

Request for Proposals

RUSSCO/RakFond Young Scientist & Early Career Investigator Oncology Research Grant

RFP Code: 2018-01-YS-ECI

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Please visit www.rakfond.org/grants/rfp-2018-01-ys-eci-en/ for the most up-to-date version of this RFP.



Foundation for Cancer Research Support (RakFond)

Rochdelskaya str. 15, bld. 17-18, room III

Moscow, 123033

Russia

www.rakfond.org/en



Russian Society of Clinical Oncology (RUSSCO)

Trubnaya str. 25, bld. 1

Moscow 127051

Russia

www.rosoncweb.ru

Part I. Overview Information

Funding Opportunity Title	RUSSCO/RakFond Young Scientist & Early Career Investigator Oncology Research Grant
Funding Opportunity Purpose	The purpose of this funding opportunity is to provide limited or bridge funding to promising young investigators based in Russia to promote and advance world-class research in oncology. Application submissions in oncology and related areas are encouraged.
Eligibility	Young Scientist or Early Career Investigator affiliated only with eligible organizations based in Russia
RFP Code	2018-01-YS-ECI
Key Dates	<p>Posted Date: January 25, 2018</p> <p>Open Date: February 5, 2018</p> <p>Application Due Date: March 5, 2018</p> <p>Formal Compliance Review: March 12, 2018</p> <p>Scientific Review: April 11, 2018</p> <p>Notice of Award: April 20, 2018</p> <p>Final Report: 2 months after project conclusion date</p>
Anticipated Individual Awards	<p>Award Amount: up to 250 000 (two hundred fifty thousand) RUR for research expenses (excluding salary)</p> <p>Award Term: up to 1 year; not renewable; no-cost extension of up to 3 months can be provided in exceptional cases</p> <p>Number of Awards: at least two</p>
Applicant Registration	<p>Registration before March 5, 2018 is required, early registration is highly recommended</p> <p>Register at: www.rakfond.org/grants/rfp-2018-01-ys-eci-registration/</p>
Technical Point of Contact	grant@rakfond.org
Submission	<p>Application and scans of supporting documents by email by Due Date.</p> <p>Winners must send originals to the Foundation (RakFond) no later than 7 days after the results are announced.</p>
RFP Email	grant@rakfond.org
RFP Mailing Address	Foundation for Cancer Research Support

	Rochdelskaya str. 15, bld. 17-18, 3rd floor, room III, Moscow, 123033, Russia
Solicitation Website	www.rakfond.org/grants/rfp-2018-01-ys-eci-en/

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Part II. Full Text of Announcement

Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

1. Background

The Foundation for Cancer Research Support (RakFond) is a non-profit organization whose main tasks include: financing research and development activities, development of new methods and tools for the prevention, diagnostics and treatment of cancer, promoting the development and improvement of research and scientific activities of research institutions, scientific centers, oncological hospitals, and individual specialists in the field of oncology. The Foundation was founded in 2017 and operates on the territory of the Russian Federation. For more information, visit www.rakfond.org/en/

This funding opportunity is fully supported by the Russian Society of Clinical Oncology (RUSSCO), a professional association founded in 2011, whose main task is to unite the efforts of oncologists and related specialists in order to improve prevention and treatment of malignant tumors with the aim to decrease morbidity and mortality in Russian Federation. For more information, visit <https://rosoncoweb.ru/en/society/>.

RUSSCO and RakFond signed the Memorandum of Cooperation in 2017.

2. Objectives

The overall goals of this funding opportunity are:

- To promote research in oncology and related areas among Young Scientists and Early Career Investigators;
- To develop effective instruments of support of research projects, including limited and bridge studies prior to the more significant funding;
- To assist YS & ECI with achieving publishable results and advancing their research projects.

3. Scope

All types of scientific research projects (i.e. basic, translational, clinical studies) in oncology and related areas, including cancer biology, prevention, diagnostics, monitoring and treatment of solid tumors, are welcome. No hematology projects will be considered for this funding opportunity.

Section II. Award Information

1. Summary

Funding Instrument	Grant: provides money to eligible applicants to carry out approved research projects
Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards	At least two awards are expected contingent on a sufficient number of meritorious applications and availability of funds
Award Budget	Up to 250000 (two hundred fifty thousand) RUR. Application budget must reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. The final award budget may be subject to negotiation.
Award Project Period	The scope of the proposed project should determine the project period. The maximum Award Period is 12 months. In special cases, the Foundation may allow a single 3-month no-cost extension request, which will be approved or disapproved at its discretion. (See "Terms & Conditions. Request for Budget Changes or Extensions.")

