



German-Israeli Cooperation in Cancer Research

General Procedure to Fund Joint Research Projects

- **Joint Projects - Partnership and Application**
- **Evaluation and Approval of Project Proposals**
- **Progress Reports and Workshops**
- **Contact Addresses**

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The General Procedure - from application to approval

MOST and DKFZ respectively publish a call for Proposals to fund Israeli and German joint projects, usually in mid-year. These joint projects are comprised of Israeli and German sub-projects. Assistance for proposed common projects is given by the partner organizations through "**Program Coordinators**". The Coordinators supervise the reviewing process of running proposals and implementation of new projects by the **Joint Scientific Program Committee (JSPC)**. The JSPC comprises of six members; typically in equal numbers from Israel and Germany. One of the JSPC members serves as an alternating chairman of Program Committee Meetings, (alternately in each country).

1. Joint Projects - Partnership and Application

1.1 Call for cooperative subprojects:

Whenever possible, partnerships should be arranged by direct communication and interaction between Israeli and DKFZ principal investigators prior to submission of pre-proposals to their research organization. The rules according to which pre-proposals are to be submitted are defined by the respective partner organization. In its 34th Meeting, in March 2011, the Joint Program Committee decided to re-institute the abstention rule for two years concerning Israeli partners to open the program for new Israeli applicants. Thus Israeli partners who have a running project or those who have recently terminated their project, are allowed to submit a new application for a project starting two years after termination of their current project.

Generally, in each phase of the cooperation program, a DKFZ grantee can have only one cooperative subproject. In extraordinary cases, after appropriate consideration by the Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum (e.g. capacity of grantee) at the earliest possible stage of the procedure and as an exception, he/she may be approved by the committee to have two subprojects, but not in the same funding group.

On the German side the cooperation program is limited to scientists of the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ).

Projects (including their partners) sponsored by the German Government shall be located within the geographic area under the jurisdiction of the state of Israel prior to June 5, 1967. This is without prejudice to the status of territories that came under Israeli administration after June 1967 and should not be construed as prejudicing Israel's principled position in this matter.

To **identify potential partners** the program coordinators may assist applicants from either partner organization. To do so the coordinators require the following preliminary materials (1-2 pages) at the earliest possible date relative to the closing date of the call:

- 1) Name and address (affiliation) of principal investigators
- 2) title of the subproject to be proposed
- 3) Short summary of the applicant's subproject proposal
- 4) specific aspects of the joint research project for which the applicant is seeking a cooperating partner, including the expected contribution of the partner and the mode of cooperation envisaged.

1.2 **Initial evaluation of joint project proposals and evaluation of pre-proposals.** The pre-proposals will be sent to a review panel. Applicants selected by a review panel will be invited to submit fully written proposals to each partner organisation (with suggestion of altogether 10 referees, five by Israeli, five by German applicant; referees should not be partner in a joint publication or have close cooperation). Each Israeli or European member of the review panel will approve three to five referees for each project, which may include suggestions made by the applicant.

2. **Evaluation and Approval of Fully Written Project Proposals**

2.1 **Evaluation of joint projects by external Referees and the Program Committee.**

Each partner organisation will send full proposals to external referees (up to five referees from each side) for evaluation of each project. The results of this evaluation will be communicated between both partner organisations and all members of the Program Committee will be informed on the results.

Independently all members of the Program Committee will evaluate the fully written proposals at the same time period.

2.2. **Decision(s) on proposed joint projects**

A review panel is formed to evaluate all full proposals, based on the external reviewers as well as 4 criteria, with or without formal rating, are to be applied:

- 1 Originality and scientific quality
- 2 Relevance to cancer
- 3 Probability of fruitful interactions
- 4 Reliability of methods proposed

Projects with similar rating may be given preferentially to young Israeli or DKFZ investigators.

A proposed joint project may be rejected either totally (all subprojects together) or partially (any of the component subprojects). In case of a partial rejection the Program Committee may consider alternative proposals and suggestions by the partner organization.

Final recommendation of the review panel will be approved by the DKFZ and MOST.

All ratings of the Committee will be kept strictly confidential.

2.3 **Release of Decision on Common Projects**

The decision of the Program Committee on approval of a proposed joint project will be communicated in writing through each of the partner organizations to the applicants of the relevant subprojects as soon as possible.

3. **Progress Reports and Workshops**

For each project, the partner-investigators are required to provide annual progress reports of their individual projects. All the Principal Investigators meet once in a year for a Workshop (status seminar), held alternately in Israel or in Germany. The cooperation period is concluded with a joint Concluding Report, co-authored and co-signed by the partner-investigators. The Report will be evaluated by the Program Committee according to criteria 1 to 3 listed above under Topic 2.2 for evaluation of new project proposals. Scientific results are published by the Principal Investigators either jointly or individually, as appropriate.

It is mandatory to acknowledge the support of the DKFZ-MOST program in all publications resulting from the projects. Only those publications which acknowledge the support of the DKFZ-MOST cooperation program will be considered in the evaluation of the project.

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