## **Bone Metastasis Collaboration Fund**

**Expression of Interest**

This year, PCR is joining forces with Breast Cancer Now (BCN) to establish the Bone Metastasis Collaboration Fund. An estimated 70% of women who die of breast cancer each year and an estimated 80% of men who die of prostate cancer each year have bone metastases. Given the high prevalence of both cancers, there is an urgent need to stop and reverse the spread of cancer to the bone, which the Bone Metastasis Collaboration Fund aims to address. By combining our resources and bringing experts together, we believe we can accelerate progress for both breast and prostate cancer patients.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Expression of Interest (EOI) is to obtain enough information on the proposed project to enable us to understand how well the proposal aligns with the grant call and the strategy. Applications that successfully make it through the EOI stage will be invited to the second stage which is to submit a Full Application. Please note, that the EOI stage is highly competitive, with less than 30% of EOIs in our most recent grant round being invited to Stage 2. Although this form is designed to be brief, we recommend that you put care and attention into it, and we strongly advise that you carefully read through our [Strategy](https://www.prostate-cancer-research.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/PCR-Strategy-Doc-USE-10.pdf) and [Breast Cancer Now](https://breastcancernow.org/about-us/who-we-are/our-strategy/) strategy before applying. Please stick to the word limits as we reserve the right to disqualify applications that significantly breach the word count.

Areas of research interest for this funding call

We invite proposals addressing any of the following criteria, or a combination thereof:

* Research investigating the fundamental mechanisms of bone metastasis which are cancer-agnostic
* Research focused on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care of bone metastasis. This may relate to breast cancer, prostate cancer, or both.
* Research that addresses issues relevant to both cancers will be of particular interest
* Research focused on breast cancer or prostate cancer
* Projects looking to combine approaches in models of both breast and prostate cancers
* New collaborations of teams working on breast and prostate cancer

What IS fundED

* Seed grants of up to £15k - To fund model development or an initial experiment or collaboration
* Pilot grants of £50 – 100k - To generate data to power a future application for a larger, longer-term award
* Project grants of up to £250k - These are for comprehensive research projects with the potential for significant impact on understanding or treating bone metastasis.

The funding can be used to cover directly incurred research costs such as salaries, consumables, travel, and equipment.

Eligibility

**Career stage**

* Lead applicants should hold a PhD (or equivalent higher research degree) and have a minimum of three years of independent research experience. Those with less than three years of experience may apply under the mentorship of a senior researcher.
* Lead applicants must hold employment or honorary contracts that extend beyond the period of the grant. For fixed-term positions, a letter from the head of the department must confirm that the applicant's salary will be covered for the project's duration.
* We encourage applications from early-career researchers and are committed to supporting young investigators in cancer research.
* Applicants may not apply for more than one grant in the same funding round as the lead applicant but may apply as co-applicants or collaborators on multiple applications.
* Applicants who have taken career breaks due to (e.g., maternity leave, long-term sick leave, COVID-19 pandemic) will have this taken into account during the review process.

**Institution**

The lead applicant must be based at a recognized university, research institution, hospital or NHS trust in the UK.

**Collaborations and Co-Applicants:**

* Co-applicants and collaborators can be based at institutions outside the UK and/or at pharmaceutical or biotech companies.
* National and international collaborations will be considered if the award can be administered through a UK-based lead host institution.
* We encourage proposals that involve community groups and patients as co-investigators or collaborators.

**Funding and Salary:**

* Salary costs for named post-doctorate researchers listed as co-applicants are allowed if they are not covered by other sources.
* We will consider applications for research within the NHS but will not act as a sponsor for clinical trials.

**The following will not be accepted:**

* Applications from commercial entities.
* Applications solely for equipment, consumables, or running costs. Requests for small pieces of equipment as part of the proposal must include a clear justification.
* Requests to cover the salary costs of tenured lead applicants and co-applicants.
* Applications for methods or service development.
* Applications from individuals who are not employed by an eligible institution.
* Projects part-funded with other funders (if in doubt please speak to us)

**Please tick to confirm this applies to you.** [ ]

Timeline and Key Dates

1. Expression of interest: **The deadline is 23:59 on October 282024.** All applicants will be notified of the outcome early. Applicants who are shortlisted will be invited to complete a full application.
2. Full application: **Deadline is February 16 2025**. Applications will then be sent out for international peer review, and review by patient panels. Applicants will have a right to reply to peer reviews and patient comments.
3. Awarded grants: Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the full application and funding decisions will be announced in **Summer 2025.**

If you are unsure about the eligibility of your proposal, or if you have queries about completing the EOI, please contact the Research Team at grants@pcr.org.uk.