2. Terms & Conditions

By accepting Foundation's grant, the Award Recipient and Award Recipient's Organization (ARO) accept the following Terms and Conditions:

A. Responsible Conduct of Research

1. The project must be conducted according to the highest scientific and ethical standards and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and with the policies of ARO. To the extent policies of ARO conflict with these Terms and Conditions and/or Foundation's policies, these Terms and Conditions will prevail.
2. Upon request of the Foundation, the Recipient must provide copies of documentation of ARO approval for research (IRB and/or Ethical Committee) to the Foundation prior to commencing research on human subjects, if applicable.
3. Upon request of the Foundation, the Recipient must provide copies of documentation of ARO Animal Care and Use approval or equivalent to the Foundation prior to commencing research on animal subjects, if applicable.

B. Funds: Payment, Use and Restrictions

4. The grant funds will be transferred to the ARO (preferably) or the Award Recipient directly.
5. The Recipient is not permitted to transfer the grant to any other person.
6. The grant funds will be used solely as detailed in the grant proposal and its budget.
7. Indirect or travel expenditures are not allowed. Grant funds cannot be used to pay salaries. No more than 20% of funds can be used for subcontracts and outsourced research.

8. Grant funds cannot be used for expenditures incurred prior to the first day of the Award Period or after the last day of the Award Period. No additional expenses may be paid from grant funds after the Foundation has received the Recipient's final expenditure report or after any unexpended funds have been returned to the funding organization.
9. At the end of the Award Period, any unexpended funds and any funds expended inconsistent with the project must be returned to the funding organization.

C. Submission of Change Requests

10. All change requests related to the grant must be initiated by sending an email to: grant@rakfond.org

D. Requests for Budget Changes or Extensions

11. The grant recipient may move funds of up to 10% of the total budget between budget categories or into new budget categories without prior written approval of the Foundation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, indirect and travel costs cannot be introduced, neither can salaries nor increase of subcontracts and outsourced research.
12. Budget changes of greater than 10% between budget categories must be approved in writing by the Foundation before expenditure of funds. The grant recipient must submit a re-budget request with a detailed justification of the proposed change by sending an email to: grant@rakfond.org.
13. In exceptional cases, the Foundation may allow a single 3-month no-cost project extension, which will be approved or disapproved at its discretion. The extension request, an updated financial expenditure and progress report, and a detailed explanation of why the request is being made must be emailed to: grant@rakfond.org.
14. Any request for a no-cost extension or budget change must be made at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the Award Period. Requests received after that date will not be accepted and will automatically be disapproved.
15. If a no-cost extension is granted by the Foundation, the Recipient must submit an additional progress report and financial expenditure report by the end of the Award Period.

E. Changes in Research Focus and Project Scope

16. Major changes in the overall research topic, approaches and methods are not allowed. However, some changes in the specific goals of the project may be allowed with prior written consent from the Foundation. Any request for changes must be sent by email to: grant@rakfond.org. An approval must be received prior to performing any changes to the project. The Foundation will approve or disapprove the request at its discretion.

F. Institution Transfer

17. If the Recipient accepts an appointment at another institution during the Award Period, and desires to have the grant funds transferred to the new organization, the Recipient must submit a fund transfer request by email to: grant@rakfond.org at least 30 days before the anticipated date of transfer. Subject to the Foundation's written approval and in the Foundation's sole discretion, the grant may be transferred provided arrangements satisfactory to the Foundation are implemented to continue the Research Project in a manner in which it was originally approved by the Foundation, including establishing new organization's eligibility. Any transfer must be approved in writing by the Foundation before any such transfer takes place. Upon approval of a transfer of the grant to a new organization, the ARO must return any unexpended funds and any funds expended inconsistent with the project to the funding

organization. The new organization will agree to comply with these Terms and Conditions. The funding organization will make arrangements to provide remaining grant funds to the new organization.

18. If the Recipient is unable or not permitted to transfer the grant to a new organization, the Recipient and the ARO will relinquish the grant and any unexpended funds or funds expended inconsistent with the Research Project must be returned to the funding organization.

G. Reporting

19. The final report consisting of expenditure and progress reports is due 2 months after project conclusion date. It is the responsibility of the Recipient to submit the report in a timely manner. The Foundation may contact appropriate persons in the ARO to ensure the progress reports and expenditure reports are received as required.
20. Noncompliance with any of these Terms and Conditions, including failure to submit progress or expenditure reports, may result in the withholding of payment on other grants of the Foundation in effect at the ARO, or on Foundation grants that may be awarded in the future, or such other action deemed appropriate by the Foundation.

