



2027

PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK

COLLABORATIVE CATALYST RESEARCH AWARD

Program Guidelines and Application Instructions

**PANCREATIC
CANCER
ACTION
NETWORK**

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PANCREATIC CANCER
HAS THE LOWEST
FIVE-YEAR RELATIVE
SURVIVAL RATE
OF ALL MAJOR CANCERS



ADVANCE RESEARCH.
SUPPORT PATIENTS.
CREATE HOPE.

I. GUIDELINES

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network's (PanCAN) competitive Grants Program supports promising, high-impact and meritorious research focused on pancreatic cancer. Our grantmaking strategy is driven by the urgent need to accelerate scientific and medical breakthroughs that improve outcomes for patients. Early career grants are designed to attract and retain talented investigators in the field of pancreatic cancer, and translational and clinical grants support research that is well positioned for next steps, with the potential to advance clinical practice and improve patient outcomes. Pancreatic cancer poses complex and formidable scientific and translational challenges. We therefore encourage research that leverages the integrated expertise of collaborative, multi-disciplinary teams. Highly integrated teams of investigators working toward a clear, ambitious goal can address the magnitude of the need in this field.

PanCAN invites applications for the **2027 Collaborative Catalyst Research Award**, an award designed to accelerate progress in pancreatic cancer through collaborative, multi-institutional team science. The award convenes leading investigators across disciplines to tackle the field's most challenging problems – problems that demand coordinated expertise and are unlikely to be addressed by any single laboratory or investigator alone. This award supports one unified application, not a collection of separate sub-projects. The proposed research team must include at least three Principal Investigators (PIs) from at least two different institutions. The team should be centrally aligned with PanCAN's mission, with a research focus that is ambitious, focused and clearly defined. The team's research objectives should be supported by complementary expertise across investigators, enabling a truly integrated approach. Applications must include well-defined goals that can be achieved within two years. Proposed work should be structured to produce clear progress toward the award's stated aims within the funding period. Teams must demonstrate shared management responsibility and a high level of integration across investigators and institutions.

The Collaborative Catalyst Research Award is part of PanCAN's All Together We Can Campaign: a \$250 million initiative focused on breakthrough progress achieved through collaboration, shared infrastructure and coordinated translational impact.

Awardees receive not only research funding, but also join PanCAN's Community for Progress – a growing, robust and collaborative research community committed to changing the course of history for pancreatic cancer.



AWARD MECHANISM

Grant Type: Collaborative Catalyst Research Award – intended to:

- Build or strengthen cross-institution collaborations and networks
- Enable shared workflows/infrastructure
- Support coordinated translational research activities
- Establish enduring partnerships that can progress toward future translational milestones

Award Duration

- Anticipated start date: May 1, 2027 (flexible)
- Anticipated end date: April 30, 2029
- Duration: up to 24 months (flexible within the award period)

Number of Awards and Total Funding

The Collaborative Catalyst Research Award is intended to support a multi-institutional project for a total of up to \$900,000. Each sub-project can be awarded up to \$300,000, with PIs representing at least two different institutions. Awards include a maximum of 10% indirect costs.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Full Application Deadline: November 9, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET
- Award Notification: Mid-February 2027
- Anticipated Award Start: May 1, 2027 (flexible)
- Grant recipients are expected to attend the PanCAN Scientific Summit in 2027, 2028 and 2029. The meeting location and dates are to be determined.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must have a doctoral degree (including PhD, MD, DO, DC, ND, DDS, DVM, ScD, DNS, PharmD or equivalent) in the biomedical sciences or in a field applicable to health science research and not currently be a candidate for a further doctoral degree.
- Teams must select a contact principal investigator (contact PI) who will lead the submission of the collaborative proposal. The contact PI must be an independent investigator affiliated with an accredited academic, medical or research institution in the United States.
- The collaborating PIs can be affiliated with any academic, medical or research institution, including international institutions. The co-PIs must have a doctoral degree.
- Industry co-applicants are not eligible to be a PI or to receive funds from the grant but are encouraged to participate as a collaborator.
- Employees or subcontractors of a government entity are not eligible to be a PI or to receive funds from the grant but can be included as a collaborator or project investigator.
- Applications must propose a collaborative, multi-institutional research program.
- Applicants must clearly delineate roles and contributions of each participating organization and articulate how collaboration is required to achieve the milestone.

