

# Cancer Research UK Pioneer Award Committee Supplementary Terms of Reference

This document sets out the key responsibilities that the Scientific Executive Board (**SEB**) has delegated to the Pioneer Award Committee (the **Committee**). It should be read in conjunction with the [General Terms of Reference for Funding Committees](#).

## 1 Nature and purpose of the Pioneer Award

Cancer Research UK has established the Pioneer Award to support the exploration of novel ideas, which may lead to new discoveries or approaches to better understand, prevent, diagnose, and treat cancer. The Pioneer Award will fund small scale, high risk/high reward research that, due its novelty and lack of supporting data, would be unlikely to secure funding through traditional funding mechanisms.

## 2 Role and responsibilities of the Pioneer Award Committee

2.1 The Committee will review, select and approve the funding of, Pioneer Award applications.

## 3 Additional Terms

3.1 Proposals reviewed by this Committee should have a clear relevance to cancer, within parameters of the Research Strategy.

3.2 The Pioneer Award will be open to a wide range of researchers to encourage novelty in subsequent proposals. The following criteria apply to all proposals:

- Funding must be allocated to a host institution in the UK
- Applications proposing clinical trials will not be considered via this funding stream

3.3 To encourage innovation in research, the Committee will adopt the following practices:

- Quick and flexible application process
- No written peer review at the application stage
- A concise application template
- Preservation of applicant anonymity until after the shortlisting stage of the selection process.

## 4 Membership

4.1 The Committee will comprise scientific and industrial experts.

4.2 Where possible, members of the Committee will include:

- Biomedical scientists: experts in basic, translational and/or clinical research
- Multidisciplinary scientists: engineering, physical, chemical, social scientists
- Commercial experts: scientific, technology, IT, digital, software

4.3 Ideally, members should have a history of personal involvement in delivering high risk, innovative projects or adopting novel methods/approaches

## 5 Meetings

5.1 It is intended that the Committee will meet three times per year.

## 6 Document information

Version	3
Approved by	Scientific Executive Board
Last approved	December 2017
Next scheduled review date	December 2019
Document owner	Research Funding Operations Team (R&I)
Schedule of amendments	Updates to proposal criteria (December 2017).