

The University of Melbourne

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A UNIVERSITY CENTRE
THE (AUSTRALIAN CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION) ACRF
CANCER CENTRE FOR THERAPEUTIC TARGET DISCOVERY**

BACKGROUND

The 'Guidelines for the Formation and Management of University Centres', pursuant to Regulation 6.1.R7 - Made under Statute 6.1, 22. FORMATION OF CENTRES, require that all proposals for new Centres must be submitted to the Planning and Budget Committee for consideration with a recommendation from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and the relevant Dean or Deans.

FORM OF PROPOSAL TO PBC

The chief proponent and their Head and Dean are responsible for drafting the recommendation to PBC to establish a centre (or institute), and then discussing it with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). The proposal should address the following issues and would normally be no more than three A4 pages in length (plus, where appropriate, letters of support and the draft budget may be attached).

<p>Name of the principal academic proponent <i>Title, position and contact details</i></p>	<p>Professor Andrew Kaye Head of Department of Surgery (RMH/WH), Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne 6th Floor, Medical Research Building, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Parkville, Victoria 3052 Ph: 8344 5491; Fax: 9347 6488 Email: a.kaye@unimelb.edu.au</p>
<p>Proposed name of the centre</p>	<p>The (Australian Cancer Research Foundation) ACRF Cancer Centre for Therapeutic Target Discovery</p>
<p>Purpose of the centre</p>	<p>The ACRF Cancer Centre for Therapeutic Target Discovery will be a formally constituted, inter-institution collaboration designed to maximise shared resources (both human and material) for the purpose of conducting highly innovative cancer research.</p> <p>The unifying theme for the ACRF Cancer Centre is to address issues in cancer biology from novel and previously unexplored research perspectives, which have only recently become accessible through technological advances and exciting new paradigms in cancer biology. The aim is to identify the key cellular components within tumours, and the key signalling elements within cancer cells, that sustain the cancer's malignant potential. These should represent excellent candidates for targeted drug discovery.</p> <p>The ACRF Cancer Centre will be created by major contributions of space and infrastructure from the partner institutions, by integration of innovative competitively funded research programs led by the Chief Investigators, and by the acquisition of cutting-edge equipment through funding from the \$5 million grant awarded by the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF).</p> <p>The ACRF Cancer Centre will be located on the Parkville campus of Melbourne Health, and will include specialised facility laboratories within some of the partner institutions.</p>

<p>Potential benefits for the University of Melbourne</p>	<p>Researchers in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences undertaking investigations in cancer biology will have unrestricted and unlimited use of the equipment purchased with the \$5 million grant awarded by the ACRF. Guided by the Management Committee, access will also be available to enable cancer-related research in other Faculties of the University and the University's Bio21 Institute. Scheduling priority will be given to the ACRF Cancer Centre members undertaking cancer research. The price for access to the equipment will be based on direct costs only. The University of Melbourne will not accommodate any of the equipment, and therefore will have no financial responsibility for its ongoing operation and maintenance. The proposed equipment will be housed in the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, the Australian Genome Research Facility and the Royal Melbourne Hospital (detailed in Appendix A)</p>
<p>Consultations and evidence that the establishment of the Centre is supported by relevant members of the University</p>	<p>Each of the consortium members are affiliated with the University and have active, internationally competitive cancer research programs. This ACRF Cancer Centre will enable biomedical cancer research that is in keeping with the current vision of the University. The ACRF Cancer Centre will ensure member access to all cancer researchers at the University of Melbourne.</p>
<p>The case as to why the academic purposes and objectives for which the Centre is proposed cannot be reasonably achieved within an existing University organisational structure</p>	<p>The proposal to establish the ACRF Cancer Centre for Therapeutic Target Discovery was a cornerstone of a research grant application made to the ACRF by a consortium of organisations, including the University of Melbourne.</p> <p>To acknowledge the major grant subsequently awarded by the ACRF - the largest single grant ever made by the ACRF - the consortium members wish to name the facility and the research program it supports the 'ACRF Cancer Centre for Therapeutic Target Discovery.'</p> <p>As noted above, the Centre is a partnership between the University of Melbourne and the Royal Melbourne Hospital (Melbourne Health), Royal Women's Hospital, The Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research (Parkville campus), and The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.</p>
<p>Evidence of the financial viability for the initial operational term of the Centre, which normally would be at least three years This section should include a summary of costs, including infrastructure requirements and how these will be met and income</p>	<p>The ACRF Cancer Centre will be located on the Parkville campus of Melbourne Health, and will include specialised facility laboratories within some of the partner institutions. In the longer term, the ACRF Cancer Centre will have a central focus within a dedicated translational research facility of the new WEHI building under the auspices of the proposed Melbourne Comprehensive Cancer centre (MCCC). As the administering institute, WEHI (see management section below) will fund this facility through in-kind contribution.</p>