RESEARCH PROJECT CRITERIA

The research project must address a problem of importance to patients with pancreatic cancer. Proposals must align with one or more of the focus areas below and explain why collaboration is necessary to accomplish the objectives:

- New therapeutic targets and approaches
- Early detection research
- Supportive care, quality of life and survivorship research
- Biomarkers to predict therapeutic response and guide management strategies

Applicants must emphasize:

- Network formation
- Shared infrastructure/workflows
- Coordinated translational activities
- Milestone-driven progress
- Team integration mechanisms (communication, data sharing, governance)

The proposed project must:

- Demonstrate a clear need for cross-organizational collaboration
- Define partner contributions and responsibilities
- Align with one or more focus areas above
- Be structured around measurable milestones that drive translation

Funding Guidance

Eligible Costs (General)

Costs typically supported under the Collaborative Catalyst Research Award may include:

- Research personnel effort (as allowable under institutional policy)
- Research supplies and services
- Data generation and analysis costs
- Reasonable costs associated with collaboration coordination and integration
- Shared infrastructure/workflow development
- Maximum 10% indirect institutional costs

(Final allowability will be determined consistent with PanCAN and institutional policies.)

Budget Expectations

Budgets should be aligned to the milestone plan and collaboration structure. Applicants should justify resources in terms of enabling cross-team outcomes.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

The Collaborative Catalyst Research Award will be awarded using a competitive, rigorous peer-review process. Applications will be evaluated by a Scientific Review Committee appointed by PanCAN's Research Grants Department. The Committee is composed of scientists that are respected for their accomplishments in pancreatic cancer research and viewed as leaders in the field. Patient Research Advocates (PRAs) are also invited to join the Scientific Review Committee to represent the patient perspective. PanCAN will perform administrative and eligibility screening before scientific review.

The Committee will consider the following criteria when reviewing applications:

A. Scientific and Translational Merit

- Strength of the scientific rationale
- Alignment with focus areas
- Translational relevance and feasibility

B. Collaboration Quality and Team Science

- Strength of multi-institutional collaboration rationale
- Clarity and necessity of partner contributions
- Quality of integration plan (not parallel work)

C. Milestone-Driven Approach and Feasibility

- Clarity and measurability of milestones
- Appropriateness of timeline and resources
- Decision points and contingency planning

D. Impact on the Field

- Dissemination readiness (methods, tools, datasets where appropriate)
- Potential to produce shared infrastructure/tools/workflows
- Likelihood of durable collaboration outcomes

II. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, November 9, 2026, using the ProposalCentral website at <https://proposalcentral.com>.

In order to submit an application, applicants need to enter information directly into the online submission platform as well as upload a number of documents. The following instructions provide details about information that needs to be entered and the materials that need to be uploaded. The numbering in the table below corresponds to the sections found on the left side of the ProposalCentral application webpage and to the sections that follow in the Application Instructions.

Teams must select a contact principal investigator (contact PI) who will lead the submission of the collaborative proposal. The contact PI must be an independent investigator affiliated with an accredited academic, medical or research institution in the United States.

GETTING STARTED IN PROPOSALCENTRAL

If you are a new user of ProposalCentral, follow the "REGISTER" link and complete the registration process. After you click the "Create an Account Now" button, complete your Professional Profile (fourth tab from the left) before starting an application.

If you are already registered with ProposalCentral, access the site and log in with your Username and Password. If you have forgotten your password, click on the "Forgot Your Username/Password?" link. Supply your User ID or email address in the space provided; your password will be sent to you by email.

To start an application, select the "Grant Opportunities" tab (gray tab furthest to the right). A list of applications will be displayed. Find the **Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Collaborative Catalyst Research Award** and click the "Apply Now" link (second-to-last column) to create your application.

Complete all fields in the application and all templates that are provided. Upload all requested documents in portable document format (PDF). For more information, see the ProposalCentral FAQ section under the "Help" link at the top right of the page.

*Important note: To ensure your PDF files upload in their entirety, please avoid: replacing files multiple times, using files that were once password-protected or encrypted and combining multiple scanned documents or files into one PDF. Review your full application before submitting to check that all pages of your PDF files are displaying properly.



If you have difficulty registering, logging in or creating your application, contact ProposalCentral Customer Support. Phone: (800) 875-2562 or (703) 964-5840; Email: pcsupport@altum.com.

COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

The following information is required to submit a complete application. Numbers correspond to the application sections found on the left side of the ProposalCentral application webpage.

