

**GUIDELINES ON THE CANSA TYPE A RESEARCH FUNDING PROGRAMME**



***Research • Educate • Support***

**CANCER ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA  
(CANSA)**

Reg No 1932/003720/08  
NPO No 000-524

# CANCER ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (CANSA)

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### Background

#### CANSA's Purpose & Mission

Purpose: To lead the fight against cancer in South Africa

Mission: To be the preferred non-profit organisation that enables research, educates the public, and provides support to all people affected by cancer

CANSA Research has a long history of being one of the largest funders of cancer research in South Africa. Through our funding programmes, we have had the privilege of supporting researchers who have been leaders in their respective fields. As part of our objective to have an impact on cancer control in South Africa, we have funded not only investigations into the genetics, biology, biochemistry, and treatment factors of cancer, but also public health research related to the distribution of the disease, health services, and policy which range across the cancer continuum of prevention, early detection, treatment, palliative and end of life care.

#### What we Fund

1. The research fields covered by CANSA grants include those related to the control of cancer in South Africa
2. CANSA focuses on supporting research in the following areas\*:
  - Epidemiology and determinants of the burden of cancer in South Africa and interventions to address these cancer burdens
  - Health-seeking behaviours and behavioural risk reduction to improve early detection and diagnosis of cancer and interventions to address barriers to early detection and diagnosis of cancer
  - Optimal patient care including clinical care, rehabilitation, and palliative care services
  - Health services and health systems strengthening, including research relating to pathways to cancer care
  - Health economics of cancer, including the economic burden of cancer and cost-effectiveness of interventions
  - Research relating to cancer biology/ biochemistry/molecular biology as these relate to risk reduction, early detection, and both definitive and supportive patient care

**\*CANSA does not usually fund projects related to novel drug development. However, in very exceptional circumstances, will consider well-developed drug-related projects for which strong preliminary scientific data can be demonstrated. Such projects should also receive significant financial support from other funding agencies or industries.**

## Guidance on Applications

3. The CANSA Type A Research funding call will be published annually in January inviting interested researchers to submit a letter of interest.
4. The Type A grant funding call will be widely distributed across various research platforms.
5. Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to submit full research proposals by June with the submission deadline being the end of September. Successful applicants will be notified in December of the same year.
6. The closing date for the receipt of letters of interest is 30 April and submission for invited research proposals will be the 30th of September of the year before the year for which a grant is required. **LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

## Eligibility

7. Only lead applicants who are South African citizens or who have permanent residency will be funded. Proof of permanent residency must be provided.
8. Current CANSA Research Committee (RESCOM) members are not eligible to apply for CANSA Type A grants.
9. Only one Type A application per applicant can be submitted per funding call.
10. Only one Type A grant per applicant can be held at a time
11. Full-time employment of at least 80% of the principal investigator's time in South Africa is required and funding of the salaries of the principal investigator will not be supported.
12. An applicant must be an independent researcher preferably with a Ph.D. degree. Applications from clinical researchers holding an MBChB or equivalent degree, with evidence of leading research projects and first-authored publications in accredited peer-reviewed publications will also be considered.
13. In exceptional cases where the research project is considered innovative and of high impact, an application from a master's-qualified researcher can be submitted by a supervisor/principal investigator who holds a PhD and has the necessary credentials for supervising the research. The supervisor's CV must be provided.
14. CANSA has the right to support or reject applications it receives at its discretion.

## Grant Conditions

15. Awards will only be made for research conducted in accredited research institutions and having the necessary infrastructure for the research to be carried out.
16. CANSA grants will only be released upon receipt of a duly completed contract with the applicant and the applicant's institution. Research Ethics approval from an accredited human research ethics committee must be secured before any grant funds are released.

