

# CCCZ: COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER ZURICH

CCCZ Precision Oncology Funding Program 2026  
Guidelines for IITs (V1.0\_2026)

**COMPREHENSIVE  
CANCER CENTER  
ZURICH**

The University Center  
for Personalized Oncology  
in Switzerland

## CCCZ PRECISION ONCOLOGY FUNDING PROGRAM – 2026 CALL INVESTIGATOR INITIATED TRIALS GUIDELINES

The Comprehensive Cancer Center Zurich (CCCZ) is the joint oncology center of excellence of the University of Zurich (UZH), the University Hospital Zurich (USZ), the Balgrist University Hospital and the University Children's Hospital Zurich. CCCZ strives for excellence in cancer research and cancer medicine, tight collaborations between scientists and physicians as well as patient representatives, and professional education in oncology. Our mission is to provide excellence in cancer medicine and implement innovative research programs towards precision oncology for the benefit of patients.

CCCZ is pleased to announce the 2026 call of the CCCZ Precision Oncology Funding Program for interventional clinical trials in oncology. This call is designed to accelerate the development of novel cancer therapies, enhance the understanding of cancer biology, and improve treatment outcomes for patients. We invite CCCZ members to submit proposals for interventional clinical trials focused on innovative cancer therapies in precision oncology.

### Objectives of the Call

The primary aim of this funding opportunity is to facilitate the transition of promising preclinical discoveries into clinical settings in form of an IIT. Successful proposals must demonstrate the potential to:

- **Support the mission of CCCZ** as the University Center for **Precision Oncology** in Switzerland.
- Investigate an **area of high clinical need** (e.g., young patients with adverse risk, relapsed / refractory disease).
- Focus on **interventional treatments, or diagnostic tests / technologies that have a direct impact on cancer outcome**.
- This call favors **early-phase investigator-initiated trials (IITs)** with short follow-ups and primary outcomes, which aim to establish proof of concept (phase 1 and phase 2a).
- IITs should include **longitudinal follow-ups** (within funding period) and should take advantage of patient samples for biomarkers and other translational analyses (multi-omics and other).

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## 1. CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION

### 1.1. Criteria for IITs

- a. Studies can be **single or multicenter trials**.
- b. The **trial lead** must be at a CCCZ institution.
- c. The sponsor must be a CCCZ institution.
- d. The planned IIT was discussed and endorsed by the responsible organ center heads/team.
- e. **Collaboration with the CCCZ clinical trial program** (e.g. development of the program, trial advertisement, patient recruitment, related events) is mandatory.
- f. **Protocol development** and submission, trial monitoring, etc. must be done with an accredited clinical trial center (preferred partners: USZ Clinical Trial Center, *Kispi Forschungszentrum für das Kind*).
- g. Projects involving **tumor sample processing** are encouraged to make use of the [CCCZ Sample Processing Lab](#).
- h. **Public and patient involvement** must be embedded.
- i. Compliance with the **Swiss Human Research Act** (HRA) and all other applicable laws and regulations.
- j. The application must state if a proposal for the project has been submitted to or is funded by **another funding body** (If yes: funding body, funding amount and expected date of funding decision must be provided).

### 1.2. Criteria for the principal investigator and the clinical trial team

- a. A particular emphasis will be brought to the following **selection criteria**: Preliminary data support the hypothesis of the trial, proven performance of the involved scientific and medical teams, feasibility, reliable project management / leadership, and an accrual estimate which fits with the timelines of the funding period.
- b. One **principal investigator** (PI) and at least one **sub-investigator** must be defined.
- c. The PI must be a clinician and a **CCCZ member**. Please click [here](#) to find an overview of current CCCZ members.
- d. The PI must be a **professor or PD** of the UZH faculty of medicine or affiliated with the UZH or one of the university hospitals.
- e. The **PI must have/confirm secured primary employment** at a UMZH institution for the entire funding period (1.1.2027-31.12.2030) with guaranteed access to the home institution's infrastructures and services needed for the research project.
- f. **Co-investigators must have/confirm secured primary employment** at a UMZH institution for at least half of the funding period (1.1.2027-31.12.2028). If, at the time of submission of the full proposal, employment for at least half of the funding period cannot be confirmed a co-investigator, or if it is known that a co-investigator will leave (earliest) after half of the funding period, a succession plan and a successor must be defined and outlined in the full proposal.
- g. **PIs of CCCZ-funded IITs receiving active funding** are not eligible to apply as PI in this call. However, they may participate as Co-investigators.
- h. **Co-investigators involved in CCCZ-funded IITs receiving active funding** are eligible to apply as PIs or Co-investigators.
- i. Balance and **equal opportunities** are strongly encouraged when building the clinical trial team.
- j. Trials should involve at least two CCCZ clinical departments, research groups, and/or diagnostic laboratories.
- k. PIs must not participate in more than one application (but can act as sub-investigators in another application).
- l. Sub-investigators are eligible to participate in more than one application.
- m. Support and integration of outstanding **early-career clinician scientists**.
- n. Eligible studies must have a **scientific goal**, studies directed only to generate IP / licensing opportunities are not eligible.
- o. In case of collaborations with third parties, any **background IP** (preexisting IP) relevant to the project must be disclosed. Clear statements on potential future commercial development of the **background IP** must be delivered with the full proposal. Please explain how potential **foreground IP** (new IP created during a collaboration or research and development project) and the exploitation of it will be managed in collaboration with third parties. Written agreements are not requested, however a general agreement on the use of foreground IP (e.g., a 50/50 arrangement) must be addressed and formulated in the application.

