Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Cancer Research

Objectives of the High Fatality Cancer Initiative include:

- Explore established technologies
- Develop new research capacity in high fatality cancers
- Support discovery research to:
  - Understand what are the signatures of high fatality cancers
  - Understand the biological processes that make these cancers “hard-to-treat”
  - Understand therapeutic resistance, tumour heterogeneity, cellular plasticity, tumour microenvironment, metastatic disease, tumour dormancy
- Support research to develop techniques for earlier/more sensitive detection
- Improve and develop earlier detection (image guided treatment)
- Develop novel therapeutics/interventions
- Improve the quality of life for those with high fatality cancers
- Investigate causes of high fatality cancers (prevention – crosses two of ICR’s priority areas)

This funding opportunity will build on the interest developed in our community after the launch of our Innovation Catalyst Grants in 2015. In partnership with CCSRI, and using their Innovation Grants competition, CIHR-ICR will create a pool for Innovation Grants that Target High Fatality Cancers including metastatic disease.

The aim of this **funding opportunity** is to support innovative discovery research targeting high mortality cancers and advanced stage disease.

This funding opportunity aligns with Roadmap II Research Priority areas of *Enhanced patient experiences and outcomes through health innovation* and *Improved quality of life for persons living with chronic conditions*.

This funding opportunity will be for Innovation Grants which support novel/unconventional approaches to increase our understanding of high fatality cancers and/or metastatic disease. A secondary outcome is to help mobilize our community, develop interest in this underserved area, help identify promising areas of focus and prepare them for future research investments.

The research proposed should be of high quality and have significant potential to improve the outlook for high fatality cancers in Canada and the world. The specific aims of this funding opportunity are to:

- Accelerate progress in high fatality cancer research (i.e., pancreatic cancer, glioblastoma)
- Support research that explores unique and novel ideas, that contribute to an improved understanding of these high fatality cancers and how to treat them
- Encourage multi-pronged high risk/high reward approaches across diverse fields of study such as imaging
- Stimulate new partnerships between researchers and experts in the field.

Any of the areas identified below would be eligible for funding.

- Innovative discovery research to:
  - Understand the causes/risk factors
- Understand the signatures of high fatality cancers
- Understand the biological processes that make these cancer “hard-to-treat”
- Understand therapeutic resistance, tumour heterogeneity, cellular plasticity, tumour microenvironment, metastatic disease, tumour dormancy
- Development of novel techniques for earlier/more sensitive detection methods
- Development of novel therapeutics/treatments
- Supportive care
- Promotion of quality of life