

# International Neuroblastoma Research Initiative 2019

*Major Grant Award*

## Collaborative Funding Partners



London – New York





*Advancing science; empowering parents; defeating neuroblastoma.*

# International Neuroblastoma Research Initiative 2019

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## 2019 Request for Applications (major)

Letters of Intent Due: **16 December 2019**

### CHALLENGE GRANT

**Project Grant Award circa. GBP 500,000 over 3 years (2021-2023)**

The CHALLENGE GRANT is to call for improvement in survival of patients with refractory, indolent neuroblastoma. This sub-type, which is clinically and biologically recognised, is typically associated with slow or no response to chemotherapy followed by a prolonged disease course leading ultimately to a poor outcome. Proposals focused on cohort discovery, therapeutic classification, pre-clinical proposals to underpin clinical trials and clinical trials are welcomed.

- **16 December 2019: Letters of Intent Due**
- **February 2020: Invitations for Full Proposals Released**
- **June 2020: Full Proposals Due**
- **August 2020: Grant Award Announced**

### About Solving Kids' Cancer

Solving Kids' Cancer in London and New York work together to support innovative clinical research into high-risk neuroblastoma and foster international collaboration within the research community.

#### CONTACT

##### Solving Kids' Cancer

CAN Mezzanine, 49-51 East Road, London, N1 6AH

[www.solvingkidscancer.org.uk](http://www.solvingkidscancer.org.uk)

Research Coordinator: Leona Knox [research@solvingkidscancer.org.uk](mailto:research@solvingkidscancer.org.uk)

# Overview

## Project Description

This is a Request for Applications to conduct research for the benefit of patients with refractory, indolent neuroblastoma; a sub-type that is clinically well-recognised and typically associated with slow or no response to chemotherapy followed by a prolonged disease course leading ultimately to a poor outcome. It is frequently, though not exclusively, seen in older children and adolescents.

- Overall:
  - Proposals should relate to primary refractory (chemoresistant) disease.
  - Proposals must include a full list of collaborators. LOIs should provide as much detail as is available at the time of submission, even if this support has only been given *in principle*. Applicants should aim to involve at least one investigator from a SIOPEN institution and at least one investigator from a COG institution in their submission.
  - Proposals with a combination of investigational and interventional elements to better distinguish the molecular characteristics of this patient group, elucidate mechanisms of chemoresistance and also provide new and innovative therapeutic options will be prioritised.
  - Proposals will be primarily weighted on scientific merit and their potential benefit to children with neuroblastoma. Consideration will also be given to the realistic potential for the strategy or therapy to be rapidly moved to front-line therapy if successful. For proposals weighted equally on scientific merit, those having an impact on front-line therapy in the shortest timeframe will be looked upon more favourably.
- Cohort discovery, therapeutic classification and pre-clinical proposals are welcomed, with an understanding that, if successful, these studies will be used to develop therapeutic strategies and clinical trials for children.
- The RFA welcomes clinical research proposals, which:
  - Consider the use of parallel biological studies to identify any particular sub-groups who derive benefit.
  - Include recruiting centres in the United Kingdom, Europe, and North America. The addition of recruiting centres outside these regions is not prohibited. The centres do not need to be included at LOI stage but must be confirmed and listed in any Full Proposal.
  - Have been discussed with cooperative groups.
  - Consider differing early-front-line strategies, with a clear overview of patient eligibility criteria and recruitment strategy provided.

## Budget

A grant of circa **GBP 500,000** will be awarded to the winning Proposal. Awards may be made to institutions in the United States, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, or Europe.

The grant award will be over three years dispersed in milestone payments. Zero-cost extensions will be allowed, subject to approval by Solving Kids' Cancer. Funding is for direct costs only, with no overheads or indirect costs permitted. A detailed budget and justification for all project costs will be required in the Full Proposal.

## Timeline

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Length of Time</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<i>RFA Released</i>		<i>September 2019</i>
<i>Letters of Intent</i>	<i>2-3 months</i>	<i>December 2019</i>
<i>Scientific Review of LOIs, invitations for Full Proposals released</i>	<i>1-2 months</i>	<i>February 2020</i>
<i>Full Proposals due</i>	<i>6 months</i>	<i>June 2020</i>
<i>Grant Award Announced</i>	<i>2-3 months</i>	<i>August 2020</i>
<i>Study Conducted</i>		<i>2021-2023</i>

## Letter of Intent (LOI) Requirements

1. **Title Page** – Please use the cover sheet provided (on final page of this document).
2. **Abstract** – Please provide a lay abstract (not to exceed 350 words).
3. **Concept/Scientific Abstract** – Please provide the scientific rationale and potential strategy (one half page).
4. **Institutions / Consortia**
5. **Potential Industry Partners**
6. **Description of Proposed Research** (two pages)
  - a. Primary and secondary objectives.
  - b. Study design/schema.
  - c. Challenges: including identifying any potential pitfalls in the proposed design that might hamper your ability to achieve the study goals and clarify how such hurdles could be managed.
  - d. Preliminary statistical plan.
7. **References**
8. **Indicative Budget**
9. **Biosketches** – For lead and other key investigators at each site.

## Review of Your LOI

Proposals must be submitted by the deadline 16 December 2019, 23:59 GMT. Proposals will be scientifically reviewed and scored via a peer review process overseen by the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of Solving Kids' Cancer (Europe), subject to identification and mitigation of conflicts of interest. Comments from patient representatives will be taken into consideration. Solving Kids' Cancer is a fully accredited member of the [Association of Medical Research Charities \(AMRC\)](#), which requires that a robust, credible and transparent award process is followed.

Reviews will consider the following criteria when evaluating proposals:

- Scientific merit of the proposed research project coupled with the nature and deliverability of plans to commence a study as stated in the timeline.
- Potential benefit to children with neuroblastoma, and specifically how this work might be used in future to stratify patients who would (potentially) benefit from the proposed interventional elements in the study. Compatibility with future plans of major cooperative study groups in terms of front-line therapy and strategies should be addressed.
- The use of biomarker-driven studies, and a focus on high-priority targets.
- Innovation and novelty of approach, agents, and/or study design.
- Strategies to address the limitations of any proposed research project in this high-risk neuroblastoma sub-type, including the smaller patient population affected by primary refractory disease, must be identified.
- Investigators' vision, willingness to collaborate, leadership capabilities, and ability to bring together and lead a multi-institution international collaborative clinical trial.
- Clinical trials opened in multiple centres through study consortia, providing maximum potential benefit to children, will be prioritised.
- Impact on front-line therapy, or potential impact on front-line therapy and feasibility and timescales thereof.

## Questions?

Early questions about the nature of this RFA or the eligibility of proposals are welcomed.

E-mail (preferred): [leona@solvingkidscancer.org.uk](mailto:leona@solvingkidscancer.org.uk) / [research@solvingkidscancer.org.uk](mailto:research@solvingkidscancer.org.uk)



**Solving  
Kids' Cancer**

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## Grant Application Cover Sheet

<b>Project Title:</b>	
<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Institution Name:</b>	

**We, the undersigned, certify that the statements contained in this grant application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of our knowledge. We understand and agree to comply with any terms set forth in the Request for Applications document, and to abide by any decisions made by Solving Kids' Cancer at their absolute discretion.**

**Signature of Principal Investigator:**

**Date:**

**Signature of Institution Authorised Official:**

**Date:**

**Name and Title of Authorised Official:**

Please submit this grant cover page as part of your application.  
Signatures may be provided electronically or via a scanned original.

**Solving Kids' Cancer**

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