1. **Title Page.** Enter the title of the proposed research project directly into the ProposalCentral system. The title is limited to 75 characters in length (including spaces). Do not use abbreviations. A project title must be entered and saved before additional sections may be accessed. Also complete the other required (*) items on this page.
2. **Download Template and Instructions.** The Guidelines and Application Instructions document, the Project Proposal template and the Project Milestones and Timeline template should be downloaded from this page. Click the "Download" icon to save each of the templates to your computer. See instructions below on how to complete the templates.
3. **Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal.** Enable other users (co-PIs and support roles at collaborating institutions) to access this proposal.
4. **Contact PI (Applicant) Information.** Enter information for the contact PI directly into the ProposalCentral system. The contact PI is required to update their Professional Profile, including Contact Information, Other Support* and Publications. *The "Other Support" information, including secured and pending support, should be imported into section 10, "Secured and Pending Support from contact PI and collaborating PIs" (see below).
5. **Institution and Contacts.** Enter information for the contact PI's institution, post-award contact person and the designated signing official directly into the ProposalCentral system.



6. **Project Team.** Enter information for co-PIs and each member of the Project Team at participating institutions and collaborating organizations.
7. **Scientific Abstract.** Enter the abstract directly into the ProposalCentral system. The abstract should be limited to 3,000 characters (including spaces) and must be concise and comprehensive. Describe the collaboration rationale, the foundational research to justify the proposal, top objectives, specific aims, study design, the practical application that is planned, expected accomplishments by the conclusion of the grant term and how results will contribute to the goal of improving patient outcomes.

From the list provided, select the primary and, if applicable, secondary Common Scientific Outline code that best describes the proposed project. For additional details about these research categories, see <https://www.icrpartnership.org/CSO>.

NOTE: The ProposalCentral system does not lock the scientific abstract field after 3,000 characters have been entered. To ensure that your abstract does not exceed the character limit, click the red "Save" button at the top or bottom of the screen before proceeding to the next section. If the scientific abstract is too long, you will receive an error message at the top of the page.

8. **Budget.** The Collaborative Catalyst Research Award provides up to \$300,000 over two years to the contact PI and collaborating PIs for a total award amount up to \$900,000. The Budget should be presented for each year of the grant term ("period"). Align budget items with the milestone plan and collaboration activities. For each period, please complete:
 - **Personnel Costs:** Complete Name, Role, Percent Effort, Base Salary, Requested Salary and Requested Fringe. In "Other Role," precisely describe the role the person has on the project.

No grant funds may be directed toward salary or benefits of any individuals from a U.S. government or for-profit entity, nor for any research expenses related to the project that are incurred by these individuals.

 - **Non-personnel Costs:** Complete Materials and Supplies, Equipment, Travel, Publication and Other Expenses Costs. For each category, choose a line item category from the dropdown menu.

Professional membership dues, pre-award charges and any other research-related expenses not directly related to this project are not allowable expenses.

- **Indirect Costs:** A maximum of 10% of the grant may be used for this purpose. Indirect costs should be part of the total grant amount. No additional funds will be granted for indirect costs.

Any general office supplies or individual institutional administrative charges (e.g., telephone, other electronic communication, utilities, IT network, etc.) are considered to be part of indirect and are not allowable budget line items.

9. **Budget Summary.** This page contains a summary of the proposed Budget completed in section 8. **At the bottom of the page, provide a budget narrative** in under 5,000 characters that justifies the application budget detailed in section 8. Include subheads for Personnel, Materials and Supplies, Equipment, Travel, Publication and Other Expenses costs.
10. **Secured and Pending Support from contact PI and collaborating PIs.** Please add all your existing (active) and pending support. For each entry, select if there is overlap with this application and, if so, provide a description of the overlap. To add Support entries, please follow the instructions on the page to choose entries from your Professional Profile. If you do not already have Other Support entered in your profile, click the "Edit Professional Profile" button to open your profile and follow the instructions to add entries to this page. **Please clearly indicate the applicant's role (e.g., PI, co-PI, co-I, collaborator, etc.) so the eligibility status can be determined.**
11. **Organizational Assurances.** Select the appropriate assurances options for your proposed research and complete the Approved or Pending Date field. If a grant is awarded, you will be required to submit the regulatory and compliance documents to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.
12. **Application Documents.** Upload all required documents. For instructions and details on the required documents, see "Completing the Application Documents" below.
 - Project Proposal (please see template for page limits)
 - Project Milestones and Timeline
 - Biographical Sketch for contact PI and collaborating PIs
 - Letter of Institutional Support (from each participating institution)

To upload the documents, all documents must be converted to PDF files. To ensure your PDF files upload in their entirety, please avoid replacing files multiple times, using files that were once password protected or encrypted and combining multiple scanned documents or files into one PDF. Follow the instructions on the page to upload the documents. In the section for attachments, all the required attachments are listed in the middle of the screen.