***Please fill in the form below. If there are parts of the form that are not relevant to your project, or which you cannot yet complete, please submit the information you can, and we will discuss your proposal on that basis.*** ***Please complete the form in Arial font 10pt.***

Applicant Summary

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| --- | --- |
| **Project Title** |  |
| **Lead Applicant(s) Name:** |  |
| **Host Institution** |  |
| **Faculty and Department** |  |
| **Lead Applicant(s) Contact Details (host institution mailing address and telephone number):** |  |
| **Lead Applicant(s) email address** |  |

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| **Tick to confirm that you have discussed this project with your Head of Department**  |[ ]
| **Please attach a copy of your most recent CV (or, in the case of co-leads, each of your CVs). Tick the box to confirm.**  |[ ]

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| **1.1** | **Please list any additional applicant’s (e.g. additional co-investigators, collaborators, community groups) and their role and responsibilities within the project:** |
| **Name:** **Institution or Organisation (if applicable):** **Contact details (email address):** **Role and responsibilities in project:** |
| **1.2**  | **If there is anything that you would like us to consider when assessing your application, such as a gap in your CV or publishing history, or the impact of COVID-19, please use this space to tell us about it.** |
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Research Summary

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| **2.1** | **Scientific Abstract: Provide a short summary of your research project. [up to 200 words]** |
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| **2.2** | **Lay Summary: Provide a summary of your project suitable for the wider public, in clear, plain English, which avoids technical jargon [200 Words]** |
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| **2.3**  | **What is the proposed start and end date of your project? Please include timings of key milestones and events. [up to 200 words]** |
| **Proposed Start Date:** **Proposed End Date:** **Proposed Duration (in months):** **Key Milestones:**  |

Project Details

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| **3.1** | **Background [500 words]** |
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| **3.2** | **Aims of the proposed research [150 words]** |
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| **3.3** | **What is the key question or hypothesis that your research proposal will seek to explore? [up to 100 words]. You may include preliminary data here if you have it** |
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| **3.4** | **Specific aims and detailed proposal including study design and methodology; please include deliverables for each. [1000 words, add up to 20 references]**  |
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| **3.5** | **Contingency plans: Please state potential problems that may arise during this study and how they might be addressed [300 words].**  |
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Collaborations

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| **4.1** | **How do you envision collaborating with any of the current research projects funded by PCR or BCN (please see** [**PCR's research projects**](https://www.prostate-cancer-research.org.uk/our-research/) **and** [**BCN's research projects**](https://breastcancernow.org/our-research/research-centres-and-projects/individual-research-projects/?page=1&_gl=1*dbco6b*_up*MQ..&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIqqeg6LumiAMVrIBQBh1cVitVEAAYASAAEgL_WPD_BwE)**), other prostate cancer and breast cancer bone metastasis projects we will fund through this call, and the wider prostate and/or breast cancer communities if you are successful? [300 words]**  |
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Impact

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| **5.1**  | **What will be the potential impact of your proposed project? Please answer for both the short term and the long term, considering what might change, who will directly benefit, and who will indirectly benefit. [400 words]** |
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Project Finances

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| **6.1**  | **Please provide a brief, itemised budget breakdown of the funds requested. Include a justification for funds requested.** |
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Additional Information

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| **7.1**  | **Is there anything else you would like to tell us in support of your application? [up to 250 words]** |
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Peer Review

If you are invited to Stage 2, your application will be peer reviewed. Here you may suggest up to three referees and up to two exclusions (add additional boxes as required)

Suggestion

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| **Referee Name** |  |
| **Job Title** |  |
| **Institution** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Phone Number** |  |

Exclusion

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| --- | --- |
| **Referee Name** |  |
| **Job Title** |  |
| **Institution** |  |
| **Email** |  |

**Confirmation of Commitment**

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| **Lead Applicant(s) Name** |  |
| **Lead Applicant(s) Signature** |  |
| **Date** |  |

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| **Head of Department Name** |  |
| **Head of Department Signature** | *Or letter or email confirming agreement* |
| **Date** |  |

The application form must be received by email at grants@pcr.org.uk by **23:59 October 28 2024.**

We will email a receipt of acknowledgement for your application – if you do not hear from us within 4 working days of submitting your application, please email us at grants@pcr.org.uk to check if we have received it.