



The Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Cancer Genomics and Immunity Fellowship Program – Call for Proposals

The complex interactions between tumor cells and cells of the immune system have become a focal point of cancer research in recent years. Immune cells of a variety of types can interact with cancers in manners that promote tumor growth, or, alternatively, attack the tumor cells to prevent their growth. The importance of these relationships has been dramatically highlighted by the introduction into the clinic of drugs that target specific interactions between immune and cancer cells, relieving blocks to immune action against the tumor. At the same time there has been a recognition that chronic inflammation is a major contributor to cancer development, and its suppression has potential for disease prevention and treatment. Parallel dramatic advances in high throughput genome sequencing have enabled systematic molecular characterization of large numbers of tumors, providing unprecedented views into tumor mutational and cellular composition, and the pathways driving tumor development.

The Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Cancer Genomics and Immunity Fellowship Program aims to support projects that will uncover the diverse interactions between tumor and immune cells, for the development of new therapeutic strategies. The program aims to harness the power of genomic analytic tools with that of diverse animal and cellular experimental systems, through collaborative work between Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR) and the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada (IMRIC) scientists.

Scope

- The Program will provide support for trainees – doctoral students or postdoctoral fellows – working on joint projects between IMRIC and OICR scientists addressing the interactions between cancer and immune cells.
- Two projects will be selected to receive support over a two-year period.

- Each collaborative project will support two trainees, one from each institution.
- Each project will be funded at \$75,000 CDN per year divided equally between the two institutions (\$37,500 CDN per institution).

Use of funds

- Funding will directed towards fellowship awards for trainees at the two institutions. Remaining funds, if exist, will be used for research expenses and travel between the institutions.
- Remaining funding cannot be used towards PI salaries, honoraria for guest lecturers, or publication costs.

Eligibility

- OICR is making funding available to support cancer researchers based at any Ontario Institution.
- Proposals are to be submitted jointly by two Principal Investigators (PIs), one from each institute. A [Google doc](#) has been created to facilitate the identification of potential collaborators.
- PIs may submit only one proposal per funding cycle.

Project Selection

- Projects will be selected by a committee comprised of non-conflicted scientific experts based on:
 - Scientific merit
 - Relevance to the program goals
 - Collaborative potential
 - Achievements & abilities of the candidate trainees.

Applications must include: (Please use form and attach CVs)

- Names and CVs of the two collaborating PIs.
- Names and CVs of trainee awardees.

- Joint project proposal: no more than two pages, consisting of the following sections:
 - Research plan
 - Advantages of the collaboration
 - Trainee qualifications
 - Planned use of funds

Submission:

Applications must be submitted electronically to both: scientificsecretariat@oicr.on.ca and imric@ekmd.huji.ac.il by **April 3rd 2017** in pdf form.

Notification of funding: **May 3rd 2017**.