17. Normally the research will cover the three years for which the grant is awarded, and assurances will be required that this condition will be met. In certain circumstances, a grant may be held for less than three years, and the funding will be adjusted accordingly.
18. Grants are awarded for three years only. Grantees who wish their grants to be extended beyond this period must submit a fresh, re-motivated application for re-evaluation. Such projects must be of high impact and have shown exceptional progress with evidence of impact on cancer control. Grantees whose projects have been concluded or terminated after the specified period are not precluded from applying for support for other projects.
19. Evidence of impact and or engagement with the National Department of Health or other health agencies involved in influencing policy/practice/health services regarding cancer control in South Africa must be included in the final report.
20. Evidence of impact on cancer control may include inter alia:
  - a. prevention of priority cancers outlined by the National Department of Health
  - b. treatment of people living with cancer in public health facilities or other health facilities
  - c. support of the development of cancer control policies for priority cancers in South Africa
  - d. implementation of cancer control strategies/policies for priority cancers in South Africa
21. At least three peer-reviewed articles in ISI-accredited journals should be published on the topic of the research project funded by CANSA. CANSA's support must be acknowledged and publications in their final form should appear no later than the 4th year after payment of the first instalment of the grant. The final 50% of the grant will be paid in December of the third year if the progress report and budget submitted in November of the same year are satisfactory
22. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM CANSA MUST BE MADE BY GRANTEEES IN ALL PUBLICATIONS.
23. Annual progress reports including financial statements for the duration of the grant are mandatory, and failure to comply will result in funding for the following year being withheld.
24. The reporting year for projects should be from 1 April to 30 September and 1 October to 31 March of successive calendar years.
25. Every four months, the CANSA Head of Research will have a meeting with grant holders. Grant holders are to give brief updates in the form of Power Point presentations on progress and any possible challenges on their projects.
26. Referees may be selected by CANSA for their special knowledge of the respective applicant's project. Members of the CANSA Research Committee (RESCOM) who are geographically suitably placed may visit grantees at opportune times to discuss and evaluate work in progress and provide feedback at Research Committee meetings. These visits may also take place virtually.
27. Grant recipients are expected to report on their projects at research conferences or other dissemination activities organised by CANSA.

28. For the tenure of a grant, recipients are required to be involved in CANSA research activities as requested. This includes but is not limited to providing expert opinions and review of funding applications to CANSA.
29. While funded, grant recipients may be approached to comment on CANSA's materials (e.g., CANSA fact sheets, campaign materials, etc) in their area of expertise.
30. Grantees will have to grant permission to CANSA to publish, as it sees fit, personal information as it appears on their curriculum vitae inclusive of information about their CANSA-funded research project on CANSA's website, [www.cansa.org.za](http://www.cansa.org.za). This permission pertains only to information specifically relating to the research project for which funding is received from CANSA and not for any other purpose.
31. Transfer of grantee (principal investigator) to a different institution
- Funding is usually made available through an institution (sponsor) to support the work of an investigator. If the grantee leaves an institution, moves to another institution, and wishes to continue the work at the new institution, an application for transfer of the grant must be submitted for consideration by CANSA. The grant awarded to the original institution is ordinarily terminated.
  - If the principal investigator leaves an institution, and the project is discontinued, funding will cease unless a suitable principal investigator from the same institution can take over the project. This can only be done with the consent of the institution and CANSA.
32. A grant may be withdrawn at any time by CANSA if the work or conduct of the grant holder is considered unsatisfactory. This may be for any reason and would include breaches of accepted ethical and research conduct.
33. CANSA must be notified of a grant's lapse within one calendar month. Any grantee suffering from an illness that is likely to be incapacitated for a lengthy period is required to inform CANSA without delay.
34. When a grant is awarded for a specific purpose, it shall be used for that purpose only.

## **Ethics**

35. Research Ethics: The grantee agrees to maintain the highest ethical and safety standards when conducting research when human and animal subjects are involved. The highest standards of scientific integrity are expected. It is the responsibility of the grantee to comply with all relevant regulations, including those laid down by the institution concerned. Ethical approval from the institution in which the grant holder is located must be obtained before the commencement of research activities.

