

Call for Cancer Center Amsterdam Proof of Concept (PoC) and Proof of Principle (PoP) studies

Goal:

To translate promising research findings from our own (Amsterdam UMC) preclinical research into a clinical Proof-of-Concept (PoC; early clinical drug development) or Proof-of Principle (PoP; early clinical therapy development) study in man. If successful, the data generated in this PoP/PoC is 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 maximum available budget is €450.000

Conditions:

- Applications can only be submitted via the chair of a patient-research group (PRG).
- Applications must be supported by the head(s) of the department(s) of the main applicants.
- The applications must be discussed within the relevant PRG and only one application per PRG can be submitted.
- 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 have to commit itself to the project (contribution of own 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, imaging, application of AI, a new compound, new surgical intervention, new radiotherapy intervention, quality of life research etc.
- 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, as funding will only start when this approval is given.

Procedure:

- Pre-applications must be submitted via the chair of a PRG. **Deadline: August 30th, 2023.** (Note: you cannot submit the same project in the CCA call 2023 round)
- Each PRG can submit only one application. See attached scheme for the chairs of the different PRGs.
- The CCA clinical review committee makes a first selection of most promising studies.
- Selected projects will be invited to submit a full proposal. **Deadline for full proposals: October 29th, 2023.**
- 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, must be application originating from CCA work (also the preliminary lab work), feasibility (methodology and patient numbers) and quality & innovation.

Examples of PoP/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 (PSMA) positron-emission tomography/computed tomography (PET/CT) to predict treatment response to Radium-223-chloride (223Ra) and Rhenium-188-HEDP (188Re) in patients with metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC).
4. Development of a flow cytometric technique whereby, with high sensitivity and specificity, patients with cytopenias can be diagnosed with neoplastic bone marrow disease (MDS) vs cytopenias of a nonmalignant nature. This technique has been implemented in the WHO criteria.
5. Effect of low-dose cyclofosfamide combined with everolimus by metastasized renal cell carcinoma.
6. Cognitive behavioral therapy for fatigue in gliomas.

List of Patient-Research Groups (PRGs)

PRG	Chair(s)
HPB overall	Marc Besselink, Babs Zonderhuis
Esophageal/stomach carcinoma	Mark van Berge Henegouwen
Colorectal carcinoma, including rectum	Tineke Buffart, Jurriaan Tuynman
Lung	Idris Bahce
Head and neck	René Leemans, Ruud Brakenhoff
Neuro-oncology	David Noske, Philip de Witt Hamer
Sarcoma	Jacqueline Tromp, Jos Bramer
Dermato-oncology	Darryl Tio, Susanne van der Velde
Retinoblastoma	Annette Moll
Uro-oncology	Jorg Oddens, Jeroen van Moorselaar
Gynaeco-oncology	Guus Fons
Breast Cancer	Gwen Diepenhorst, Nina Bijker, Inge Konings
Hematology	Dave de Leeuw, Jacqueline Cloos, Martine Chamuleau, Eric Eldering
Neuro-endocrine tumors and thyroid cancer	Els Nieveen, Koen Dreijerink