AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
FACULTY OF MEDICINE
CLINICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

October 6, 2026

Dear All,
We would like to bring to your attention a few funding opportunities that might be of interest to you. Please find below details:

NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

INVESTIGATOR SPONSORED RESEARCH

Funder: Pfizer

Objectives: This initiative aims to support independent investigator-led research that advances medical and scientific knowledge and addresses unmet medical needs.

Eligibility: Open globally to researchers interested in conducting their own research.

Amount: Not specified.

Deadline: November 3, 2026 (Application)

Link: here

REGULAR GRANT PROGRAMME: INVESTIGATOR-INITIATED GRANTS (IIG)

Funder: World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF)

Objectives: This program supports research on diet, nutrition, physical activity, and food/water contaminants in cancer prevention and survivorship. Focus areas include mechanisms, host factors influencing susceptibility, and outcomes after diagnosis, with emphasis on endocrine disruptors, pesticides, heavy metals, and microplastics.

Eligibility:
- Lead applicants must hold a research position at the host institution for the duration of the project.
- Open to researchers anywhere in the world.

Amount: up to £500,000 for up to 4 years. Please refer to the guidelines for detailed budget instructions.

Deadline: November 13, 2026 (LOI)

Link: here

REGULAR GRANT PROGRAMME: PILOT AND FEASIBILITY GRANTS (PFG)

Funder: World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF)

Objectives: This program supports research on diet, nutrition, physical activity, and food/water contaminants in cancer prevention and survivorship. Focus areas include mechanisms, host factors influencing susceptibility, and outcomes after diagnosis, with emphasis on endocrine disruptors, pesticides, heavy metals, and microplastics.

Eligibility:
- Lead applicants must hold a research position at the host institution for the duration of the project.
- Open to researchers anywhere in the world.

Amount: up to £60,000 for up to 2 years. Please refer to the guidelines for detailed budget instructions.

Deadline: November 13, 2026 (LOI)

Link: here

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INSPIRE RESEARCH CHALLENGE

Funder: World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF)

Objectives: The programme is open to early career researchers – defined as individuals who are within 2–7 years full-time equivalent working in research since the award date of their PhD or equivalent higher research degree. Proposed projects must have direct relevance to cancer prevention, treatment or survivorship and may address any or all stages of the cancer journey. Proposals should address modifiable factors including diet, nutrition, body composition, physical activity, sleep, psychological stress, immune function, ingested contaminants and pathogens.

Eligibility:
- Eligible applicants must be employed on a research contract within a department at a university-affiliated research institution or a medical school conducting research.
- Open to researchers worldwide.

Amount: Up to £75,000 for up to 1 year. Please refer to the guidelines for detailed budget instructions.

Deadline: November 13, 2026 (LOI)

Link: here

Note: **For the WCRF grant calls, an institution may submit up to three applications to the Regular Grant Programme in total (IIGs and PFG grants collectively), plus up to three additional applications to the INSPIRE Programme, allowing up to six applications in total at the LOI stage per grant cycle. Interested faculty members may submit their LOIs directly through the funder's website. The funder will then select up to three applications under each programme to proceed.**

EASO – NOVO NORDISK FOUNDATION OBESITY PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE 2027

Funder: European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO) and the Novo Nordisk Foundation (NNF)

Objectives: This initiative aims to recognise outstanding contributions to the understanding of obesity, its causes, complications, prevention, and treatment.

Eligibility: Candidates of any nationality who are employees of a university, hospital, or other non-profit institution; self-nominations are **not accepted**.

Amount: The prize is supported by a grant of DKK 2 million, of which DKK 300,000 is a personal grant to the winner, and includes:
- A special plenary lecture at the EASO annual European Congress on Obesity (ECO)
- A special reception and dinner for the winner and key stakeholders at the ECO
- An invitation for the winner to return to the ECO two years after the prize award to present the research undertaken via the award grant.

Deadline: December 14, 2026 (Deadline for receipt of nominations)

Link: here

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PREVIOUSLY SHARED AND STILL OPEN OPPORTUNITIES:

EARLY CAREER IN SUPPORTIVE CARE PROGRAM

Funder: Rising Tide Foundation for Clinical Cancer Research

Objectives: This program invites proposals on hypothesis-driven interventional clinical trials within supportive care. These trials should aim to improve cancer patients' quality of life through the prevention and management of the adverse effects of cancer and its treatment. Study outcomes should include well-validated clinical and patient-reported outcomes. Phase I to II clinical trials are encouraged.

