WARREN Y. SOPER KIDNEY CANCER RESEARCH GRANT 2026
KIDNEY CANCER CANADA - KCRNC

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

The Kidney Cancer Research Network of Canada (KCRNC) has entered into a collaboration with Kidney Cancer Canada (KCC) to provide financial support for research within the Canadian kidney cancer research community. Kidney Cancer Canada has received funding from the Warren Y. Soper Trust to fund research projects in 2026-2027.

Key Dates

Applications Open: **August 26, 2026**
Application Submission Deadline: **October 23, 2026**
Official winner (s) announcement by **November 22, 2026**

Objectives and Scope

The objective of the KCRNC Research Grant Program is to support peer-reviewed research that promotes excellence in kidney cancer research. This grant competition is funded by Warren Y. Soper Charitable Trust, via Kidney Cancer Canada.

Grants will be awarded to the successful applicant(s) (or applicant's institution on behalf of the applicant, if applicable). It is anticipated that one grant(s) will be awarded, for up to $100,000 for 1 year (with possibility of extension). Funding will be provided over a 12-month performance period. Amount per grant to be funded is dependent on the requests and the quality of the applications.

Eligibility

The CKCIS Project Manager (Camilla Tajzler, CT.Solutions@pm.me)will receive and process the submitted proposals. Proposals will be awarded grants based on the following:

- This research award is designated to support a faculty member or trainee in Canada.
- Agrees to provide a progress report, including publication plan, to KCRNC for dissemination of study results.

• Agrees to acknowledge Kidney Cancer Research Network of Canada, The Warren Y. Soper Charitable Trust, Kidney Cancer Canada in publication for funding.

Eligible Research Proposals

The research proposals must be in kidney cancer research conducted in Canada. Basic science, clinical research projects, and projects identifying unmet supportive care needs and/or improving shared decision-making will be accepted. Preference will be given to the following:

• Junior investigators (less than 5 years' experience) or trainees
• New/pilot projects that have not been previously funded (this award is not for those looking for fund extensions to a currently funded project.
• Projects that are bringing novel advancements to current research

The study must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding; extensions will be considered. The proposed application should be a 'stand-alone' project.

Non-Eligible Research Proposals

The following types of proposals will not be eligible:

• Proposals for projects that are adequately funded from another source, including government or industry sponsors, will not be eligible
• Proposals for pharmaceutical product development (including studies on non-approved indications for drugs) and/or product comparison, or product promotion will not be considered.

Review Criteria

The KCRNC-KCC Grant proposals will be reviewed and approved by appointed KCRNC and Kidney Cancer Canada grant review members. Research proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Scientiic Merit:
    a. Rationale
    b. Originality

2. Methodology

3. Impact
    a. Contribution to advancement of scientific knowledge in relevant therapeutic field
    b. Clinical relevance or potential clinical value and applicability

4. Feasibility
    a. Feasibility of study design, methodology, analysis
    b. Adequate power and sample size
    c. Proposed timelines.

5. Budget

6. Qualifications of applicant and supporting team

7. Institutional Support and Resources

RATING SCALE:

Score	Rating Scale Description	Priority for Funding
4.8 – 5.0	Outstanding proposal with original and innovative aims. Research proposed is at the forefront internationally and led by outstanding team. The research addresses extremely important questions, challenges existing paradigms and will substantially improve our knowledge of renal cell carcinoma.	Highest
4.5 – 4.7	Exceptional quality research that is highly significant, innovative, and internationally competitive. Driven by an exceptional team, the research addresses crucial questions and will have a major impact on our understanding of renal cell carcinoma.	High
4.2 – 4.4	Excellent quality research that addresses very important and original questions. The research will have a significant impact on the relevant scientific field.	High
3.8 – 4.1	High quality research that can be classified as very good, bordering excellent. The results will likely contribute considerably to knowledge in the scientific field.	Medium
3.4 – 3.7	Very good research that has the potential to improve our current knowledge of kidney cancer. Some minor weaknesses in the proposal, while diminishing enthusiasm, can easily be corrected.	Medium

3.0 – 3.3	Good quality research that may yield important results. There are concerns with the proposal that can be addressed during the term of the grant.	Low
Below 3.0	Research proposal has potential. However, there are weaknesses that need to be reconciled for it to be successful. The proposal is in need of further development before being competitive.	None

Guidelines for Application Format

The following are suggestions for preparation of the research proposal.

The research proposal is not to exceed **5 typewritten pages in 12 font** (plus application form, references, figures, and supporting documentation).

The headings suggested include: 1) Statement of Objective(s)

2) Brief review of literature and background information
3) Hypothesis(es)
4) Design & Methodology
5) Analysis of Data
6) Proposed Budget
7) Summary Page

In addition, the following supporting documentation must accompany the application:

1) Evidence of appropriate Ethics Committee approval or application for approval must be included along with the consent forms where human subjects are involved in the study.
2) Letter of support and commitment from the chair of the Department/Division indicating the level of institutional and university support.
3) Two Letters of Recommendation.
4) Current curriculum vitae of the applicant and the supervisor.

Applicants may be asked to prepare a brief presentation for final decision by the KCRNC-KCC selection committee. Applicants will be notified if this is required.

Obligations for Award Recipients

1) Presentation of the results of their research at the KCRNC Forum: CKCF (which will be supported financially) as well as other national meetings, and to submit their work for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
2) Acknowledge support from KCRNC-KCC-CUASF in all presentations and publications.
3) Submit an interim progress report by and a final report by dates determined at the time of the award.
4) Submit a copy of any publications to the CKCIS Project Manager.

Financial Considerations

The amount of each Grant should include direct costs (labour and study costs), institutional overhead costs (if any), study drug costs (if applicable), and indirect costs (publication, software license fees, and REB fees). Each payment will be made in installments according to milestones, with a maximum of 50% of the funding delivered at the beginning of the project. Institutions are expected to waive overhead fees that might otherwise apply to industry-funded research.

Inquiries

Address all inquiries to: Camilla Tajzler, CKCIS Project Manager, CT.Solutions@pm.me