



International Clinician and Medical Scientist Fellowship Program

Presented by the Princess Margaret Global Cancer Program

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1. Program Description

The German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) and Princess Margaret Cancer Centre are joining forces as world leading cancer research centres to offer the **International Clinician and Medical Scientist Fellowship Program**. The program was established to promote world-class, transatlantic professional training and education in the area of translational cancer research.

The document outlines detailed terms for eligibility, joint tandem research projects, funding and the application process. Applications must be submitted to pmglobalcancer@uhn.ca by March 31 2021. See page 5 for the grant proposal application.

i. Eligibility

Candidates must wish to pursue a career as a Clinician Scientist or Medical Scientist and must be engaged in a Joint Tandem Research Project focused on translational research. Eligible candidates within the Princess Margaret include:

- Senior residents (PGY 4/5)
- Clinical fellows
- Postdocs (within 3 years of obtaining their PhD)

The application must include a letter stating the commitment from the Division Head and/or Laboratory Principal Investigator stating the salary will be covered for the duration of the fellowship, 50% will be refunded through this fellowship program to a maximum of \$50,000. The letter must include the percent of time secured by the applicant for research across the term of the fellowship.

ii. Joint Tandem Research Projects

The core element of the program is the development of joint tandem research projects between DKFZ and Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. Selected projects are required to focus on translational research at the forefront of clinical transformation and provide added-value by capitalizing on the synergistic expertise and/or infrastructure of each centre.

- Joint tandem research projects are to be co-lead by Principal Investigators (PIs) holding research accreditation from their host institution (Scientist, Senior Scientist or Clinician Scientist for PM; Division Heads and Research Group Leaders for DKFZ). In the absence of a Clinician Scientist as co-lead, the inclusion of a Clinician/Clinician-Scientist co-investigator is a pre-requisite.
- Selected projects are required to focus on translational research at the forefront of clinical transformation and to provide added-value by synergistic expertise or infrastructures of each center.
- The duration of the tandem research projects will be for 2 years, with a possibility of an extension to a third year pending successful review of the year 2 progress report. It is envisioned that joint projects will result in common abstracts for scientific meeting and/or common research grants and should end in joint publication(s). Each project will have the necessary agreements in place before research begins to outline the expectations and milestones, as well as to address issues such as ownership of the Intellectual Property stemming from the project and the Research Ethics Board approvals needed.
- Each tandem project will be conducted by one fellow, who will have two supervising PIs, one from PM and one from DKFZ. The supervising PIs are responsible for mentoring the fellow.
- Each tandem research project includes a research stay by the fellow at the partner institute. The duration will vary depending on the individual needs of each fellow. As a rule, the research stay

should span from at least 6 months to a maximum of 1 year. The research stay can be completed at one time or repeatedly, however, one stay should not be shorter than 3 months. The length of these stays may be influenced by the VISA the fellow is granted for their visit.

- The research stay guarantees a full-time research period for clinical and medical fellows e.g. to learn new technologies or skills at the partner institute and to apply them to the tandem project.
- The supervising PIs commit to regular consultation on project progress between the departments and the fellow (e.g. via videoconferences).

Supporting measures for joint tandem projects

- If desired, Clinician- and Medical-Scientist fellows may be given the opportunity to participate in supervised placements at the partner's cancer center during their research stay (up to 20% of the time at the partner institution). These placements aim to provide knowledge and first-hand experience on modern clinical cancer sciences, in particular organizations and workflows of multidisciplinary clinical cancer services, organization and workflow of translational trials and cohorts, legal and ethical consideration of clinical trials, patient points of view, professional views of the multidisciplinary team.
- A joint retreat of both sites including program PIs and fellows as well as leadership of PM and DKFZ will take place every 12 to 18 months.

iii. Funding

The program will cover 50% of the salary or stipend of the Clinician or Medical Scientist fellow for up to three years pending an annual review. Additional funds will be provided to support exchange visits and meetings, including travel, accommodation and living expenses.

- The home institute finances the salary/stipend of the Clinician- or Medical-Scientist fellow for up to three years (50% through the fellowship program, 50% through participating divisions – total salary/stipend and benefits not to exceed \$100,000 p.a. and fellow (PM), 80,000 € p.a. and fellow (DKFZ)).
- The program will cover the costs for exchange visits of up to 12 months (including travel costs flight, living expenses and accommodation – up to \$10,000 p.a. and fellow (PM), 7.500 € p.a. and fellow (DKFZ)).
- The program will cover the fees / travel costs for participation of the fellows in seminars / conferences / workshops costs for annual program meetings (fellows, mentors and leadership) up to a maximum of \$2,500 p.a. and fellow (PM), 2.000 € p.a. and fellow (DKFZ) for the duration of the fellowship.
- The two supervising PIs will cover the costs for consumables and core facility services.
- The application must include a letter stating the commitment from the Division Head and/or Laboratory Principal Investigator stating the salary will be covered for the duration of the fellowship, 50% will be refunded through this fellowship program to a maximum of \$50,000. The letter must include the percent of time secured by the applicant for research across the term of the fellowship.

iv. Application Dates and Process

1. Call for applications

The call for applications will be open until **March 31, 2021**

2. Matching (if required)

Interested PIs and/or possible candidates who do not have an existing cooperation with a division at the partner institute or do need support in elaborating suitable cooperation partners should email the following information compiled into a single PDF document to the respective program contact person (see below) at their home institution three weeks after the call latest:

- A letter of intent (max. 1 page) that clearly indicates the research interest (incl. 5 keywords) and possible cooperation topics/partners at the partner institute.
- Matching LOIs will be exchanged between PIs of both partner institutes to establish contacts. In exceptional cases, travel and accommodation costs for a short visit at one of the partner institutes can be provided.