## **Funding Conditions**

36. The maximum amount to be applied is R1,000,000.00 per annum for a total of three years. CANSA's contribution will be 75% (R750 000) per annum of the total grant, and applicants are requested to approach their institution for the remaining 25% (R250 000) per annum. The maximum annual amount granted for funding is R1 000 000 per applicant and is

conditional on a contribution of at least 25% (R250 000) per grant per annum for three years from the affiliated institution.

37. Grant funding may not be used for bursaries
38. CANSA grants will not be awarded to defray expenses incurred in the preparation of degree theses.
39. Amounts for the grants awarded will be paid to the institution in six monthly instalments. Instalments for the first year will be paid on 1 April and 1 December and then on 1 June and 1 December for the second and third years.
40. If a request for a carryover amount is less than R2 000 then motivation is not needed from the grantee. It will automatically be carried over.
41. Financial reports are required from the payee (financial officer of the administering institution) as soon as possible after 1 June and 1 December of each year.
42. Institutions will be instructed to return all funds that are unspent 1 year after the end of the project. A comprehensive motivation for retaining the funds may be considered by CANSA.

## **Budget**

43. CANSA grants may be used within the project for:
  - a) Research Assistants - Skilled and general laboratory or other research assistants/ fieldworkers
  - b) Research Consultants
  - c) Equipment including major or specialised (capital) equipment
  - d) Running expenses
  - e) Printing and/or publication expenses
  - f) Travel for conference presentation
  - g) Visiting collaborators
44. A comprehensive budget justification for each line item of the proposed budget must be submitted as part of a CANSA funding application.
45. Expenditure of funds within each category of the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator.
46. Transfer of funds between categories may be made at the discretion of the Investigator provided that the total of all transfers between categories does not exceed 25% of the approved budget. If a transfer of funds between categories exceeds 25%, prior written permission must be obtained from CANSA
47. Indirect costs for the project are limited to and may not exceed 14% of the grant.

48. A maximum of 15% of the grant amount may be allocated to salaries. Flexibility around this salary percentage will be considered with written motivation.

## **Research Assistants**

49. CANSA grants may be used to appoint research assistants, and these appointments should be made through the employing institutions. Only persons with appropriate qualifications and skills to carry out the work should be considered. Funding for the following assistantships is permitted:

- a) Skilled laboratory or other research assistants
- b) General laboratory or other research assistants
- c) Social science assistants, social workers, nurses, field workers
- d) Clerical or administrative assistants
- e) Other assistance with motivation

50. CANSA grants will not be awarded to defray expenses incurred in the preparation of degree theses.

51. Research assistants appointed under CANSA grants can only be employed to carry out work described in the application. Institutions to which the assistants are appointed will be required to provide assurances that this condition will be observed.

52. An application for an assistantship must be supported by a statement that fully qualifies the reasons for the employment and indicates the proposed salary.

53. Salaries must not exceed the scale of remuneration of personnel of similar status, qualifications, or experience employed on the staff of the institution to which the grantee is attached or at which the research will be carried out.

54. Details of the qualifications and experience of the appointed persons should be provided to CANSA together with assurances that salaries are appropriate.

55. Where possible, all appointments should be made temporarily until 31 March each year, which is the end of an annual reporting period. The personnel shall be employed according to the conditions of employment of the appointing institution, as indicated below.

56. Appointments shall be made by the institution according to the conditions attached to such appointments and should conform reasonably closely to similar staff appointments of the institution. That is concerning status, salary, and conditions of service. The appointment should also comply with South African labour legislation.

## **Equipment**

57. All equipment purchased from CANSA grants will become the property of the institution.

58. Equipment must be ordered through the appropriate channels of the grant-administering institution.
59. The institution will be required to insure and maintain the equipment.
60. When equipment is requested, applicants should demonstrate that the requested item(s) is critical to the success of the project and not available elsewhere within the institution.
61. The cost of ordered equipment may be charged against a grant before receipt of the equipment.
62. Major/specialised/capital equipment is considered an asset to the institution that depreciates over time and costs more than R20 000.

