

## Deutsche Krebshilfe (German Cancer Aid)

### Call for Applications – Special Funding Program: 'Visionary Novel Concepts in Cancer Research'

Despite impressive advances in immune oncology and targeted therapies, cancer remains for many patients an incurable disease. This is due to its enormous plasticity in developing resistance mechanisms, which finally lead to a recurrence of the disease. Novel, fundamentally different strategies that truly improve tumor control and patient outcome and that go beyond intense research efforts to elucidate the biological principles that account for (in)sensitivity to modern treatment modalities are urgently needed. Specifically, tumor heterogeneity and its dynamic evolution, cancer stemness, locally destructive growth and metastasis, as well as primary refractoriness, acquired resistance and other means of treatment evasion reflect unsolved challenges in cancer medicine. Likewise, approaches to early detection and elimination at low tumor burden, specific considerations of late stage interventions, and predictive tools to identify patient-effective treatment options remain central and largely un-addressed clinical demands.

**German Cancer Aid is launching a new call to support visionary research projects that bear the potential to fundamentally challenge and change the way we currently prevent, diagnose and treat cancer. By opening radically novel research directions and by conquering seemingly cancer-unrelated scientific territories and technological advances, German Cancer Aid would like to promote entirely new ways of thinking about cancer and anti-cancer strategies, i.e. 'out-of-the box' and different from 'mainstream research'. The overall budget of this new program entitled 'Visionary Novel Concepts in Cancer Research' is 3.5 Mio. Euro for projects running for two to three years.**

The characteristics of suitable project outlines are:

- a. Innovation: The conceptual idea behind the approach must be truly novel.
- b. Goal: Must explicitly explain why and how the novel direction proposed is likely to succeed.
- c. Eligibility: Ineligibility for other regular funding programs due to the early stage and more risky nature of the project proposal.
- d. Interdisciplinarity: Not mandatory, but desirable to connect with experts from other scientific areas.
- e. Strength: Applicants must have documented proof of scientific expertise in their respective fields.
- f. Preliminary data: Provision of early project-specific proof-of-concept data is appreciated, but not a prerequisite.
- g. Focus: Any cancer-related strategy (from molecules to subcellular machineries to cells to environment to organ to system-wide approaches).

Not only researchers from the fields of (bio)medicine, biology or (bio)chemistry are welcomed to submit their ideas for development of new strategies against cancer. We also call on researchers in the disciplines of mathematics, (bio)physics, (bio)informatics / applied computer sciences and others.

**Applicants must inform German Cancer Aid by August 27, 2018 that they plan to submit an application. Project outlines should be submitted by September 27, 2018. Based on the evaluation of these pre-proposals by an international board of referees from diverse scientific backgrounds, selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.**