3. Application submission

All applicants must submit their application package as a single pdf document to pmglobalcancer@uhn.ca. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2021.

4. Selection

- Submitted proposals will be reviewed by a joint Steering Committee based on the scientific excellence of the applicant and the proposed project, the genuine collaborative aspect of the project and the potential long-term benefit that the funding will provide the applicant.
- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a short interview with selected members of the Steering Committee, where candidates will present their project proposal (10 minutes), followed by a short discussion.
- Approval of candidates by the leadership of both institutions based on the recommendation of the steering committee.

v. Additional information

- While the program offers a common framework for its fellows to undergo professional training at both the DKFZ and the PM and can offer a joint certificate, it does not offer a joint degree. Fellows remain under the academic responsibility of their home universities and receive degrees according to the regulations of their home institutions.
- Fellows in the program are also associate members of the partner institute. During their research stay at the partner institute, the students are integrated into the respective institute, with access to its facilities and resources.
- As part of the future development of the program, it will be considered whether to create a curriculum that leads to an academically recognized degree.

vi. Program Leads and Contact Information

DKFZ

Dr. Philipp Gebhardt, Manager , DKFZ Clinician Scientist Program

Contact : p.gebhardt@dkfz.de

Princess Margaret

Dr. Mathieu Lupien, Research Lead, Global Cancer Program; Chair, Research External Partnerships and Collaborations Committee and Dr. Danielle Rodin, Director, Global Cancer Program

Contact: pmglobalcancer@uhn.ca

2. Grant Proposal for a Joint Tandem Research Project within the DKFZ-Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

Title

Not more than 160 characters

Period

MM.YYYY – MM.YYYY

Key Words

Please state 5 key words associated with the proposed tandem research project.

Applicants

- 1. Candidate for the Fellowship: First Name, Surname, Degree, Institution, Postal Address, Telephone, E-mail*
- 2. DKFZ-PI: First Name, Surname, Degree, Institution, Postal Address, Telephone, E-mail*
- 3. PM-PI: First Name, Surname, Degree, Institution, Postal Address, Telephone, E-mail*

Research Summary of the Tandem Research Project

Max. 1 page. Clearly state Rationale, Hypothesis, Specific Aims and Methods, Anticipated Outcomes and Impact related to patient-oriented translational cancer research

State of the Art & Own Previous Studies

Max. 1/3 page (w/o references). State own previous studies supporting your recruitment to the proposed Tandem Research Project, with reference to the 5 most important publications from the last 5 years.

Added Value for DKFZ and PM

Max. 1/3 page. Describe the added value for both partner institutes and comment on the synergies that will be created in the project as well as on the potential for a long-term cooperation.

Complementary Measures

Max. 1/3 page. Please state up to 5 measures how the candidate will be integrated in the education and training programs during the research stay(s) at the partner institutes and which skills could be especially trained during the exchange.

Motivation to Participate in the International Clinician and Medical Scientist Fellowship Program

Max. 1 page. Why should the candidate receive the funding and what s/he would gain from being part of the program?

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Timeline and Milestones

Max. 1/2 page. Develop a timeline (ideally in form of a Gantt chart) that clearly indicates the plan for completion of the tandem research project, but also the milestones for the project, including the research stay(s) at the partner institute.

Attachment 2 – Letter of Commitment

Max. 1 page. Signed letters of commitment from the candidate's supervising PIs at DKFZ and PM stating that they are both willing to guide and mentor the candidate during the funding period and that funding will be covered for the duration of the fellowship, 50% by the fellowship program to a maximum of \$50,000. The letter must include the percent of time secured by the applicant for research across the term of fellowship.

Attachment 3 – Candidate's CV

Including list of publications

Attachment 4 – DKFZ-PI CV

Including list of publications

Attachment 5 – PM-PI CV

Including list of publications

Requirements

- The proposed project must meet the mission stated in the call of the program.
- Activities must aim to provide a top-level scientific research and training experience for the candidate.
- The proposed project must demonstrate an outstanding synergy among groups at DKFZ and PM towards patient-oriented translational research.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be judged principally on the following features:

- Scientific excellence of the candidate and the proposed tandem research project
- The synergy that is likely to derive from joining interdisciplinary and interactive tandem projects of groups at DKFZ and PM.
- How the planned tandem project is going to support the candidate in its scientific career development as a Clinician Scientist or Medical Scientist and what long-term benefit the funding will provide the candidate.

Submission

Please submit completed application form as one pdf document to pmglobalcancer@uhn.ca by March 31, 2021