award.

○ Yes ○ No

View & Navigate the Application Form

10757
Details...

0% complete

- ❌ Preface Definitions
- ❌ Introduction
- ❌ Host Institution Selection
- ❌ Signatory Notification
- ❌ 1. Proposal Details
- ❌ 2. Application upload section – Expression of Interest
- ❌ 3. Lead Applicant information
- ❌ 4. Co-Applicants
- ❌ 5. Collaborator Details
- ❌ Submission of Applications
- ❌ Supporting Documentation
- ❌ Validation Summary

Technical Guidance Notes
📄

AICC 2024 Guidance Notes
📄

Preface Definitions   Previous | Next | Save | Save And Close

Key to form symbols:

Previous	This button will take you to the previous available page and save all content on the current page
Next	This button will take you to the next available page and save all content on the current page
Save	This button will save all content within the form and allow further editing
Save And Close	This button will save all contents of the form and return to the previous area
🔴	This icon indicates that a question is mandatory
🌐	Clicking this icon will display help information related to this question
⬆️	Click and drag the green arrow to move items up and down in a list
✅	Page Read and Complete
⚠️	Page read however some actions remain
❌	Unread page

Previous | Next | Save | Save And Close

Identify HI & Notify Signatory

- **Identify a Host Institution** (from HRB approved list)

institutions. The Host Institution name on this list is the only one the GEMS system will recognise. Although there are other Irish institutions listed on GEMS, only the recognised host institutions listed on the PDF should be selected. If your Host Institution does not appear in this list, please contact the HRB at gemshelp@hrb.ie.

UCD|

University College Dublin (UCD)

- **Signatory Notification**

The signatory's details are pre-populated. Click *'Notify'*

Prior to submission, applications must be reviewed and approved by the HI. Leave sufficient time for this prior to the submission date. Be aware of any internal HI deadlines for review and approval, distinct from the HRB deadline.

Atypical Features of the AICC Application

- Section two of the application form is an **upload option** for an **EOI letter**

- Allows applicants collate and include the required information as you see fit

- The word limit of this entire section is **1500 words** (excluding references) you may also include figures and/or tables as appropriate
  - 2.1 Proposal Strategy
  - 2.2 Added Value
  - 2.4 Budget
  - 2.5 References

- **Must attach as a PDF**

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Research & Innovation Infrastructures Unit

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Questions?

Research Funding

Evidence Centre

People at the centre of what we do

Research Ethics & Consent Declaration

National Information Systems

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