

Appendix A

QIAGEN/ImmuneWatch **TCR Sequencing and Epitope Discovery Research Grant** **Official Rules**

The contest is sponsored by QIAGEN Science LLC, 19300 Germantown Rd, Germantown, MD 20874 and ImmuneWatch BV, Lange Gasthuisstraat 29-31 2000 Antwerp, Belgium (individually, “Sponsor” and collectively, “Sponsors”).

1. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Sponsors will provide the QIAGEN/ImmuneWatch TCR sequencing and epitope discovery research grant (the “Research grant”) only to the organization of the winning applicant. The person submitting the application (the “Applicant”) is therefore entering on behalf of their organization, which will be the recipient of the Research Grant (the “Grant Recipient”). By submitting an application for a Research Grant, the Applicant certifies that they have obtained any permissions required from the Grant Recipient to submit the application on its behalf and is not violating any policies of the Grant Recipient in doing so.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- a. All applicants must hold an advanced degree (Master’s, PhD, M.D. or equivalent) and be an employee of a university, non-profit institution or company or currently be enrolled in a graduate student (master’s or Ph.D.) program. All applications must be primarily responsible for the research described.
- b. Employees and immediate family members of either Sponsor are not eligible to participate in the research grant. Individuals or entities classified as healthcare professionals or healthcare organizations under any applicable laws or industry codes of ethics may not participate in this program.
- c. The QIAGEN/ImmuneWatch TCR sequencing and epitope discovery grant is available to researchers in USA, Canada, UK, Ireland, Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, regardless of age, gender, country of origin, background, or religion. For clarity, no samples submitted from Russia, Iran,

Iraq, North Korea, or China will be accepted. The research described in the submission must fall within the following life science research areas: cancer research, autoimmunity research or immunology research.

- d. The Sponsors reserve the right to exclude applicants at any time and without notice who tampered with the contest, the selection process, or otherwise act in opposition to these terms and conditions. In case of a dispute regarding the identity of the person submitting an online entry, the entry will be deemed submitted by the person in whose name the email account is registered. If a certain name is suggested by more than one person, the entry will be credited to the first person to submit the suggestion based on the date the suggestion was registered.
- e. All taxes, including, without limitation, federal, state, and local taxes on or in connection with the prize, are the sole responsibility of winning entry. The sponsor reserves the right to substitute any prize of equal or greater value in its sole discretion. No cash prize alternative will be awarded, and the prize is not transferable. The sponsor reserves the right to cancel, suspend, and modify the contest at its sole discretion. By participating in the contest, entrants agree to release and hold harmless the sponsor from and against any claim or cause of action arising out of participation in the contest, including any errors in the administration of the promotion, printing errors, and technical errors. The winner and his or her entry further agree to release and hold harmless the sponsor from any claims arising out of the receipt or use of any prize awarded and consent to the disclosure of the name of the winning entry.
- f. Applicants must be able to ship RNA samples extracted with QIAGEN RNA extraction kits to Hilden Germany, or Frederick MD, USA at their expense. RNA samples must meet sample quality and quantity criteria.
- g. Return of any award notification as undeliverable will result in forfeiture of the award. Legal recourse is excluded. The Sponsors its officers, directors, affiliates, subsidiaries, agencies, agents, and representatives and their respective employees are not responsible and shall not be liable for: (a) electronic, hardware, or software program, network, internet, or computer malfunctions, failures, or difficulties of any kind, including, without limitation, server malfunctions or any error (human or otherwise) that may occur in the processing of applications; or (b) any condition caused by events beyond the control of the Sponsors that may cause the application and award process to be disrupted or corrupted. Any attempt by an entrant to deliberately damage any website or undermine the legitimate operation of the award program may be a violation of criminal and civil laws. Should such an attempt be made, the Sponsors reserve the right to seek damages from such person to the extent permitted by law.

3.SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- a. To enter the contest, complete the application form <https://www.immunewatch.com/grant> by October 30, 2026. Only one entry per applicant will be considered. Submissions must be in English language. Submissions are only accepted via the online form. Four winners will be determined by a judging process outlined in the Evaluation Process section.
- b. Submissions must relate to research-use-only applications. Submissions related to diagnostic use will not be accepted. Incomplete submissions or those that do not meet the requirements will be rejected.
- c. By participating in the grant program, all applicants consent to the use of their photos, names, and research details by the Sponsors for winner announcements and other communications related to the grant program, including but not limited to the Sponsors individual websites, social media channels, and online events. The consent is voluntary but necessary for processing the application and entering the grant program.
- d. If applicable, applicants are responsible for submitting samples to the applicable Institutional Review Board (“IRB”) for review and obtaining approval to conduct the Research Grant, or for IRB exemption. Applicants, upon request by either or both Sponsors will provide these approvals and consent documents.

4.EVALUATION PROCESS

- a. The applications will be evaluated by the Sponsors employees from Marketing and R&D who have no conflicts of interest with any participants. Our panel of experts in the fields of cancer research, autoimmunity research and immunology research will review and select the four finalists. All applications will be judged by two experts from our panel using a scoring system with the maximum possible score of 100 points. The score from each expert will be used to determine the average score which will be the final score. Entries will be graded based on:
 - Well-defined and clearly stated background, hypothesis, methods, and aim of the research proposal (50 points)
 - Originality and innovation of the proposal (25 points)
 - Likelihood of successfully conducting the proposed research within 6 months (25 points)
- b. The four winners will be determined as follows:
 - Two winners will be chosen from academic and non-profit institutions based on the highest scores

- Two winners will be chosen from biopharma companies based on the highest scores
- c. Timeline:
- Scoring the grants will be completed within 30 days from the close of the Research grant application
 - Research grant recipients will be notified by email and phone within 45 days from close of the Research grant application
 - The names of Research grant recipients will be posted on the official grant submission website.
 - All Research grant applicants will be informed by email of the name of the final Research grant recipients within 60 days of the Research grant closing date.

5.PRIZES

- a. The prize is for 24 samples to be processed for TCR-repertoire analysis and epitope prediction.
- b. The four grant recipients will each receive an RNA extraction kit from QIAGEN. Extracted RNA will be sent to QIAGEN for Bulk-TCR-seq library construction using the QIAseq Targeted RNA TCR Panel. NGS sequencing and data processing from QIAGEN for clonotype identification will be used by ImmuneWatch to provide TCR intelligence services, including TCR clustering and antigen-TCR annotations by expert TCR data analysts. Both data generation and TCR intelligence are provided free of charge to grant winners.

6.DATA PROCESSING

- a. The Sponsors are committed to protecting your privacy. When we process personal data, we observe the rules laid down in the applicable data protection laws, including but not limited to General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and California Consumer Privacy Act. Further details can be found in our Privacy Policy. If personal data is transferred outside the EU/EEA, we will ensure that appropriate contractual measures (e.g., using standard contractual clauses of the EU Commission) are applied to the transfer, the transfer is lawful and that the processing and confidentiality are in compliance with the applicable laws. For more information, please refer to our Privacy Policy.
- b. This contest is void where prohibited by law. The contest is jointly sponsored by QIAGEN Sciences LLC, 19300 Germantown Rd, Germantown, MD 20874 and ImmuneWatch BV, Lange Gasthuisstraat 29-31 2000 Antwerp, Belgium
- c. These Official Rules are governed by, and must be construed in accordance with, the laws of

USA

- d. Entrants agree that all disputes arising from or in connection with this Research Grant must be heard in a state or federal court of USA.