H. Post-Award Reporting Obligation

21. The Recipient can be asked to respond to the Foundation's requests for information on his/her career progress following the Award Period and may be asked to provide his/her current Curriculum Vitae and/or publication list. The information may be used for program evaluation and alumni communications. The Recipient understands that this obligation survives the Award Period and that he/she has an ongoing obligation to provide this information.
22. The Foundation reserves the right to include information relating to this grant in its periodic reports, annual reports, awardee directory, publicly accessible databases of privately funded grant awards, or in any other materials issued by or on behalf of the Foundation or the Foundation's affiliates.

I. Publications, Other Public Release of Results, and Acknowledgments

23. The Foundation strongly encourages Recipient to submit the results of funded research project for publication or other public release. In the event the Recipient's results are published or otherwise publicly released either during or after the Award Period, the Recipient will provide the Foundation with a copy of such publication or public release.
24. The Recipient and ARO understand that all abstracts, publications, and presentations resulting from research supported by this grant must contain the acknowledgment, "This work was (partially) funded by the Russian Society of Clinical Oncology and the Foundation for Cancer Research Support "RUSSCO/RakFond Young Scientist & Early Career Investigator Oncology Research Grant 2018-01-YS-ECI". Any opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Russian Society of Clinical Oncology and/or the Foundation for Cancer Research Support."

J. Intellectual Property Rights

25. The Foundation will have no intellectual property rights or other rights in or to data collected or scientific discoveries made through any project funded by the grant. The Foundation encourages its recipients and their sponsoring institutions to report to the Foundation any inventions, discoveries, or intellectual properties that result from the support of the research.

Section III. Eligibility Information

The Foundation for Cancer Research Support reserves the right to evaluate and determine applicants' eligibility based on the information and justifications included in the application materials, publicly available information, and any other additional requests for information, if necessary.

1. Eligible Applicants

A. Eligible Organizations

Applicants from any domestic public or private institutions of higher education, clinics, hospitals, research centers, non-profit or for-profit organizations, whose activities involve oncology or related area research may be eligible to receive a grant.

Potential applicants should be prepared to establish eligibility of their organization to receive and administer grants, and the Foundation reserves the right to reject application if an organization is determined not to be an appropriate applicant for this funding opportunity. The Foundation urges potential applicants to consider the following eligibility considerations:

- What is the nature of the research and business that your organization performs? Are they related to oncology and fit within this RFP's objectives and scope?
- Does your organization conduct oncology related studies? Are the researchers employed by your organization?
- Has your organization applied to and/or been funded to do oncology related research by any Federal agency or private foundation?
- Have the results of any oncology related research papers been published by researchers from your organization?
- Is your organization professionally responsible for the research?
- Where physically is the proposed research to be conducted?

Forms and documentation submitted to the Foundation must reflect the name of the Authorized Representative (AR), with the appropriate authority to sign and submit documentation on the organization's behalf. AR's signature certifies commitment of the organization to support a project that the Foundation is being asked to fund, that the organization will be accountable for the appropriate use of funds, and that the organization complies with applicable Federal laws and regulations, including required licenses and certifications, and the terms and conditions of Foundation's grant awards.

B. Foreign Participation

Researchers based in foreign institutions and international organizations, including public or private non-profit or for-profit organizations, are NOT ELIGIBLE to apply for this funding opportunity. Applicants must be affiliated with eligible domestic organizations only; however, an applicant may be a non-Russian citizen.

The Foundation may support projects with a part performed outside Russia either by the grant Recipient or by researchers employed by a foreign institution, whether or not grant funds are expended. For this funding opportunity, the total expenditures for the any outsourced research, including foreign, cannot exceed the total amount allocated for this category (20% of the grant).

C. Registration

All applicants will have to complete one-time registration process prior to submitting any application. Registration will help the Foundation to make a preliminary assessment of applicant organization's eligibility.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a registration form soon as possible. This will help the Foundation in timely determining Applicant's organization eligibility prior to the full application submission deadline. Applications, for which organizational eligibility cannot be determined by the Formal Compliance Review deadline (March 12, 2018) will be automatically excluded from further consideration.

Registration form must be filled in on-line at: www.rakfond.org/grants/rfp-2018-01-ys-eci-en/

The following information is required to complete the registration form:

APPLICANT

- First Name (required)
- Middle Name (optional)
- Last Name (required)
- Date of Birth (required)
- Degrees (required)
- Current research appointment (required). Full time or part-time (percentage of time spent on research, if part-time)
- Primary Email to be used for all communications regarding this application (required)
- Address (at least one, checked as primary) (required)
- Phone (at least one, checked as primary) (required)
- Website (optional)

ORGANIZATION(S)

- Organizational Affiliations (required)
- Organizations' addresses (required). A primary organization must be designated
- Website (required)
- Name of primary organization's Authorized Representative (AR) (required)
- AR's department and title (required)
- AR's organizational email (required) and phone (optional)

PROJECT

- Preliminary title (required)
- Specific goals (optional)
- Nature of Research (optional). Specifically, indicate whether the project is "clinical", "translational", "basic", etc.

