1. ACED PROJECT AWARD EXPRESSION OF INTEREST GUIDANCE

ACED Project Awards fund exceptional science to drive a transformational change in how and when cancer is detected through collaborative research with ACED Members.

1.1. SUMMARY OF AWARD

**Amount:** from £200,000 to £800,000 (approx. $250,000 to $1 million)

**Eligibility:** Applicants should be named Alliance Members of one of the following institutions: Canary Center at Stanford University, the University of Cambridge, the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, University College London or The University of Manchester. Please check with your local ACED Programme Manager to ensure you are a named Alliance Member for your institution before applying.

**Scope:** The proposal must be within the scientific remit of the Alliance.

**Project duration:** up to 36 months

**Restrictions:** Each proposal must include joint lead applicants from at least two Alliance Member Centres. Collaboration between US and UK Member Centres is encouraged, but not mandatory.

1.2. REMIT OF THE ACED PROJECT AWARD

We are currently accepting Expression of Interests (EoIs) for ACED Project Awards. If successful, you will be invited to complete a full application for this award in early 2020.

An ACED Project Award can encompass any number (or combination) of research areas listed in the ACED scientific strategy, as long as your application is cancer detection-relevant and clearly articulates the cancer-related question you’re focusing on.

The ACED Project Awards will fund exceptional science. The goal of this award is to drive innovation in how and when cancer is detected, accelerating progress towards the Alliance’s strategic aims. Funding lasts up to 3 years and can be used to fund postdoctoral researchers and technical staff, with associated running costs. You can also request equipment costing up to £50,000 (approx. $65,000).

Project Awards are flexible in terms of duration and level of funding. Proposals may be at various stages of maturity dependent on technology readiness, novelty of the paradigm under investigation and availability of supporting data. Proposals should be composed and costed commensurately.

Any request in excess of £500,000 (approx. $645,000) should have a compelling and exceptional scientific rationale.
1.3. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants
Applicants must be named Alliance Members. Please check with your local ACED Programme Manager to ensure you are a named Alliance Member for your institution before applying.

Each proposal must include joint lead applicants from at least two Alliance Member Centres. Collaboration between US – UK Member Centres is encouraged, but not mandatory.

Host institution approval
To be eligible, the joint lead applicants on the Award must be based at the following institutions: Canary Center at Stanford University, University of Cambridge, OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, University College London or The University of Manchester. Additional collaborators outside these institutions should be named in the ‘Collaborative Partners External to ACED’ section of the application, clearly articulating the gaps in expertise that these collaborators provide that is not currently available within the Alliance. Collaborative Partners external to ACED must be deemed ‘Affiliate Members’ by your host institution; please check with your ACED local Programme Manager for more information. These external collaborators are not eligible for ACED funding.

Your proposal should also comply with all appropriate local ethical and research governance procedures.

1.4. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The Alliance Executive Board will judge your proposal on:

- **Relevance to Alliance scientific strategy and remit**: All applications must be within scope as outlined in the Alliance scientific strategy and advance the understanding of early cancer and improving how and when cancer is detected. An abbreviated Alliance scientific strategy is available to all Alliance members.

- **Scientific excellence, novelty and risk**: All applications must have a strong scientific rationale to support the proposed research proposal, robust experimental design and include novel and innovative approaches. High scientific risk/high reward approaches are encouraged.

- **The challenge addressed**: What is the unmet research and/or clinical need which the proposal would address? How would knowledge be advanced to meet that need?

- **Line of sight to clinical/population impact**: The proposed work must have the potential for a remarkable impact on cancer detection. Whilst not all applications will be translational in nature, it is important that all research is designed with a clear line of sight to clinical/population impact and the proposal should clearly articulate this pathway and the evidence and outputs that will be required to advance along it. Appropriate consultation/collaboration with clinicians, population scientists, industrial partners, patients and/or the public should be included to facilitate this.

- **Excellent team and collaborative environment**: All applications should outline the suitability and feasibility of the lead applicants (and supporting roles) to carry out the proposed research with access to the resources and facilities required for the successful fulfilment of the award. *Applications should highlight the importance of the Alliance environment in supporting the potential of the proposed research and address how Alliance partnerships will uniquely enable the proposed research compared to Alliance...*
Member Centres conducting the research independently. Multidisciplinary, transatlantic collaboration is encouraged when appropriate to the science proposed. It is important to demonstrate the added value of the proposed collaboration and the individual contributions, as well as the steps taken to ensure an effective collaboration.

- **Resources requested**: The costs requested in an application should be for the direct costs of the research only and reasonably justified in line with the experimental plans, leveraging existing resources where appropriate.
- **Benefit to the wider Alliance**: Applications should detail the actual and potential benefits to the wider Alliance community, including any infrastructural benefits, knowledge exchange, data sharing, etc.

2. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

2.1 PROCESS OVERVIEW

We are currently accepting Expression of Interests (EoIs) for ACED Project Awards. Please also inform your host institution that you intend to apply.

1. Submit an EoI, which will be reviewed by the Alliance Executive Board.
2. If successful, you will be invited to submit a full application in early 2020.
3. Full applications will be sent for written peer review within the Alliance and subsequently sent to the Alliance Executive Board for decision.
4. You will be informed of the funding decision in mid-2020.

All EoIs must be completed using the provided template.

2.2 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TEMPLATE

Please use the template provided to complete your EoI. Of particular important in the template is Section 2.2 where you have the opportunity to describe your research proposal. Section 2.2 should not exceed one standard page, including figures but excluding references.

In your research proposal description please include:

- How the proposal will help establish your research in the early detection field
- The novelty of your idea
- The strength of your collaborative team to achieve the endpoints of your proposal
- The downstream translational potential of your idea
- The clinical need addressed by your idea
- The contribution to early detection research should the idea be a success
There is also a section to detail projected costs associated with your research proposal and accompanying justification. Costs should be reported in the local currency of the country they are incurred in (e.g. GBP (£) for UK and USD ($) for US).

2.3 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Letter(s) of Support: If you are listing collaborators external to the Alliance, you must include a brief letter of support as evidence of their commitment to your proposal. Submit any Letters of Support in PDF format, signed, dated and on headed paper alongside your completed application.

3. USEFUL CONTACTS

Once you have read these guidelines, please contact Nicole.Lyons@cancer.org.uk if you have any questions or need more information.

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