

All-Ireland Cancer Consortium (AICC) Research & Innovation Grant Scheme 2026

‘Survivorship-Living Well With & Beyond Cancer’

24 March 2026

Mr. Gavin Lawler, *Programme Manager*

Dr. Aisling Rehill-Gilbert, *Project Officer*

Research. Evidence. Action.

Agenda



Presentation



Contact Details



Questions &
Answers



Follow Up



Slides + Recording
Available

Background

Background

- ***All Ireland Cancer Consortium*** launched October 1999
- Unified 3 governments (***Ireland, Northern Ireland & US***) 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
- **Cancer Consortium Working Groups** in the three cancer priority areas:
 1. *Cancer Care Delivery and Survivorship*
 2. *Clinical Research and Trials*
 3. *Genomic and Precision Medicine*

AICC 2024 Pilot Scheme

- Launched to commemorate *Cancer Consortium's 25th Anniversary*
- Invited applications *across the 3 WG research priority areas* and stimulated significant interest
- Funded *five high quality projects* at a cost of €1.4 million to the HRB
- *Highlighted the need* for a dedicated grant scheme *to fund cross-border, cancer research initiatives* and collaborations, advancing all-island cancer research

HRB Review of Cancer Research Investment

Published Dec 2024

Purpose:

- *Identify potential gaps* in current cancer research funding
- *Assist with prioritisation for future investments* via the National Cancer Research Group

Participants:

National funding agencies	Cancer research charities
Health Research Board (HRB)	Irish Cancer Society (ICS)
Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)	Breakthrough Cancer Research (BCR)
Irish Research Council (IRC)	OvaCare
Enterprise Ireland (EI)	Conor Foley Neuroblastoma Cancer Research Foundation (CFNCRF)



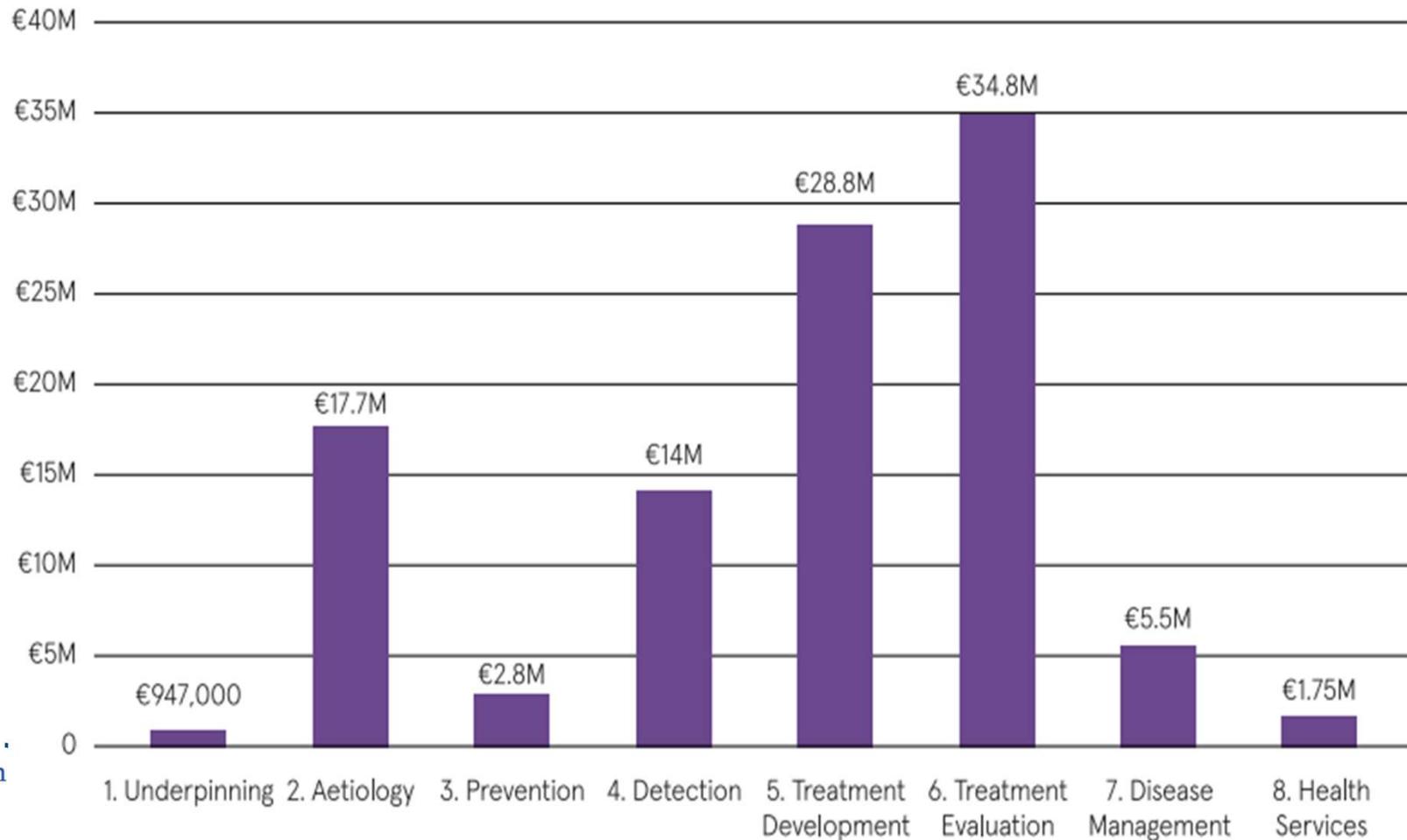
[Cancer Research Investment in Ireland \(2019-2022\) Publication](#)

