

Call for Cancer Center Amsterdam Proof of Concept studies 2026

This program is made possible by the Stichting Cancer Center Amsterdam and aims to stimulate innovative research at the Cancer Center Amsterdam.

Goal:

To translate promising preclinical research findings from the Amsterdam UMC into a clinical Proof-of-Concept study in man. If successful, the data generated are expected to lead to a larger clinical trial.

What can be applied for?

- Small clinical trials for 1-3 years.
- Budget can be requested for personnel costs and materials. We aim to fund several projects, this year's available budget is €150.000 in total.

Conditions for Cancer Center Amsterdam research proposals

- Applications can only be submitted by the chair of a patient research group (PRG, see below).
- The applications must be discussed within the relevant PRG and only one application per PRG can be submitted.
- Applications must be supported by the head(s) of the department(s) of the main applicants.
- The project must be submitted by two main applicants, a clinical researcher holding an MD title and a preclinical researcher holding a PhD title.
- All involved departments must commit to the project. A contribution of financial resources and staff is expected.
- The suggested clinical trial must be the result of preclinical work origination from our own institute. This can involve a biomarker study (e.g. stratification for treatment response/non-response), imaging, application of AI, a new compound, new surgical intervention, new radiotherapy intervention, quality of life research, etcetera.
- The first applicant as well as the personnel working on the project must be employed at Amsterdam UMC at the start of the project.
- It is advised to obtain METC approval as soon as possible. Funding will only start pending approval.
- The budget includes personnel and materials. ICT costs and congress visits are not covered.
- Part-time appointments should be well justified.

Procedure Cancer Center Amsterdam call 2026

- Pre-applications must be submitted via the chair of a PRG. The same project cannot be submitted in the CCA call 2026 round.
- Each PRG can submit only one application.
- The CCA clinical review committee makes a first selection of the most promising studies.
- Selected projects will be invited to submit a full proposal.
- The full proposals will be reviewed by the CCA clinical review committee, and the prime applicant will be invited for a short interview.
- The proposals will be scored on connection of preclinical and clinical work, whether it builds on previous CCA work (also the preliminary lab work), feasibility (methodology and patient numbers), and quality and innovation.
- The success rate within this call is approximately 25%

Examples of PoC studies

1. Studies to define the optimal ablation treatment of patients with Barrett's Esophagus.
2. Application of a dendritic cell vaccine in AML patients with MRD.
3. To investigate the feasibility of using 18F-prostate specific membrane antigen PET/CT to predict treatment response to Radium-223-chloride and Rhenium-188-HEDP in patients with metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer.
4. Development of a flow cytometric technique to diagnose patients with cytopenias with neoplastic bone marrow disease (MDS) vs cytopenias of a nonmalignant nature.
5. Effect of low-dose cyclofosfamide combined with everolimus for metastasized renal cell carcinoma.
6. Cognitive behavioral therapy for fatigue in gliomas.

PRGs and their (vice-) chairs

PRG	Chair(s)
Hepato Pancreato Biliary	Marc Besselink, Babs Zonderhuis, Arantza Farina Sarasqueta
Upper GI	Mark van Berge Henegouwen, Sarah Derks
Colorectal carcinoma	Tineke Buffart, Jurriaan Tuynman, Evelien Dekker
Lung	Idris Bahce, Marieke Fransen
Head and neck	René Leemans, Ruud Brakenhoff, Jan Jaap Hendrickx
Neuro-oncology	Anneke Niers, Linda Douw
Sarcoma	Jacqueline Tromp, Jos Bramer, Robert Hemke
Dermato-oncology	Mariëtte Labots, Wouter Ouwerkerk
Retinoblastoma	Annette Moll, Pim de Graaf
Uro-oncology	Jorg Oddens, Jeroen van Moorselaar, Patricia Zondervan, Irene Bijnsdorp, Martijn de Bruin
Gynecological oncology	Guus Fons, Stijn Mom, Luc van Lonkhuijzen, Renske Steenbergen
Breast Cancer	Gwen Diepenhorst, Willemien Menke, Desiree van den Bongard, Tanja de Gruijl
Hematology	Dave de Leeuw, Jacqueline Cloos, Martine Chamuleau, Eric Eldering
Thyroid cancer	Koen Dreijerink, Jacqueliën Hillebrand
Neuroendocrine tumors	Els Nieveen van Dijkum, Anton Engelsman

Important dates

Deadline pre-proposals:

August 23rd, 23:59, 2026

Deadline complete project proposals:

October 25th, 23:59, 2026

- Only applications submitted in the correct format will be reviewed (max. 3 A4 pages, font Arial 10).
- Pre-proposals will be reviewed by the Cancer Center Amsterdam committee. Candidates of the best ranked pre-proposals are invited to write a complete project proposal (6 pages).