	<p>Substantial contributions will be required from each partner institution that houses the purchased equipment, i.e. WEHI, Ludwig and RMH, and various granting agencies to fully develop the infrastructure for ongoing personnel, consumables and general running costs (including maintenance, security, insurance and training).</p> <p>There is no financial (cash) commitment required from the University of Melbourne.</p> <p>The partners' individual and collective success in obtaining competitive research grant funding will facilitate activity against the Centre's scientific/research objectives.</p>
<p>Management of the Centre This section should include a summary of the centre's leadership, management structure and reporting line</p>	<p>The governance of the ACRF Cancer Centre has been formally agreed by the founding members, and is laid out in a Memorandum of Understanding.</p> <p>The facilities and operation of the ACRF Cancer Centre will be the responsibility of the Management Committee (see Figure 1). The Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences) or nominee is a member of that Committee. This well-credentialed group of internationally respected scientists and administrators will also provide strategic and scientific advice. The inclusion of a member of the Cancer Trials Australia will help ensure that the Centre is outward looking and should assist in facilitating integration with other initiatives, both on and off campus.</p> <p>The management committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oversee management and applications of ACRF funds within the scope of the Memorandum of Understanding; • determine access principles including prioritisation and access by Third Parties; • take leadership in attracting additional resources; and • play a scientific advisory role. <p>The Clinical and Scientific Directors will administer the ACRF Cancer Centre, make recommendations to the Management Committee, and implement the policies of the Management Committee. They will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • act to fulfil the strategic scientific visions within proposal; • develop new scientific visions for ACRF Cancer Centre; • apply ACRF funds to meet the scientific plans outlined in proposal; • ensure the facilities and equipment are maintained; • be responsible for financial records and reporting; • facilitate scientific interactions among partners; and • resolve any disputes between project leaders. <p>They will act in cooperation with the project leaders and with dedicated support staff responsible for the day-to-day</p>

operation of the ACRF Cancer Centre infrastructure. Over time, other Chief Investigators may assume the Director positions to share the administrative workload and to broaden the leadership experience of members of the group.

The scientific output of the ACRF Cancer Centre will be driven by Project Leaders (Chief Investigators and Senior Investigators) with expertise and active research programs in each of the various themes. The responsibilities of the Project Leaders are to:

- Conduct research as outlined in proposal
- Maintain ACRF Cancer Centre equipment within their Institution
- Commit in-kind resources as outlined in the proposal
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The ACRF Cancer centre will be an unincorporated entity

Figure 1: Management structure of the ACRF Cancer Centre

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    MC["MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
• Chair: Nominee, MCCC  
• Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Melbourne  
• CEO, Cancer Trials Australia  
• CEO, MH  
• Director, Ludwig ICR  
• Director, WEHI  
• Assistant Director, WEHI"]
    JD["Joint Directors  
• Clinical Science Director  
• Basic Science Director"]
    AO["Administration Officer"]
    PL["Project Leaders"]

    MC --- JD
    JD --- AO
    JD --- PL
    
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Submitted as a draft for discussion with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) by:

Chief proponent (normally the proposed or interim centre head): Professor Andrew Kaye

Head of Department: Professor Andrew Kaye

Dean: 