CRUK RadNet Glasgow Preclinical Model Development Fund

Small awards are available from CRUK RadNet Glasgow to support development of new preclinical models for one of the RadNet Glasgow defined cancers of unmet need: glioblastoma, head and neck, lung, pancreas and rectum. We aim to provide small grants to fund development of animal cohorts, to enable preclinical projects specifically related to radiation research in the above cancers. This includes development and/or refinement of radiotherapy and imaging techniques for these models. The expectation is that funded studies will underpin and enhance applications to secure larger grants from CRUK and other funders.

Early career researchers are welcome and encouraged to apply. Researchers with no prior background in radiation research are asked to contact the Committee secretary (anna.morris@glasgow.ac.uk) prior to submission to allow for initial discussion of their request.

Proposal Criteria
The following criteria will be applied to assess applications and make an award decision:

Alignment with CRUK RadNet Glasgow objectives (see appendix)
Scientific quality
Translational potential
Potential for collaboration and partnership with other CRUK RadNet centres
Future funding potential and evidence of research into next steps for funding
Feasibility of proposal within grant funding constraints

Reviewers
Prof Karen Blyth, Prof Anthony Chalmers, Katrina Stevenson
Secretary Anna Morris

Funding Limits
A maximum award of £7000 per proposal, no lower limit, with £21,000 available per year. Costs must be justified, and evidence of itemised costing estimates should be provided. Only cages (per current Beatson rate- see Karen Blyth or Catherine Winchester), animal purchase costs and related consumables can be applied for, no salary or equipment purchase costs will be authorised. SARRP usage costs will be covered by RadNet and does not need to be costed for in the proposal. In addition, regular SARRP users can apply for user training or opt to use the SARRP service as provided by RadNet, but the project will be expected to be run by the applicant.

Terms of funding
We are looking for outstanding preclinical model development proposals with relevance to the remit of the CRUK RadNet Glasgow Centre.

- The proposal should describe development of models or techniques that are not currently available in the CRUK Glasgow Centre.
- The proposal should be for a new project and not to supplement existing funded research.
- The proposal should outline how the proposed model or technique will enable future research and enhance the likelihood of securing future funding.
• Proposals that create new collaborations or multidisciplinary links (both internal and external) will be favoured strongly.
• A report will be required within 3 months of the completion of the project. This must include details of how the funding was spent, any subsequent funding (pending or awarded) and research outcomes (presentations at meeting, publications, etc.).
• Applicants should notify the committee if their proposed plans change significantly once funding has been awarded.
• Funded projects must conclude within 12 months of the award.
• There is no lower limit of funding that can be requested under this scheme, and applications for smaller feasibility projects are very welcome.
• A poster and/or presentation may be requested for CRUK RadNet Glasgow meetings/annual symposium.
• CRUK RadNet Glasgow Centre should be acknowledged in any related funding applications, presentations or publications.
• Successful applications may be published on the Centre’s Twitter and website (researcher name and proposal title). If you wish to discuss this before details of your application are made public, please contact the secretary immediately on receiving your funding confirmation.

Application process
• A submission should be no more than three A4 pages using the template application form. Application forms are available from the secretary (anna.morris@glasgow.ac.uk) and on the website University of Glasgow - Research Institutes - Institute of Cancer Sciences - CRUK RadNet Glasgow Centre.
• Applications that exceed three pages may be rejected.
• Applications should be submitted via email to the secretary Anna Morris, anna.morris@glasgow.ac.uk at any time.
• Applicants may be invited to present their proposal at a review meeting and to answer any queries from the panel.
• You will be notified of the award decision within 6 weeks of submission.

Deadlines
Applications welcome throughout the year. An announcement will be made if all available funding for the year has been allocated.

Appendix
CRUK RadNet Glasgow objectives:

1. Create a platform for radiation research in Glasgow
Coordinate a collaborative network of radiation researchers.
Provide dedicated technical and clinical research support.
Improve access to equipment and novel technologies.
Involve patients in research priority setting and project review.

2. Build a translational research pipeline
Realise the potential of Glasgow’s world leading preclinical models and imaging expertise to answer clinically relevant questions.
Build on discovery and translational science to develop and execute innovative clinical trials.
Actively support multi-disciplinary teams to reverse translate clinical data and specimens. Complement existing Glasgow research infrastructure and capitalise on links with other CRUK Centres.

3. **Facilitate development and integration of innovative research**
   - Build on existing programmes and pump prime new ones to attract further funding.
   - Incentivise and support clinicians and scientists to incorporate clinically relevant radiotherapy questions into their research.
   - Focus on cross cutting scientific themes to take advantage of radiation expertise, models and clinical resources.
   - Initiate and support local, national and international collaborations.

4. **Train the radiation researchers of the future**
   - Promote an environment where training and career development of radiation researchers is prioritized and attract new radiation research talent to Scotland.
   - Champion radiographer-led research and create an influential cohort with national and international impact.
   - Embed medical physicists into the clinical and preclinical radiation research landscape.
   - Support discovery scientists to become international leaders in radiation biology.