Eligibility: Investigators worldwide in years 1–3 of their career, holding a full-time academic clinical appointment. Must have an institutional mentor who provides oversight and a letter confirming a prior working relationship.

Amount: $245,000USD

Deadline: October 30, 2026 (LOI); February 28, 2027 (Application)

Link: here

CLINICAL ACCELERATOR INITIATIVE

Funder: Lustgarten Foundation

Objectives: This initiative supports innovative, collaborative clinical trial concepts aimed at developing novel therapies for pancreatic cancer. Emphasizing translational research, it seeks to deepen understanding of disease biology and validate drug mechanisms, accelerating the transition from research discoveries to impactful patient treatments.

Eligibility: Applicants must hold an MD, DMD, DVM, PhD, or equivalent and have a faculty (or equivalent) appointment at an eligible research institution worldwide.

Amount: $1.5M – $2M

Deadline: November 2, 2026 (LOI)

Link: here

CIFAR AZRIELI GLOBAL SCHOLARS

Funder: Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR)

Objectives: This program empowers early-career researchers to lead innovative interdisciplinary studies across fields such as neuroscience, human development, machine learning, quantum mechanics, and social sciences.

Eligibility:
- International researchers with a PhD/equivalent and a full-time, secure position involving independent research and graduate supervision/teaching.
- Research must align with a recruiting CIFAR research program and the position must be secure through March 31, 2029.

Amount: $100,000CAD

Deadline: November 4, 2026 (Application)

Link: here

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PILOT AWARDS

Funder: Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA)

Objectives: This initiative supports high-risk, high-reward cancer research in carcinogenesis, skin diseases, immunotherapy, biomarkers, diagnostics, and treatment, with a focus on translational, proof-of-concept studies.

Eligibility: Applicants must hold a full-time academic faculty appointment at the Assistant Professor level or above (ideally beyond their first five years) at an eligible institution worldwide.

Amount: Up to $50,000 per year for two years (up to $100,000 total).

Deadline: November 5, 2026 (Proposal)

Link: here

PROJECT CONCEPTS

Funder: Breakthrough T1D

Objectives: Focused on curing, preventing, and improving lives with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D), this initiative supports research in early detection, disease-modifying therapies, cell therapies, and enhancing the T1D research community to accelerate therapeutic breakthroughs and address critical gaps in patient care.

Eligibility:
- Academic Institutions
- Early Career and Emerging in Field; Mid-Career to Established in Field

Amount: N/A

Deadline: November 5, 2026 (LOI)

Link: here

GATEWAY TRADITIONAL GRANT PROGRAM

Funder: Gateway for Cancer Research

Objectives: This program provides funding for early phase clinical trials for cancers of all types at renowned institutions around the world.

Eligibility: Leading research institutions worldwide.

Amount: $200,000 to $1.5 million

Deadline: November 6, 2026 (tentative LOI Deadline)

Link: here

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TECHNOLOGY IMPACT AWARD

Funder: Cancer Research Institute

Objectives: This award supports early-stage innovations bridging technology and clinical cancer immunology to advance immunotherapy. Focus areas include computational systems biology, advanced profiling, real-time visualization, multicellular models, and novel therapeutics, aiming to enhance understanding, prediction, and treatment of cancer immune responses.

Eligibility: Applicants must hold a tenure-track position at a not for profit research center or institution.

Amount: $600,000USD

Deadline: November 15, 2026 (LOI); March 1, 2027 (Invited Full Proposal)

Link: here

JOHN HANSEN RESEARCH GRANT

Funder: DKMS

Objectives: The research proposal needs to address issues on hematopoietic stem cell transplantation or cell therapy for hematological diseases. Various aspects can be covered, including but not limited to: diagnostic and therapeutic strategies, transplant immunology, stem cell transplantation complications, donor selection, or cell manufacturing.

Eligibility:
- Open to applicants worldwide. Previous awardees are not eligible to reapply.
- Applicants must hold a relevant PhD, MD, or equivalent doctoral degree obtained within the past 10 years.