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## 1.3. The following are out of scope for this funding opportunity

- Active or existing investigator-led randomised controlled trials, or clinical study protocols, that have already been submitted and/or approved for funding.
- Observational studies, and registry trials.
- Studies which are solely for the purposes of licensing results and related IP to a profit industry partner.

## 2. FUNDING

- Available funding:** The maximum grant amount is CHF 2.6 million for the period 2027–2030 (2027: CHF 600.000; 2028: CHF 600.000; 2029: CHF 700.000; 2030: CHF 700.000). The provided annual budget tranches are subject to the Jährlichkeitsprinzip, i.e. funds must be spent within the respective funding year. For proposals requesting the total funding amount of CHF 2.6 million, the requested annual budget must match (and not exceed) the annual funding tranches specified above. Budget allocations cannot be shifted between funding years. Proposals for smaller IITs with a lower budget are also eligible. Following evaluation by an external review panel, funding will be awarded to the most outstanding proposal(s) based on scientific excellence and overall merit.
- Funding period:** Earliest start for project funding is 1.1.2027. All funds must be spent by 31.12.2030.
- Multiple applications/submissions** of the project proposal to different funding bodies are permitted but must be declared in the full proposal
- CCCZ only grants full funding** – partial funding is excluded.
- Double-funding** (by another funding body for the same project) is not permitted.
- Applicants who receive funding approval from CCCZ must **formally accept the project funding** within 7 days of notification.
- Each grant encompasses **funding** for:
  - Staff:** IITs need to cover the required FTE for a study nurse and a study physician (experienced resident or early attending). Clinical staff must be employed at USZ, Kispi, or Balgrist and participate in the development of the CCCZ Clinical Trial Program.
  - Study Conduct:** e.g. protocol development, regulatory fees, patient recruitment, monitoring, data management, investigational product (can be fee for service).
  - Translational research:** Funding of up-to CHF 0.5 Mio. (2027-2030) will be provided to finance associated translational research (staff and consumables). Staff must be employed at UZH, USZ, Kispi, or Balgrist.
  - In-kind contributions** must be indicated in the proposal.
  - Patient fees** for inclusion at other treatment sites can be paid to the recruiting partner sites.
  - Please complete and adapt the provided **Budget Plan template**.
- If a specific expertise required for the trial is missing in the Zurich biomedical research area, **collaborations** with national and/or international partners are possible. It is, however, required that the principal activity happens in Zurich; resources allocated to external collaborations should not exceed 10% of total funds.
- Progress of the project will be **regularly monitored**, which includes the submission of **annual** intermediate reports (scientific, financial and mentoring reports). The PI agrees to give updates of the trial progress upon request of the CCCZ leadership. At the end of the project a final report must be delivered.

## 3. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION

- Submission deadline for Letter of Intent: 15.4.2026 (use template).** A LOI is mandatory for coordination of the review process. Save PDF as **LastNamePI\_Acronym\_IIT\_LOI\_CCCZ Call 2026**. All teams submitting a LOI will be eligible to submit a full proposal. There will be no intermediate evaluation of the LOIs, and applicants may begin preparing the full proposal immediately.
- Submission deadline for Full Proposal: 7.6.2026 (use templates)**
  - Please generate one PDF document of all application files in the following order:
    - Completed full proposal template (font: Calibri Light 10 pt; line spacing: 1.15. Format must not be changed. Page restrictions must be adhered to. **Chapters 4-13 should not exceed 12 pages**).
    - Budget Plan.

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- CVs of all investigators (max. 2 pages each).
- CV of the statistician.
- Letter of commitment indicating the planned number of patients for each recruiting site.
- If applicable, further letters of collaboration.
- If applicable, agreements on IP.
- Additional/other attachments are not permitted.
- Save PDF as **LastNamePI\_Acronym\_IIT\_FP\_CCCZ Call 2026**.
- Please submit the application files to [maja.zenz.uzh.ch](mailto:maja.zenz.uzh.ch)

## 4. TIMELINES AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES

- 17.3.2026 – Call for proposals
- **15.4.2026 – Submission Letter of Intent**
- **7.6.2026 – Submission Full Proposal.**
- 15.6.-2.8.2026: Evaluation of all proposals by a panel of external reviewers.
- 30.9.2026 – On-site Hearing & Review. **Please save the date for the on-site hearing of the top-ranked proposals on 30.9.2026, 9.00-16.00h.**
- Oct 2026: Communication of evaluation results to all applying PIs.
- 01.01.2027: Start Project Funding.

## 5. CONTACT

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