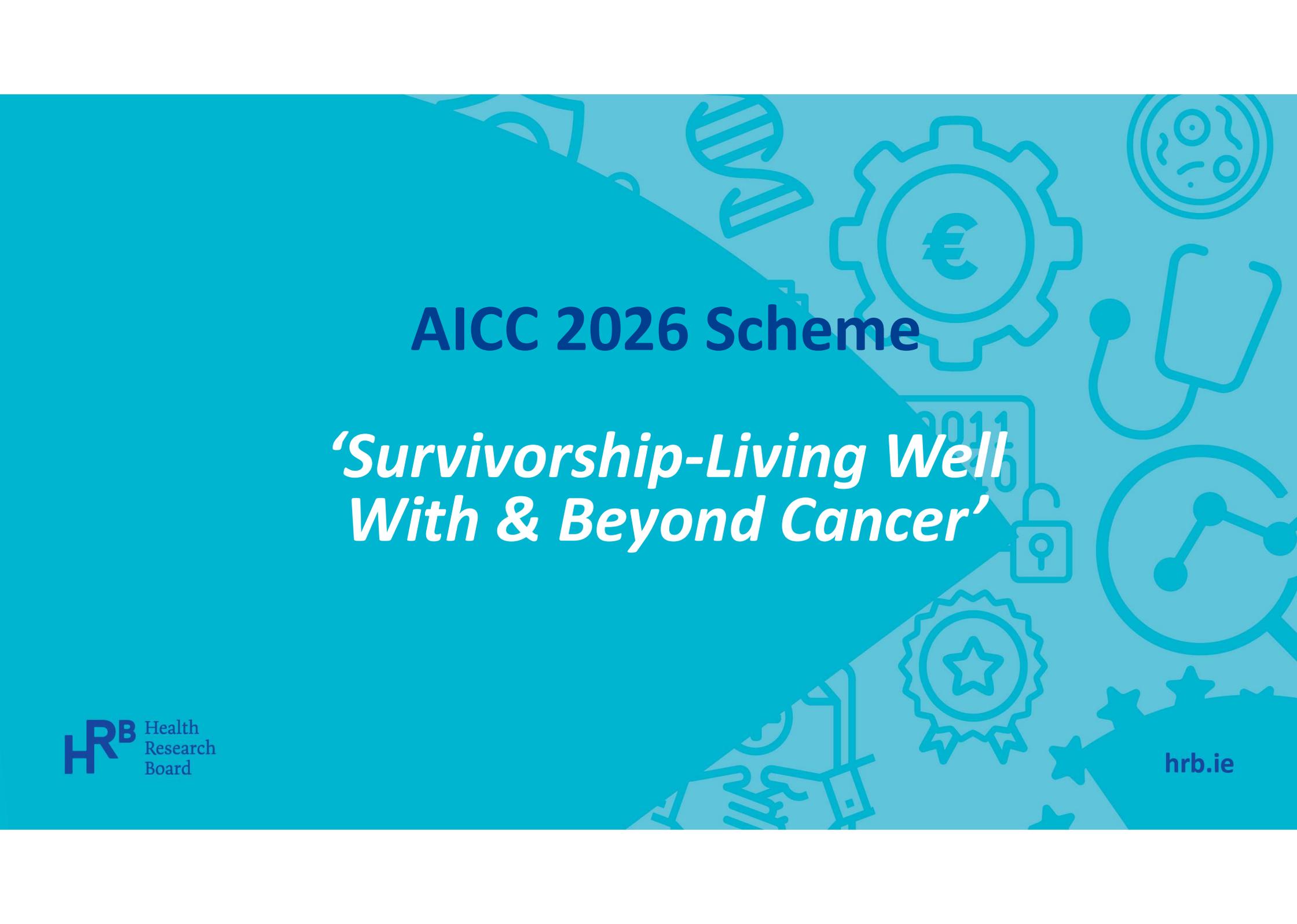


HRB Review Results

- **€106.5 million invested across 397 grants**
- **HRB made the highest funding commitments** (approx. €42 million across 51 grants or 39% of the total investment in the review period)
- **Science Foundation Ireland followed** (€26.7 million over 32 grants or 25% of total)
- **'Projects and programmes, health system partnerships'** (€43 million) funding instrument where most investment made followed by **'Infrastructure, platforms, and networks'** (€32 million); **'Capacity building and leadership enhancement'** (€23 million); and **'Interventional and commercialisation studies'** (€8 million)

Distribution of Cancer Research Investment by HRCS Research Activity 2019-2022





AICC 2026 Scheme

*‘Survivorship-Living Well
With & Beyond Cancer’*

AICC 2026

Aims to *support innovative, dynamic, and collaborative cancer research* focused on *survivorship to benefit people across the island of Ireland* to live well with and beyond a cancer diagnosis

Objectives:

- To *stimulate, engage, develop, and improve all-island*, multi-disciplinary *cancer research* collaborations, networking, and engagement
- *Prime cancer research activity* aligned to the Consortium's priority areas with specific focus for 2026 to support '**Survivorship-Living Well With & Beyond Cancer**'
- *Invest in high quality, innovative cancer research* pilots, mapping activities, projects and/or education/training initiatives (focused on cancer survivorship)

Eligibility

- Open to **HRB Host Institutes** across the island of Ireland
- All applicant teams are required to have **cross-border co-applicants**
 - e.g. a Lead Applicant from Ireland requires a co-applicant from Northern Ireland and vice versa
- **Not a requirement to have international collaborators**, however the HRB still strongly encourages and welcomes their inclusion