Amount: €240,000 for a time period of three years (maximum € 80,000 annually)

Deadline: November 16, 2026 (Application)

Link: here

THE BOSARGE FAMILY FOUNDATION-WAUN KI HONG SCHOLAR AWARD FOR REGENERATIVE CANCER MEDICINE

Funder: American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)

Objectives: This award supports innovative research in regenerative cancer medicine, emphasizing translational, clinical, or epidemiological approaches. Focus areas include gene therapy, stem cells, and immunology to enhance cancer survivor physiology and mitigate treatment-related effects.

Eligibility:
- Hold a relevant doctoral degree and a confirmed mentored research position; degree/residency completed on or after July 1, 2022.
- Dedicate ≥50% effort to the project and work under a mentor at an eligible institution worldwide.
- By the submission deadline, applicants must be AACR members in good standing.

Amount: $120,000 USD

Deadline: November 18, 2026 (Application)

Link: here

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CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH GRANTS

Funding Body: Rising Tide Foundation for Clinical Cancer Research

Objectives: This initiative supports innovative, patient-centered clinical trials to improve cancer patients' treatment options and quality of life. The Foundation supports phase I to phase III interventional clinical trials but do not fund basic research, phase IV trials, or observational studies.

Eligibility: Institutions worldwide, if effective grant oversight is feasible.

Amount: The Foundation does not cover the full clinical trial cost. It funds USD 100,000 per each year of the trial duration

Deadline: November 23, 2026 (LOI)

Link: here

TRANSLATIONAL AWARD

Funder: The Brain Tumour Charity

Objectives: This award supports the development of innovative diagnostics, therapeutics, drug delivery systems, and medical devices, with a focus on bridging academic research and industry-standard drug development, particularly in areas like brain cancer, medical screening, and drug design.

Eligibility:
- Open to international researchers.
- A researcher may serve as principal applicant on only one proposal per grant round.

Amount: Up to £400,000

Deadline: November 25, 2026 (Stage 1: Outline Application); May 12, 2027 (Stage 2: Invited Full Application)

Link: here

GUT MICROBIOTA INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR PROJECTS

Funder: Biocodex Microbiota Foundation

Objectives: These projects support research on the human gut microbiota's role in health and disease, focusing on perturbations caused by factors like drugs, lifestyle, and smoking. Projects should investigate underlying mechanisms and may analyze clinical trial samples but exclude randomized controlled trials.

Eligibility:
- Open to physicians, PhDs, and PharmDs in relevant fields.
- No geographic restrictions for applicants.

Amount: €200,000EUR

Deadline: November 30, 2026 (Application)

Link: here

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CLINICAL RESEARCH INVESTIGATOR-INITIATED AWARDS

Funder: Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

Objectives: These awards support investigator-initiated clinical research to improve patient care by addressing key questions in gastroenterology, including digestive diseases, inflammatory bowel disease, and ulcers, through direct patient interaction or analysis of large datasets, aiming for impactful publications and contributions to clinical guidelines.

Eligibility:
- **Senior Research Award (CRIA-SRA):** Faculty (minimum Assistant Professor level) with a track record of funded clinical research.
- **Career Development Award (CRIA-CDA):** Junior faculty (Instructor/Assistant Professor) within 10 years of doctoral degree without prior R01 funding.
- Open globally to applicants, institutions, and research site locations worldwide.

Amount: $250,000USD

Deadline: December 1, 2026 (pre-Application); January 21, 2027 (Invited Full Proposal)

Link: here

CLINIC AND LABORATORY INTEGRATION PROGRAM

Funder: Cancer Research Institute

Objectives: This program provides funding for research integrating laboratory insights and clinical applications in cancer immunology. Focus areas include leveraging basic science for clinical solutions, advancing therapeutic strategies, informing fundamental discovery through clinical observations, and improving immunotherapy testing, delivery, and patient outcomes.

Eligibility:
- Tenure-track assistant professor or higher rank required at award activation.
- No citizenship restrictions; research may be conducted in the U.S. or abroad.

Amount: $300,000USD-$600,000USD

Deadline: December 1, 2026 (LOI); March 1, 2027 (Invited Full Proposal)

Link: here

CLINICAL INNOVATOR GRANT

Funder: Cancer Research Institute

Objectives: This grant supports investigator-led phase I/II or phase II clinical trials focused on novel immunotherapy approaches, predictive biomarker discovery, and mechanistic insights into clinical responses.

