



Call for Letters of Intent - CCF will award one innovation award in 2025, with a start date of 1/1/26, will focus on Innovative Clinical Trials and Novel Therapies

2025 CCF Innovation Grant:

Background:

The Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation's (CCF) mission is to find a cure and improve the quality of life for those affected by cholangiocarcinoma (bile duct cancer). Founded in 2006 in Salt Lake City, UT, by a family who lost a loved one to cholangiocarcinoma, CCF has grown to become the leading global resource in research, education, and public awareness.

Since 2015, the Foundation has awarded over \$4.58 million for innovative, high-quality research. In accordance with the Foundation's Research Philosophy, CCF supports promising projects that are less likely to get traditional funding. Open-access research that catalyzes collaboration and focuses on finding a cure is a core value of the program.

Purpose:

Focus Innovative Clinical Trials and Novel Therapies; 1/1/26 - 12/31/28

Applications will be considered with the following focus, with priority given to studies that raise the current level of evidence for the respective therapy approach, with a view to changing clinical practice.

Topic: trial design, endpoints, and evaluation of novel approaches, including:

- Neoadjuvant/adjuvant trial design
- Novel trial endpoints (including downstaging)
- Loco-regional therapy evaluation – with a focus on robust evaluation

This grant opportunity is made available with the support of the Mather Family Foundation through a generous grant of \$750,000 over three years.

CCF chooses grant recipients carefully to ensure they build collaborations between researchers, institutions, and industry and share information, samples, and expertise with others in the field. Prior experience in the field of cholangiocarcinoma is not required. Learn more about the program's [research philosophy](#).

Key Dates:

Letter of Intent (LOI) Opens	August 1, 2025
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Letter of Intent (LOI) Due Date:	August 22, 2025
LOI Reviews/Invitation to submit a full application	September 17, 2025
Application Deadline	October 29, 2025
Scientific Merit Reviews	November 20, 2025
Award Notification	November 24, 2025
Earliest Project Start Date	January 2026

Funding:

- Three-year funding commitment of \$750,000, allocated in annual installments of \$250,000
- Funding for expenses related to the research project, which may include the salary and benefits of the grant recipient, may be used
- **CCF will not fund indirect costs or institutional overhead**

Approach of research interest include:

- Basic Science: Research using laboratory-based models without clinical data from patients
- Translational Science: Research studying human samples or data obtained from human samples, annotated with clinical outcome data
- Clinical Science: Studies of outcomes in human patients, including population and epidemiology research

Eligibility Information:

Degree

- Doctor of Medicine
- Doctor of Philosophy
- Doctor of Pharmacy
- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Academic Level

- Full Professors
- Associate Professors
- Clinical Researchers (MD, PhD)
- Research Scientists
- Epidemiologists
- Biostatisticians
- Postdoctoral Fellows

Institutional Requirements

- Academic, medical, or research institutions based anywhere worldwide
- New or established multi-center (2 or more) collaboration
- Demonstration of the capability to undertake the proposed work

Other Eligibility Requirements

- Prior CCF grant award recipients are eligible to apply
- Prior experience in the field of CCA is not required
- There are no restrictions for applicants regarding age, gender, race, disability, or national origin/residence

Key Components of a Letter of Intent:

- The LOI should provide a summary of the proposed research project, specific aims and rationale, scientific approach, significance, and innovation (One-page limit)
- References (One-page limit)
- NIH Biosketch (preferred) or CV (Three-page limit)
- Research that can impact cholangiocarcinoma patient outcomes
- Hypothesis-driven specific aims with well-designed analyses
- A feasible project completed within the period of the grant
- Statistical rigor
- Development of an Early Career Researcher as part of the application

Evaluation of Letters of Intent

- The Letters of Intent (LOI) will be reviewed by the CCF Scientific Review Committee, comprised of established clinical, translational, and basic science researchers as well as patient research advocates.
- Applicants whose LOI is deemed most worthy are invited to submit complete applications.