

Junior Research Grant Criteria

Timeline:

October 31, 2025 at 11:59pm - Submission of Proposal (jessica@craigscause.ca)
November 21, 2025 - November 23, 2025 Conference

Award Amount:

\$7,500

Total of Awards:

Two

Background

Pancreatic cancer is a multifaceted disease that demands treatment and management from a variety of sectors in the healthcare field, with additional strong networks between healthcare providers and foundational researchers. Many of the unique challenges associated with pancreatic cancer precipitate from late-stage diagnosis, molecular and cellular heterogeneity, and several morbidities that largely derive from malnutrition. As reviewed by Grossberg in 2020, a multimodal approach that integrates improved screening, targeted/precision medicine approaches to treatment (including in the palliative setting), and holistic management of symptoms has proven to increase metastasis-free survival and quality of life[1].

Advancements in treatment options for pancreatic cancer have not kept pace with those for other cancers[2], but efforts continue to adapt, develop and combine approaches to effect change in the difficult-to-treat cancer. Craig's Cause Pancreatic Cancer Society is committed to these efforts by supporting pancreatic cancer research across disciplines. We are thrilled to continue this support at The National Pancreas Conference through several research awards, at various levels.

We encourage not only multi-disciplinary approaches and teams but also multi-disciplinary approaches that combine talent from more than one province!

Each award is in memory of an individual who passed away from pancreatic cancer, but left a significant legacy, supporting pancreatic cancer research. It is from their passing that others will benefit.

Program Description

Craig's Cause Pancreatic Cancer Society is committed to equity, diversity and inclusivity which strives towards excellence. We welcome all eligible applicants of diverse backgrounds to apply for our funding opportunities.

The intent of Craig's Cause Pancreatic Cancer Society's Junior Researcher Grant is to create opportunities that encourage collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches in the field of pancreatic cancer research.

Applicants are encouraged to look at projects that will increase survival rates and improve quality of life. They must be PGY 3-7 Residents, Fellows and Post-Doctoral Fellows currently pursuing Master's or PhD degrees in a program of study related to patient diagnosis, treatment and management may apply for this Junior Researcher Grant.

Junior Researchers must be a resident or registered in a full-time, thesis-based, graduate program in a health-related discipline leading to a Master's or Doctoral degree at the time of application

Funding

The Junior Research Grant has a value of \$7,500.00. Disbursement will take place on December 31, 2025.

Successful applicants must implement this award on January 31, 2026. Funding is non-transferrable.

Successful applicants are required to submit a progress report prior to completion of the first 12 months of funding in order to be considered for a renewal grant.

Grants will be considered for renewal if:

- Adequate research progress has been made.
- The Successful applicant has remained compliant with the terms and conditions
- Progress report has been submitted, prior to 12 month deadline

All awardees are required to acknowledge the support received through this program, specifically naming the award, on email communications. This acknowledgement may follow the awardees name and degree candidacy. Additionally, all published work is to acknowledge the support received. Wording will be provided.

Participant Eligibility

PGY 3-7 Residents, Fellows and Post-Doctoral Fellows are strongly encouraged to review the eligibility criteria below:

- All Junior Researchers are required to complete their research under the Supervisor who sponsors their application.
- Supervisors must be academic members for not less than one year prior to application, except new recruits with an academic appointment of less than one year at the time of application deadline.
- A supervisor must have a record of productive research, in the field of pancreatic cancer:
 - basic research
 - translational research
 - clinical (diagnosis, treatment and management)
- The supervisor must provide direct oversight of the project and milestones.
- Junior Researchers must be physically attending a recognized university.
- Grant money is intended to directly support research.

Criteria - Junior Research Grants

Researchers are encouraged to consider:

- Reaching outside of their regular study, bringing together different expertise, perspectives and resources.
- Collaborating with more than just one healthcare discipline (basic, translational, clinicians, nurses, pharmacists, nutritionists, surgeons, radiologists, medical oncologists, geneticists, etc.).
- Including patients/caregivers with lived experience of the cancers under study.
- Not just of extending life but also improving the quality of life for individuals living with these challenging cancers, including symptom control, psychosocial, disparities in healthcare, and supportive care, as well as palliative and end-of life care.

Additional Criteria

- Must be specifically focused on pancreas cancer.
- Proposed research may be foundational, translational, clinical.
- Proposals will be assessed based on novelty and practical impact.
- Fall within at least one of the categories (Biology; Etiology; Prevention; Early Detection, Diagnosis, and Prognosis; Treatment; Management; Palliative, Hospice, End of Life; Quality of Life; or Cancer Control, Survivorship, and Outcomes Research).
- Overlap with existing sources of funding should be clearly identified in the proposal.

Application Instructions

- Title Page
- Abstract (word count of 3000 characters / one page)
- Contact PI information
- Institution and contacts
- Budget
- Budget summary and justification (5000 characters / 3 pages)
- Methodologies (3 pages)
- Project Proposal (6 page limit)
- Project Milestones and timelines (2 pages)
- Biographical sketch of applicant/resume
- PI biographical sketch
- Letters of support

References

Doleh, Y., Lal, L. S., Blauer-Petersen, C., Antico, G. & Pishvaian, M.

Treatment patterns and outcomes in pancreatic cancer: Retrospective claims analysis. *Cancer Med.* 9, 3463–3476 (2020).

Grossberg, A. et al. Multidisciplinary standards of care and recent progress in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 70, 375-403 (2020).