

**Cancer Research UK
Science Committee**

Supplementary Terms of Reference

The Science Committee was established in March 2012 following the merger of existing funding committees, namely BIDD, BSC, CTTC and DC.

1. Remit:

- 1.1. To be responsible for the oversight, review, funding and management of the following research awards, including, where appropriate, scientific milestone reviews of:
 - Programme Awards – *falling under the remits defined in Section 5.*
 - Programme Foundation Awards – *falling under the remits defined in Section 5.*
 - Biomarker Project Awards
 - Cancer Immunology Project Awards
 - Multidisciplinary Project Awards
- 1.2. To assess outline applications for programme awards and be responsible for determining which can be put forward for a full application.
- 1.3. To have oversight of the quinquennial reviews of the research groups in the five Cancer Research UK Core Funded Institutes (Cancer Research UK Beatson Institute, Cancer Research UK Cambridge Research Institute, Cancer Research UK Oxford Institute for Radiation Oncology and Biology, Cancer Research UK London Research Institute and Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute). Quinquennial Reviews will be chaired by a member of the Science Committee and will be supported by a second member.

2. Additional Terms:

- 2.1. The Science Committee will be supported in the assessment of the scientific quality of applications by Expert Review Panels. The membership of the Expert Review Panels for the assessment of programme grants will be dependent on the applications under consideration, but will be chaired by a member of the Science Committee and supported by an additional two committee members.

Expert Review Panels for the assessment of biomarker projects, cancer immunology and multidisciplinary projects will have a fixed membership; however, additional experts can be co-opted on to the Panel should the applications under consideration require it. The Biomarker, Cancer Immunology and Multidisciplinary Expert Review Panels will be chaired by a member of the Science Committee and supported by an additional member. Where appropriate, the Biomarker, Cancer Immunology and Multidisciplinary Expert Review Panels can also consider applications for programmatic support and an additional member of the Science Committee will be co-opted in these cases (please see the 'Expert Review Panels Terms of Reference' document for further information).

3. Membership:

- 3.1. Members of the Science Committee may also be required to serve on the Expert Review Panels (please see the 'Expert Review Panels Terms of Reference' document for further information).

4. Meetings:

- 4.1. The Science Committee meets twice a year.

5. Further Information:

- 5.1. The Science Committee will consider Programme and Programme Foundation Award applications in any of the research areas listed below. Please note the Programme and Programme Foundation Awards are not restricted to one area of the remit and may span both basic and translational cancer research.

Basic biological research: Any area of basic biological research relating to cancer, including:

- Cancer genetics
- Genomic instability
- Cell transformation and oncogenesis
- Cancer cell metabolism
- Tumour biology, including tumour microenvironment
- Migration, invasion and metastasis
- Tumour immunology

Studies may include the use of model systems (e.g. yeast, worm, fly, zebrafish, mouse), cell lines (animal or human) or primary tumour material.

Preclinical studies: Research that will generate biological data to underpin therapeutic development, including:

- Identifying and functional characterisation of biological targets in cell lines, primary tumour material or model systems
- Immunotherapy and Gene Therapy.
- Biological mechanisms of therapeutic interventions
- Mechanisms of resistance to therapies

Biomarkers: programmes in biomarker research covering:

- Predisposition, screening, diagnostic, prognostic, predictive, pharmacological and surrogate response
- Applications can cover the discovery of biomarkers, biomarker assay validation and biomarker qualification.
- Sample collections that directly underpin the planned research (retrospective trial; cohort) can be included.

Imaging: the following areas of imaging research:

- Whole-body preclinical and clinical imaging studies

- Cellular imaging to address questions of tumour biology in animal models or through whole-body imaging
- Development of imaging agents, contrast agents and other imaging technologies
- Imaging research associated with surgery

Radiotherapy research: Applications using the following approaches:

- Optimising radiotherapy – e.g. reducing toxicity or improving outcome in patients treated with radiotherapy.
- Validation of new targets in combination with radiotherapy

Engineering and physical sciences (EPS) applied to cancer including the following areas:

- Tissue engineering and regenerative medicine
- Biochemistry and chemical biology
- Biophysics
- Drug delivery devices

Cancer Research UK will only consider research proposals that are cancer-related and that contain a definite research aspect.