

Early Diagnosis Advisory Group (EDAG): Open funding call 2019

Call for project proposals to build the evidence base for rapidly translatable or policy-relevant interventions for earlier cancer diagnosis

Cancer Research UK (CRUK) has a range of funding opportunities for early detection and early diagnosis research¹. EDAG focuses on research that can be implemented in the short term and is likely to have impact on cancer policy. Such research helps to drive the translation of evidence into policy and practice, accelerating efforts to reduce late stage diagnosis of cancer and improving outcomes for patients.

The type of research funded by EDAG is used by CRUK to:

- Set agendas- Raise an issue with decision makers
- Explore an issue – Gain understanding of a problem that needs solutions
- Demonstrate need or benefits – Show that a policy or practice change could be beneficial
- Inform future policy/strategy – Review evidence from a range of sources and make recommendations for future policy solutions or strategies
- Pave the way for implementation – Generating evidence that will help facilitate implementation, such as cost implications or recommendations on funding levers
- Monitor impact of a policy change – Highlight where policy has or has not been successful

EDAG focuses on funding research with more immediate translatability and on ensuring that projects deliver findings and impact within a shorter time frame than our PRC or EDx grant funding committees.

Project grants up to a duration of eighteen months (max) and of £100k value per year (max) will be funded, subject to peer review. In light of EDAG's aim for high quality outputs in a timely manner, shorter projects (i.e. 12 months or less) are preferred over longer (18 month) projects.

We welcome projects that use innovative, multi-disciplinary rapid approaches to address key questions. This includes novel analysis of existing datasets (such as the Diagnostic Imaging Dataset (DID), datasets collected as part of the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership, or the National Cancer Diagnosis Audit (NCDA) dataset).

Where relevant, the Committee would be particularly interested in seeing a strong health economic component to applications. The committee urges you to consider value for money in your application as this is likely to be a very competitive process.

Applications made to EDAG will be judged on a range of areas, including appropriateness and strength of Public and Patient Involvement. The CRUK Patient involvement [toolkit](#) for researchers provides guidance, tips and templates to help you plan, deliver and evaluate your patient involvement.

¹ <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/funding-for-researchers/research-opportunities-in-early-detection-and-diagnosis/funding-opportunities-for-early-detection-and-diagnosis>

Scope:

In this round, EDAG welcomes project grant proposals that are in line with supporting or evaluating delivery of the '75% early diagnosis ambition', especially addressing the need to reduce late stage diagnosis. The Committee would particularly welcome proposals that:

- Investigate the quality of data held in primary care/other relevant records, for items that could support optimisation of population or targeted screening, (i.e. smoking status/history, BMI), and recommend levers to address it
- Yield reasonably representative estimates of the proportion of GP requested tests which are urgent, non-urgent, and where the term cancer is or is not included, and any implications on the service/timeliness thereafter
- Generate evidence as to the cancer conversion rate for GP routine referrals
- Yield reasonably representative estimates of the distribution of diagnostic test capacity/ use across screening, surveillance and symptomatic services, and the proportion of activity that could be considered cancer-related
- Investigate the benefit, impact and cost-effectiveness of a broadening of the scope of the Faster Diagnosis Standard (FDS)
- Model the impact on treatment capacity associated with shifts towards more favourable stage in order to inform workforce and service planning
- Model the likely long term cost and QALY impact of less late stage diagnosis
- Investigate/model the realistic and ambitious stage shifts that could be achieved across different cancer sites, and explore/assess the contribution of this to domestic and international cancer survival differences

Proposals that fit within the general remit of EDAG but do not address any of the bulleted priorities listed, will also be considered.

Expression of Interest:

If you would like to submit a proposal under this call, please first notify the Committee secretariat by emailing EDAG@cancer.org.uk. You will be sent an Expression of Interest form which will need to be completed and returned by the deadline below. It will be considered by the secretariat and the Committee to determine if your proposal fits with the scope before a full application is opened.

Timelines:

- Expression of Interest should be submitted by 8am on Monday 15th April 2019.
- Notification of Expression of Interest triage: May 2019
- Deadline for full application: Thursday 1st August 2019
- Notification of funding decision: Mid December 2019
- Projects expected to start: Early 2020

Further information:

If you have any questions about this brief, please email EDAG@cancer.org.uk