This list helps you track completion and uploading of your required attachments. Click the "Attach Files" button to upload your documents. Once you upload a required attachment, that attachment type will be removed from the required list and will be displayed in the "Current list of uploaded attachments." If you wish to modify the attached file, make the revisions to your original file on your computer (offline), convert the file to PDF and use the same process above to attach the newly revised file. Delete any previously submitted versions of the file before submitting your application.

13. **Contact PI Data Sheet.** This is an automatically populated data sheet based on the contact PI's ProposalCentral profile. Information for gender, race and ethnicity must be provided. The Scientific Review Committee does not receive this information.
14. **Validate.** Validate the application on ProposalCentral. This is an essential step. "Validate" checks for required data and required attachments. You will not be able to submit the application if all the required data and attachments have not been provided.

- 15. E-Signature Pages and Application Download.** After completing all appropriate sections for your application, the applicant (contact PI) and the signing official from the contact PI's institution must log in, using their own credentials, and e-sign the application prior to submission. The application will not validate and cannot be submitted without all required signatures. If you wish to view the application in its entirety (recommended), select the "Download Signature Pages with Attachments" option. Before downloading, please use the "Validate" option (in the navigation menu to the left) to verify that you have entered all the required information.
- 16. Submit.** After successfully passing the validate check and printing your documents, click the "Submit" link. An email will be sent to you confirming your submission. Once your application is submitted, you may view it by accessing the "Submitted" link under the "Proposals" tab. The status column will show "Submitted" and the date submitted. You may need to refresh your browser screen after submitting the application to see the updated status.

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

- **Project Proposal.** Complete on the template available from section 2 on the ProposalCentral application website. Formatting restrictions and detailed instructions for completing the Project Proposal template are indicated in the template. The template indicates page limitations for each section.
- **Project Milestones and Timeline.** Complete on the template available from section 2 on the ProposalCentral application website. The Project Milestones and Timeline template is meant to list the various milestones and deliverables necessary to complete the research aims and the estimated time it will take to complete each. Detailed instructions are indicated in the template.
- **Biographical Sketch for contact PI and collaborating PIs.** The biographical sketch must be in English. The NIH Biographical Sketch Form (OMB No. 3145-0279) is acceptable. The contact PI and collaborating PIs must adhere to the NIH biographical sketch requirements.
- **Letter of Institutional Support (from each participating institution).** The letter must be written on letterhead by the department head, dean or other senior member of the institution and should be addressed to the Scientific Review Committee. The letter should confirm the applicant's independence status (i.e., whether the applicant is authorized to conduct independently funded research). It should explain the relationship of the applicant with the institution, the nature and extent of support for the proposed research that is available from the institution, including independent laboratory space, financial support and other resources and confirm that the proposed project will not present a conflict of interest with the PI's other responsibilities and commitments. It is imperative this letter confirm partner participation, describe the role and commitment of the PI to the collaboration plan and enable shared workflows/data outputs as applicable.

CHANGING YOUR APPLICATION

Withdrawal of application. Please advise PanCAN promptly, in writing, should you decide to withdraw your application. Your email (or letter) should include your name, the title of the proposal and the reason for withdrawal.

Change of address. Notify PanCAN in writing of any changes of address, email or phone number, following the submission of an application. Include your name and the application number.

Change of institution or position. If you change your institution or professional position, contact PanCAN to determine whether your application is still eligible for funding consideration.

INQUIRIES

Inquiries or technical issues regarding ProposalCentral and the online application process should be directed to customer support at (703) 964-5840 or toll-free at (800) 875-2562 or by email at pcsupport@altum.com.

Inquiries about the 2027 Collaborative Catalyst Research Award guidelines and application materials should be directed to grants@pancan.org. Contact person: Kris Bauer, Senior Manager, Program Operations, Scientific & Medical Affairs.



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THE PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK

is the leading organization dedicated to advancing progress against pancreatic cancer. We unite the pancreatic cancer community and push every boundary to create a world where survival is the expectation – not the exception.