**Gut Cancer Foundation: Call for Applications – Gut Cancer Research Funding Round**

The Gut Cancer Foundation (GCF) is calling for applications for:

A clinical trial, clinical study, or pre-clinical research which aims to improve outcomes for patients with gastro-intestinal (GI) cancers in New Zealand. The value of the grant is $150,000 (GST excl).

GCF will consider both new research or existing projects with preference given to those applications most closely aligned with GCF’s strategic aims and current research priorities:

* Improving access for New Zealanders to clinical trials
* Supporting NZ clinicians to combine their clinical work with research projects
* The development of a dedicated clinical research workforce for upper and lower GI cancers with a focus on increasing Māori participation
* Supporting research and trials that increases equitable outcomes and access for Māori, and other underserved populations in Aotearoa New Zealand

GCF will consider applications from all relevant health professions, who are able to combine their clinical work with research, investigating how to improve detection, diagnosis, the quality of life and potential survival for people living with GI cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand.  GCF will consider applications from pre-clinical researchers that clearly define a short-term pathway to clinical trials.

The Gut Cancer Research Funding Round is available in (but not limited to) the speciality areas of cancer surgery, radiation oncology, medical oncology, palliative care, cancer genetics, radiology, anatomical pathology, nutrition, nursing, psychiatry, or public health.

General information

For clinical trials and clinical studies, awards will be distributed on a patient-by-patient basis. Successful recipients will be expected to invoice for each patient recruited to the trial.

Awards to pre-clinical research projects will be distributed through 3 payments of $50,000. The 2nd and 3rd payments will be conditional on the satisfactory receipt of a 6 monthly review.

Six monthly progress reports are required using the provided accountability template. The report will be reviewed by GCF’s Scientific Advisory Committee who will advise the GCF board on the distribution of future payments.

All recipients would be expected and required to acknowledge funding support from GCF in oral or written reports about their work. The successful applicant must be prepared to have a profile posted on GCF’s website [www.gutcancer.org.nz](http://www.gutcancer.org.nz) and promoted through GCF’s marketing material.

Applications should be made on the Research Proposal form attached and need to include the proposed research, and information about the applicant, description of how their time will be allocated, and demonstration of value to their career.

Applications must be received by GCF by email to info@gutcancer.org.nz by

**5pm, Friday 29th September 2023.** Please note that your host institution may have an earlier closing date and GCF strongly encourages you to adhere to the internal deadline.  Please also ensure that you also fulfil any institutional requirements for submission.

The decision will be made by GCF’s Scientific Advisory Committee and ratified by the Gut Cancer Foundation board of directors. Applicants will be notified by mid-early November 2023.

See information about GCF below.

Liam Willis



Gut Cancer Foundation

Executive Officer

**The Cause**

The Gut Cancer Foundation (GCF) is a charity committed to positive change and creating an everlasting impact for all Aotearoa New Zealanders affected by gut cancers.

This group of cancers affects the bowel, pancreas, stomach, gallbladder/ biliary tract, liver, and oesophagus. It’s collectively the most common form of cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand, with over 6,000 people diagnosed each year. Yet despite its prevalence, gut cancers remain under-represented in awareness and funding. We seek to make a difference funding innovative research, being a voice for cancers of the digestive system, and providing vital information and education to improve and save the lives of all New Zealanders.

**GCF’s strategic aims include:**

* Funding leading research and innovation
* Providing awareness and education
* Achieving equitable outcomes and access for all New Zealanders
* Building a sustainable organisation

**Clinical Research Project in GI Cancers**

There is a clear need for a better understanding of GI cancers, how and why they develop, how they present and how they are best treated. Despite implementing optimal treatment for these cancers there is still an urgent need for new advances to improve the survival odds.

Publicly-funded health services are obliged to concentrate their scarce resources on doing the basics of getting known treatments to the right people, at the right time and to an appropriate level of quality. In cancer this can be mapped along the patient experience e.g. prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care.

To future-proof the health of the community however, health services need research that will generate new knowledge to ensure they provide not just best care today but better care for tomorrow.

**GCF Research Priorities**

GCF’s current research priorities are focused on the following areas:

* Improving access for Aotearoa New Zealanders to clinical trials
* Supporting clinicians to combine their clinical work with research projects
* The development of a dedicated clinical research workforce for upper and lower GI cancers with a focus on increasing Māori participation
* Supporting research and trials that increases equitable outcomes and access for Māori and other underserved populations in Aotearoa New Zealand.

