Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee: Supplementary Terms of Reference

This document sets out the key responsibilities that the Scientific Executive Board (SEB) has delegated to the Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee. It should be read in conjunction with the [General Terms of Reference for Funding Committees](.).

1. Intent of Committee

1.1. The Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee is responsible for the strategic development, funding and review, oversight and evaluation of Cancer Research UK's portfolio in early detection and diagnosis research in accordance with Cancer Research UK's research strategy. This includes research that aims to translate discoveries in order to detect and diagnose precancerous changes and cancer at the earliest possible point at which an intervention might be made.

2. List of award types

2.1. The Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee will consider applications for funding through the following award types:

- Early Detection and Diagnosis Programme Awards
- Early Detection and Diagnosis Project Awards
- Early Detection and Diagnosis Primer Awards

2.2. The Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee is also responsible for reviews of the following research units/initiatives:

- The International Alliance for Cancer Early Detection (ACED) and its UK member centres
- Other funding initiatives as requested by the SEB

2.3. The Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee will review relevant research groups at the Cancer Research UK Beatson, Cambridge and Manchester Institutes, as agreed between the Head of Early Detection Research, the Head of Centres and Institutes and the Cancer Research UK Chief Scientist.

3. Additional terms

3.1. The Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee will be supported by Expert Review Panels, comprising standing and *ad hoc* members. These will be chaired by a member of the Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee and supported by up to two additional Committee members where possible.

3.2. The Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee will work with other funding committees to ensure training, workforce and infrastructure requirements for early detection and diagnosis research are suitably prioritised and supported across Cancer Research UK.

CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

4. Membership

4.1.   The Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee will comply with the membership requirements set out in the General Terms of Reference for Funding Committees.

4.2.   The Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee will have a fixed membership; however, additional experts can be co-opted onto the Committee where required, at the discretion of the Committee Chair and the Cancer Research UK office.

4.3.   The Chair of the Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee will be invited to join the SEB.

5. Meetings

5.1.   The Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee will meet twice per year.

5.2.   The Chair of the Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee will provide an update at an SEB meeting on an annual basis to discuss how the Committee is delivering against the strategic priorities of Cancer Research UK; update on portfolio shifts; and discuss new strategic opportunities and/or any challenges relating to the development of early detection and diagnosis research.

6. Research remit

6.1.   The Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee will cover the early detection and diagnosis of precancerous changes, primary cancer and relapse/recurrence.

6.2.   The intent of applications for funding considered by the Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee must relate to one or more of the following areas of research:

- **Identification and validation of early detection markers** and understanding of disease trajectory in order to prognose and distinguish which precancerous or early lesions will go on to be lethal from those that will not.

- **Identification of high-risk groups** for early detection research, including to develop and evaluate novel detection technologies/approaches, or optimise existing technologies/approaches.

- **Data/computation-driven approaches to early detection and diagnosis**, including biomedical/health informatics, artificial intelligence and machine learning approaches, computational/systems biology, integration of multi-modal data and modelling.

- **Development of appropriate preclinical model systems** (e.g. cellular, organoid, xenograft, animal model) to recapitulate precancerous states and early cancer for marker identification and validation, technology development and distinction of consequential from inconsequential disease.

- **Early detection and diagnosis technology development**, including exploratory and translational research involving engineering, physical and data science approaches.

- **Non-confirmatory clinical trials of early detection/diagnostic technologies or approaches**, to enhance earlier detection/diagnosis.

- **Health systems research for early detection**: research into clinical pathways for diagnosis (including alternative routes to diagnosis), service organisation and delivery, referral pathways etc.

- **Research into clinician behaviour and decision support** to enhance earliness and accuracy of cancer diagnosis, including but not limited to enhancing clinician recognition of symptoms and appropriate referral, and decision support technology generation and evaluation.