Eligibility:
- Applicants must be the PI of the proposed study.
- No citizenship restrictions; research may be conducted in the U.S. or abroad (excluding for-profit institutions).

Amount: $1M per trial

Deadline: December 1, 2026 (Protocol Concept); April 1, 2027 (Invited Full Proposal)

Link: here

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EARLY-CAREER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

Funder: American Association of Blood Banks (AABB)

Objectives: This initiative supports early-career research in blood banking, transfusion medicine, and biotherapies, encompassing immunology, hematology, immunohematology, infectious diseases, and patient blood management. Prioritizes innovative projects that advance understanding and applications in cellular immunology, blood products, coagulation, and cell transplantation.

Eligibility:
- Physicians (MD/PhD) who qualify as early-career investigators (within 10 years of their terminal degree or completion of residency, whichever is later), with no prior major research grant (e.g., NIH R01).
- Applicants may receive only one AABB Foundation Early-Career Scientific Research Grant.

Amount: Up to $100,000 for one- or two-year grant terms.

Deadline: December 1, 2026 (Application)

Link: **here**

THUMBAY INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS

Funder: Gulf Medical University

Objectives: These grants support innovative and translational research addressing priority areas including precision oncology and personalized immunotherapy, liquid biopsy and ctDNA, drug discovery, AI in healthcare, veterinary medicine, health systems and health economics, public health, and medical education, while promoting collaboration with GMU researchers.

Eligibility: Open to national and international researchers, faculty, and institutions, **with proposals requiring collaboration with GMU faculty or research institutes.**

Amount: Up to AED 150,000/year for lab-based and AED 60,000/year for non-lab-based research, for up to 2 years.

Deadline: December 15, 2026 (LOI); January 15, 2027 (Invited Full Application)

Link: **here**

LLOYD J. OLD STAR PROGRAM

Funder: Cancer Research Institute

Objectives: This program supports mid-career scientists in pursuing high-risk, high-reward research to drive transformative advancements in cancer immunotherapy, emphasizing innovative approaches and impactful contributions to oncology. It focuses on fostering freedom and flexibility for exceptional investigators with a proven track record of reshaping the field.

Eligibility: The PI must hold an M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent, and be in a tenure-track role, and must commit at least 80% effort to research at a non-profit medical school or research center (U.S. or international), with no citizenship restrictions.

Amount: $1,250,000USD

Deadline: January 15, 2027 (Application)

Link: **here**

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MODULAR R01S IN CANCER CONTROL AND POPULATION SCIENCES

Funder: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Objectives: This initiative supports innovative research in cancer control, focusing on statistical methods, epidemiology, survivorship, cancer-related behaviors, healthcare delivery, digital health, data science, and implementation science to significantly advance cancer research and improve patient outcomes.

Eligibility: Foreign organizations and private institutions of higher education.

Amount: Up to $250,000 in direct costs per year. Maximum project period is 5 years.

Deadline: February 5, 2027 (Application)

Link: here

PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (GACD)

Funder: Horizon Europe

Objectives: This initiative seeks to fund implementation research, exploring strategies, evidence-based program and policy interventions across prevention, diagnosis, screening and management of chronic NCDs, centred on the critical life stages spanning early childhood to young adulthood (1-24 years of age) living in LMICs, and/or underserved populations in HICs.

Eligibility: Legal entities established in Lebanon are eligible to apply.

Amount: EUR 3.00 to 4.00 million (Expected EU contribution per project).

Deadline: April 13, 2027 (Applications open February 10, 2027)

Link: here

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CLINICAL
RESEARCH
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Please contact **Ms. Lyn Sinno** (ls109@aub.edu.lb; ext. 5776) if you are interested in any of the listed funding opportunities or require support in identifying suitable opportunities, assessing eligibility criteria, understanding funding timelines, or preparing submissions in accordance with funder and institutional requirements. You are also encouraged to coordinate with the Pre-Award Unit at the Office of Research (**Ms. Leen Haydar**: lh44@aub.edu.lb) for internal review, submission procedures, and guidance on required documents before any external submission.

Completed transmittal forms must be submitted at least five working days prior to the external deadline.