- Application must be aligned to one or both jurisdictions' **cancer strategies**
- Applicant teams should include **people living with and affected by cancer** (patients/family members/care givers/public), including providing input into the application to ensure the research proposed is as impactful as possible

Out of Scope



- Applications solely or predominately focused on **basic biomedical research** (including biomarker discovery), **cancer diagnosis or treatment drug discovery**-focus must be on survivorship
- **Developing the infrastructure for biobanking, databases or patient registers***. Infrastructure involving building work, fit-out of buildings, or purchase of major pieces of equipment.
- Applications from **individuals supported by alcohols or tobacco industry**



- 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
- **Applied research projects** to generate evidence for local/national health and social care needs/priorities, where the results are not generalisable or actionable beyond the local/national setting **HRB Applied Partnership Awards**



- Applications seeking to **evaluate a definitive intervention or a stand-alone feasibility study** for a definitive intervention **HRB Investigator Led Clinical Trials Scheme**
- This scheme is **not designed as a career training scheme** hence will not cover student fees

Funding Available: 2 Tiers

Tier 1: Pilot Projects/Mapping Activities



**Max. 24M
Duration**



**Max. €100,000
Exclusive
overheads**

Tier 2 Projects/Education/Training Initiatives focused on survivorship



**Max. 36M
Duration**



**Max. €330,000
Exclusive
overheads**



Application Process/Timeline

AICC2026 will have a one-stage, single application submission which will then undergo a two-phase review process

