Call for proposals for a Danish Cancer Research Center
– Letters of Interest

The Danish Cancer Society welcomes the establishment of a number of Danish Cancer Research Centers. Each center is expected to contribute to the national and international scientific communities with outstanding cancer research. This research must be done in collaboration with all relevant research units in Denmark, as well as with international collaborators, and the center must contribute to the implementation of discoveries from this endeavour in all relevant clinical settings across Denmark. Since 2016, ten national research centres have been established within the following fields: childhood cancer, circulating tumour DNA guided treatment, equity in cancer, immunotherapy, lung cancer, precision medicine in blood cancer, radiotherapy and survivorship and late effects after cancer. It is possible to read more about research and organisation in each centre on this website: https://www.dccc.dk/english/national-research-centres/. Still, there are significant areas not covered.

The Danish Cancer Society invites researchers to submit proposals for a Danish Cancer Research Center (step 1, see below). Scientific quality, creativity, significance, perspectives and societal importance are the main criteria in the assessment process of incoming proposals. The center is supposed to be launched on 1 January 2021. The funding period is for five years with a total grant value of up to DKK 20m.

The application process includes three steps:

- **Step 1**: Potential center leaders are invited to submit a Letter of interest before 1 May 2020 at 15.00. The letter must include a description of the topic, the perspectives and strategic potentials of the proposed research center, and an outline of the anticipated interplay with hospitals, clinicians and other relevant stakeholders. An evaluation committee, including five international experts in cancer research, and two patient representatives, will review all proposals that meet the conditions put forward in the call.

- **Step 2**: Subsequently, the applicants with the best and most promising proposals will be invited to submit a full application. The evaluation committee (engaged in step 1) will review the applications, and evaluate each proposal according to quality and relevance. The evaluation committee may choose to complement its expertise if needed. The applicants will get the opportunity to comment on the evaluation.

- **Step 3**: The evaluations of the full applications with comments from the applicants are presented to an allocation committee. After interviews with the potential center leaders, the allocation committee decides whom to nominate for the grant. The Board of the Danish Cancer Society makes the final decision on the grant assignment, based on the recommendations of the allocation committee.

**Prior conditions for a successful grant application**

It is an absolute condition for funding that:

- the institution hosting the center, as well as the Region involved contribute with financial and managerial support for the establishment of the center.

- the center is expected to assemble all relevant information in the field as a Center of Knowledge, to conduct high-quality research, develop new methods and initiates new national efforts

- the proposal must clearly state how the center becomes an integrated part of the national Danish Comprehensive Cancer Center (DCCC). The center must clearly indicate that it is a research center funded by the Danish Cancer Society by adopting the name ‘Danish Research Center for [cancer theme] – supported by the Danish Cancer Society’. The center is expected to contribute to the communication of research findings to the general Danish population.

- cancer patients are involved in the centers work.
goals and subsidiary goals are set and measured and that funds from the grant and from the institution are set aside for evaluation of the centre

applicants meet the terms covered by the Danish Cancer Society’s Ethical Guidelines, and the Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity: www.cancer.dk/vejledning.

the research undertaken in the center adheres to the highest scientific standards and that all findings are published in peer-reviewed scientific journals with wide circulation in the international research community.

Available funding
One grant is expected to be awarded upon this call. The funding period is for five years, with a total grant value of up to DKK 20m.
A grant will be conditional on sufficient Knæk Cancer 2020 funds are raised. The Knæk Cancer campaign is carried out ultimo October (week 43).

Deadline
The Danish Cancer Society must receive the Letters of interest no later than 1 May 2020 at 15.00.

Form
- The application must be sent via the Danish Cancer Society’s electronic application and reporting system at www.cancer.dk/ansoegning
- The outline proposal must be written in English
- It must be clear what the proposed center exactly adds – what will be new?
- The Letter of interest must not exceed five pages of text, all included
- Please refer to ‘Funding Possibilities and Formal Requirements (KBVU)’ for guidance and advice.

Further information
Applicants are welcome to contact the secretariat for further information. Questions concerning the application form can be directed to Secretary Anne Mette Bak, email: amb@cancer.dk, tel.: 3525 7257. Questions concerning the application process can be directed to Head of Funding Section Christina Koefoed-Hansen, email: ckh@cancer.dk, tel.: 3525 7259.

2 The allocation committee includes the Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Danish Comprehensive Cancer Center (DCCC); the Chairman of the Danish Cancer Society (DCS); a representative from the Scientific Committee of the DCS (KBVU) appointed by the Chairman of the KBVU; the chairman of the international evaluation committee; the Chairman of the Scientific Council for the Danish Comprehensive Cancer Center (DCCC) and two patient representatives.