

Nordic Cancer Union

Call for applications on Strategic projects concerning research projects on Covid-19 and cancer in the Nordic region

The Nordic Cancer Union (NCU) consisting of the national cancer societies in the Nordic countries, invites research institutions to submit research proposals on Covid-19 and cancer.

Background

The situation with Covid-19 has dramatically challenged the health care system worldwide. For cancer patients, the situation has been especially worrying. Besides worrying about their disease, many have experienced changes in the treatment and healthcare service to handle Covid-19 pandemic. Many cancer patients are also worried about being exposed to the virus since cancer treatment can lower the immune system's ability to fight the virus infection.

Even if there are findings suggesting, that cancer patients are more likely to be both infected by the virus and also have a higher risk of complication if they get sick, cancer and Covid-19 are still a topic, where we need more knowledge both at the global and Nordic level.

One challenge regarding research on Covid-19 and cancer is that even if this is a pandemic, the number of cancer patients included in studies on Covid-19 are often so small, that it is challenging to present valid conclusions. It is especially a problem in smaller countries like the Nordic countries. However, studies conducted in the Nordic region with a total population of approx. 27 million, will produce meaningful and significant results.

The Nordic countries also have an advantage of keeping excellent and reliable population-based registries and cancer registries that can be leveraged to research on this pandemic and cancer, which would have been difficult to achieve in other countries.

Call for research proposals

NCU consisting of the national cancer societies in the Nordic countries would like to invite research institution to submit research proposals on Covid-19 and cancer. We are looking for projects that address the following questions (not a complete list):

- Incidence of Covid-19 among patients with cancer
- Mortality in cancer patients with Covid-19
- Severity and complication of Covid-19 in cancer patients
- Consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic on cancer care in general (e.g. cancer detection, diagnostics, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative cancer care)

Research proposals must include data from all Nordic countries, and there should be documented research collaboration between all participating countries.

The NCU scientific committee will review all project application, and the NCU board will make the final decision for funding.

Application content

A project description of no more than five pages with work plan, schedule and information on collaboration partners.

- The benefit of Nordic collaboration should be specified in the project description
- Budget information including information on other funds
- Brief CV of the applicants, as well as information on the position, addresses, phone numbers, and email for at least for the principal applicant

Project criteria

- Timeframe: 2 years
- Budget: Maximum 200.000 euro

Application deadline

Application deadline: 1. September 2020

Process

The NCU scientific committee will review all project application, and the final decision for funding will be made by the NCU board 10. December 2020.

Terms and conditions

Please read the guidelines for NCU Research Grant Application and Allocation before starting the application process:

<https://www.cancer.dk/dyn/resources/File/file/9/8729/1588746740/ncu-guidelines-2020.pdf>

How to apply and form

The application must be written in English using the Danish Cancer Society's electronic application and reporting system at www.cancer.dk/ansoegning - choose 'NCU - Strategic projects'.

The NCU funding shall only be used for the purpose stated in the application and as specified. If this requirement is not fulfilled, repayment can be requested.

Any change that deviates from the application or proposal must be approved by the NCU administration.

The project managers are obligated to mention the NCU's contribution to the project in all external communication related to the project.

Further information

Applicants are welcome to contact the NCU Research Secretariat for further information. Questions concerning the application form can be directed to Secretary Anne Mette Bak, email: amb@cancer.dk, tel.: +45 3525 7257.

Questions concerning the application process can be directed to NCU Coordinator Elizabeth Hjorth, email: eh@cancer.dk, phone: +45 3525 7252.