Stage	Key Dates
Call Opening	25 February 2026 @ 13:00
Closing Date	27 May 2026 @ 13:00
Peer Review Period	June – August 2026
Applicant Response	August 2026
Panel Review Meeting	October 2026
Panel Recommendations presented to HRB Board	November 2026
Contracting stage (subject to approval)	December 2026
Earliest Start Date	01 January 2027

2 Stage Review Process

S
T
A
G
E
2



- International academic experts in content area : Scientific review
- Public Reviewers: Quality of PPI

- Open to shortlisted applicants following peer review
- Response from the Lead Applicant to Reviewers' Comments (Peer & Public)

- Consider Applications, Reviews and Lead Applicant's Response
- Examine applications based on assessment criteria
- Successful applications expected to score highly on all criteria

S
T
A
G
E
1

AICC 2026 Assessment Criteria

➤ Quality Collaboration, Added Value of Investment & Impact

- Investment is ***strategic and targeted to boost all-island collaboration*** and partnerships ***in cancer survivorship research*** with ***clear added value*** above and beyond any research activities, collaboration or networking currently taking place
- Applicant Teams must exhibit ***complementary expertise and experience via considered, relevant representation from both jurisdictions*** with strong links to appropriate HIs/Hospitals/research groups/patient organisations evident
- Consideration of ***knowledge translation and implementation*** should be demonstrated to ***maximise impact for people living with and beyond cancer***

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, however can only submit a maximum of two applications to the scheme as Lead Applicant.

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

Application Submission Process

Grant Electronic Management System (GEMS)

GL1

Create/Update your GEMS Profile



Dr Aisling Rehill

Home

My Applications

My Research Outputs

Manage My Details

Contact Us

Logout

Technical Guidance Note:



Welcome to Health Research Board grant application system, Dr Aisling Rehill.

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

DATA RETENTION ANNOUNCEMENT.....

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](#).

- **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”**

Slide 20

GL1

Can this be matched to the layout of 2024 please

Gavin Lawler, 2026-02-23T13:00:53

AR1 Select AICC 2026

- After you click **apply for funding**, you will see a list of the grants currently open
- Select and click on **Apply** beside AICC 2026

All Ireland Cancer Consortium
All Ireland Cancer Consortium 2026

AICC 2026

27 May 2026 13:00 BST

[More info](#)

[Apply](#)

Slide 21

AR1

Update screenshot with new closing date once GEMS up and running again

Aisling Rehill, 2026-03-04T10:51:41.455

GL1

Complete Eligibility Questions

Eligibility Questions

[Previous](#) [Next](#) [Save](#) [Save And Close](#)

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 2026 call and reviewed the main changes applied the 2026 scheme?

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 application for submission to the HRB through the GEMS system.

Yes No •

I confirm I hold a post in a HRB recognised Host Institution on 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 a grant as an independent investigator who will have a dedicated office and research space for the duration of grant.

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 grants; and evaluation of HRB's approach to funding and investment in research, in line with HRB policies and as detailed in the AICC 2026 Call Guidance Notes.

Yes No •

Slide 22

GL1

Change to screen grab just the eligibility questions here and make them bigger thanks

Gavin Lawler, 2026-02-23T13:01:35.625

GL1

View & Navigate the Application Form

AICC 2026
4721

0% complete

- Preface Definitions**
- Introduction
- Host Institution Selection
- Signatory Notification
- 1. Lead Applicant information
- 2. Co-Applicants
- 3. Collaborator Details
- 4. Project Details
- 5. Project Description
- 6. Details of Research Team
- 7. Infrastructure and Support
- 8. Project Budget
- 9. Ethical Approval and Approvals for Use of Animals
- 10. Supporting Documentation
- Submission of Applications
- Validation Summary

[Technical Guidance Notes](#)
[AICC 2026 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

Slide 23

GL1

Please change to have the two sections be screengrabbed separately and put within the slide borders e.g. HRB logo visible on bottom

Gavin Lawler, 2026-02-23T13:04:14.689

Identify HI & Notify Signatory

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

Only the Host Institution for the award, which is the body in charge of the financial and ad submission of the application to the HRB.

Host Institution

Dublin City University (DCU)

- **Signatory Notification**

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

Notify Dean Of Research...

**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.*

Contact Details

Gavin Lawler

Programme Manager

glawler@hrb.ie

Aisling Rehill-Gilbert

Project Officer

arehill@hrb.ie



Research & Innovation Infrastructures Unit



Questions?