

**Irish Research Council Enterprise Partnership Scheme for Postgraduate Researchers and Postdoctoral Researchers**

**Expression of Interest**

The Irish Cancer Society is now participating in the Irish Research Council’s (IRC) Enterprise Partnership Scheme. The purpose of this award is to fund postgraduate researchers and early-career postdoctoral researchers to develop their knowledge and skills in cancer research.

Before completing this expression of interest (EOI) please see the below links for more information including funding amount, outline of key dates, award duration, and applicant eligibility for both categories:

* [Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Postgraduate Researcher)](https://research.ie/funding/eps-postgrad/)
* [Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Postdoctoral Researcher)](https://research.ie/funding/eps-postdoc/?f=)

The Society is unable to fund Master’s candidates and can only accept EOI applications for those hoping to pursue a PhD or postdoctoral research only.

**Irish Cancer Society as an Enterprise Partner**

**Research Theme**

All proposals must be aligned with the [Society’s Strategy (2020-2025)](https://www.cancer.ie/about-us/irish-cancer-society-strategy-2020-2025) and its [Research Roadmap](https://www.cancer.ie/about-us/news/irish-cancer-society-announces-new-research-roadmap). Proposed projects can be in any of the following areas: a) translational biomedical research, b) clinical trials, c) survivorship, or d) strategic priorities. These areas are described below in greater detail.

**a.** **Translational biomedical research** can be defined as ‘bench to bedside’ or patient-focused biomedical research, the aim of which is to translate existing knowledge about cancer biology into techniques and tools that will accelerate progress towards patient treatment. Research in this area will build upon basic biological discoveries and improves their translational potential through pre-clinical studies. Much of the outputs of translational research naturally merge into trials, the next area of focus.
Please note, applications in drug design, SAR (structure–activity relationship) analysis, drug screening or basic biomedical research will not be considered at this time.

**b.** **Clinical trials** are organised investigations in people to examine the benefits of new approaches to treatment and care. For example, looking to see if a new medicine can improve survival for a particular form of cancer. As well as funding these drug-based trials (so called IMP trials), the Irish Cancer Society is also interested in funding non-drug-based trials (non-IMP trials) in areas such as diagnostics, technology, radiotherapy, surgery, psycho-oncology, exercise, nutrition, and combinations of these.

**c.** **Survivorship** covers the period from diagnosis to treatment outcome (including palliative and end-of-life care). Survivorship research seeks to improve the care and outcomes experienced by people living with and beyond cancer. it includes: prevention and early detection of recurrent cancer; long term effects of cancer and its treatment; quality and experience of treatment and care; psycho-social effects of cancer and its treatment; self-management; health information and literacy; genetic risk and counselling; physical and practical needs e.g. financial, employment, mobility; etc.

**d.** **Strategic priorities** is a crosscutting theme, which seeks to specifically foster and grow research into areas of high unmet need in cancer. For example, cancers which have not benefited from the huge strides in outcome seen in some malignancies (metastatic disease, rare cancers and cancers with poor response or outcomes); the unmet needs of children, adolescents, and young adults affected by cancer; tackling misinformation and disinformation in cancer; addressing the needs of under-represented groups of people (e.g. Travelling community, ethnic and language minority communities, migrant communities, communities with socio-economic or mental health challenges, or any other socially excluded group).

**Patient and Stakeholder Involvement**

The Irish Cancer Society is dedicated to putting patients, families, survivors, supporters, and the public at the very heart of what we do. Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) in the research process ensures that research is meaningful and of benefit to those affected by cancer. PPI can be involved at any stage of a research project, from development and design to interpretation and dissemination.

In line with this commitment, we would strongly encourage applicants to include PPI in their research proposals.

**Application Assessment**

The Irish Cancer Society will review the EOI submissions internally. There are two main components in this application – 1) the personal statement and 2) the scientific abstract. The application will be assessed on the following criteria:

1. Alignment to the Irish Cancer Society strategy
2. Involvement of relevant stakeholders and inclusion of patients and people affected by cancer
3. Motivation of the applicant.
4. Scientific merit – how is this project scientifically sound, what past studies have been conducted and how this project evolved from those studies

Additionally, the abstract should focus on the importance of the research question while the personal statement should highlight why you are the most ideal candidate for this award.

Please note that the deadline for submitting the EOI to the Irish Cancer Society is **Wednesday 11th September**; the deadline for submitting your full application to the IRC is **Thursday 14th November at 16.00**, and the award start date is **1st September 2025**.

Should you have any questions please contact grants@irishcancer.ie with the subject line ‘IRC Enterprise Partnership Scheme’.

**Expression of Interest**

**APPLICANT DETAILS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full name: |  |
| Funding scheme:  |[ ]  Postgraduate |
|  |[ ]  Postdoctoral |
| Principal investigator or supervisor(s): |  |
| Host institution: |  |

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

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| Please describe what relevant experience you have, why you are the most suitable candidate for this award and what are your motivations for pursuing this award (max. 250 words).  |
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**PROJECT DETAILS**

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| Project title (max. 30 words) |
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**THEME/ STRATEGIC PRIORITY**

**The Irish Cancer Society uses the Research Roadmap to guide our research investment. Under this strategy, there are four themes with the greatest urgency. Please see** [**here**](https://www.cancer.ie/about-us/news/irish-cancer-society-announces-new-research-roadmap) **for more information. Please select which theme your project falls under (If applicable, you can select more than one theme):**

|  |
| --- |
|[ ]  Translational Research |
|[ ]  Clinical Trials |
|[ ]  Survivorship |
|[ ]  Strategic Projects |

**PPI Involvement**

**Does your research proposal include PPI?**

|  |
| --- |
|[ ]  Yes |
|[ ]  No |

**SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACT**

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| Please describe your research proposal as if you were writing to a scientific audience. This should include the background, rationale, methods and hypothesised outcomes and impact of your project (max. 300 words).  |
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