### **Running Expenses**

63. An application may include requests for funding to cover running expenses, the appointment of unskilled assistants, and materials required to conduct the proposed research. Details must be provided.

### **Publications**

64. CANSA grants for publications will be made only for publications in ISI-accredited journals. Applications may be made for a grant towards the total or partial cost of a publication depending on the publication costs and at the discretion of the CANSA research department.
65. A limit of R40 000 per grant holder is placed on open-access journal publication costs and motivation is to be provided if the amount is to be exceeded.
66. The following funding statement is to be included in CANSA-supported ISI-accredited journal publications and other outputs: *This study was funded by the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA).*

### **Travel**

67. Traveling internationally to conferences to give oral presentations or to present posters is allowed. An application for support (CANSA template) and abstract should be submitted to CANSA ahead of time. The maximum amount that can be applied is R25 000 per annum. The following conditions apply:
  - a) The budget line item is to be incorporated within the total budget being applied to the project
  - b) The CANSA logo is to be used in presented materials and funding from CANSA should be acknowledged
  - c) A report (CANSA template) is to be submitted to CANSA within a month after the conference
  - d) Only the person presenting at the conference is eligible for conference funding.



## **Visiting Research Collaborators**

68. Support for visits of international research collaborators is permitted. CANSA will contribute 50% of the costs up to a maximum of R15 000 per annum for this purpose. The budget line item is to be incorporated within the total budget being applied for the project. The application (CANSA template) is to be submitted to CANSA ahead of time. The remainder of the funding is to be obtained from the institution or other sources. A report (CANSA template) is to be submitted within a month after the collaborator's visit.

## **General**

69. All information within or accompanying any document is regarded as confidential and will be treated as such in terms of the Protection of Personal Information Act No 14 of 2013.

70. Applicants will be required to disclose other funding support. Providing that funding is not for the same work, successfully obtaining support from other sources will not count against applicants.

71. The grant will be renewed annually (within the three-year grant cycle) if reports on the quality of the work are considered satisfactory. Upon completion of the project, the holder of any CANSA grant must submit a comprehensive final report. This should be received by CANSA no later than 30 June in the year succeeding the year for which the award was made. A financial statement and endorsement of the content of the report should be supplied by the host institution.

72. At the end of the grant period, any unused funds will be returned to CANSA. However, funds may be carried over from one year to the next up to the last funding year. In such cases, the progress report should include a specific request detailing the amount to be carried over and a motivation for using unspent funds. Grantees are encouraged to spend the bulk of their funds within the year of award and CANSA reserves the right to refuse requests for carrying over of funds. If the unspent funds exceed R50 000, approval from CANSA's RESCOM is required. Funds under R50 000 with detailed motivation can be approved by the CANSA Head of Research.

73. Institutions will be instructed to return all funds that are unspent 1 year after the end of the project. A comprehensive motivation for retaining the funds may be considered by CANSA.

74. Transfer of grantee (principal investigator) to a different institution

- a) Funding is usually made available through an institution (sponsor) to support the work of an investigator. If the grantee leaves one institution, moves to another, and wishes to continue work at the new institution, an application for transfer of the grant must be

submitted for consideration by CANSA. The grant awarded to the original institution is ordinarily terminated.

- b) If the principal investigator leaves an institution, and the project is discontinued funding will cease unless a suitable principal investigator from the same institution can take over the project. This can only be done with the consent of the institution and CANSA.

75. Institutions will assist CANSA by screening applications, reports, and inquiries and by using their administrative resources for:

- c) Obtaining estimates for the cost of requested major equipment
- d) Purchase and control of all equipment purchased with the support of CANSA
- e) The appointment of research staff
- f) Maintaining accounting records of all funds received from CANSA and expended by the institution on behalf of the grantee.