MENTOR/SUPERVISOR

- Name (required)
- Organization, if different from Applicant's (required)
- Department and Title (required)
- Organizational email (required) and phone (optional)
- Website (optional)

Technical assistance with the registration form can be obtained by sending an email to: grant@rakfond.org

D. Eligible Individuals

Applicants must meet the following criteria to qualify for the Young Scientist & Early Career Investigator award:

- Be 40 years old or younger on January 25, 2018.
- Be an oncologist
- Working full-time or part-time (no less than 50%) in an organization/institution (oncology laboratory, clinical research setting, or private company, etc.) involved in oncology research.
- Have a mentor or a supervisor in the proposed research field from the organization/institution, where the research will be conducted. The mentor or supervisor must assume responsibility and provide guidance for the research. A supporting letter from mentor or supervisor must be submitted with the application.

2. Cost Sharing

This grant does not require cost sharing. However, if Award Recipient's Organization commits to providing cost sharing, corresponding confirmation letter should be submitted with the application.

3. Additional Information on Eligibility

A. Number of Applications

Each eligible organization may submit more than one application, provided that each application is scientifically distinct. However, for this funding opportunity, the Foundation strongly encourages to limit the total number of applications to two per organization.

Each Young Scientist or Early Career Investigator may submit only one proposal for this funding opportunity.

Multiple proposals listing the same mentor/supervisor are strongly discouraged, even when submitted from different eligible organizations.

Section IV. Application and Submission Information

All applications must be submitted in accordance with the requirements and instructions of this Request for Proposals (RFP). All application materials must be in English, must use Foundation's forms and templates, follow Foundation's guidelines, and must be submitted in a timely manner. Incomplete applications and applications submitted after deadlines will be automatically rejected.

1. Obtaining an Application Package

Applicants must download application forms and templates associated with this funding opportunity from www.rakfond.org/grants/rfp-2018-01-ys-eci-en/. Forms and templates contain all necessary instructions, including: required information, page limitations, budget categories, etc.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

Applications should consist of a single PDF file or a set of PDF files containing the following documents assembled in the following order:

1. Cover sheet signed by AR (required) - in Russian or in English
2. Application form including brief rationale, scientific hypothesis, aim and goals, study design, sufficient resources, detailed budget and study timelines (5 pages maximum) (required) - in English
3. Applicant's CV with the list of up to ten selected publications and link to Google Scholar or other relevant profile (2 pages maximum) (required) - in English
4. Letter of Support from the mentor/supervisor (required) - in English
5. Confirmation of Employment from the Applicant's organization (required) - in Russian or in English
6. Other supporting documentation (optional), if necessary, should not exceed 10 pages) - in Russian or in English

Formatting requirements:

Render and submit a single PDF file or a set of PDF files named "RFP-2018-01-YS-ECI-[Your First Name]-[Your last name]-document index (if applicable)", that precisely follows the guidance of form and templates, and the order above. For example, "one page" means precisely a single page with no spill over.

To ensure maximum protection of your information, please mark all pages of your application, where possible, with the footer "Confidential and Proprietary – Exempt from Disclosure."

Application PDF should be emailed before the submission deadline to: grant@rakfond.org with the Application PDF file name as the Subject.

If the PDF file size exceeds 25 MB, send documentation in separate emails. Name those files "RFP-2018-01-YS-ECI-[Your First Name]-[Your last name]-[Addendum (1, 2, 3, etc.)]" and use those names as the Subject.

3. Submission Dates and Times

Completed application and all supporting materials must be received via email by the Foundation before 23:59 (Moscow time) on March 5, 2018. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

Winners must send to the Foundation the originals of all documents, which were submitted in the electronic form during the application process, no later than 7 (seven) days after the competition results are announced. Documents must be sent by Express Mail and include Confirmation of Delivery or any other certificate, which confirms receipt of the originals by the Foundation.

The originals must be sent to:

Foundation for Cancer Research Support

Rochdelskaya str. 15, bld. 17-18, 3rd floor, room III,
Moscow, 123033

If a winner fails to send the originals within the required period of time, the Foundation reserves right to withdraw the award and transfer it to another competition participant.

4. Other Requirements, Information Use and Sharing

A. Application Changes

The applicant must notify the Foundation immediately by sending an email to grant@rakfond.org if any of the following condition applies from application submission through award notification:

1. The applicant has a career plan change, leaves his/her current position in the organization, changes organizations, or unable to meet the eligibility requirements of the Young Scientist or Early Career Investigator.
2. The applicant's mentor or supervisor leaves his/her current position or organization.
3. Other significant changes in applicant's career plans or organization's conditions, which may affect goals, research strategy, timeline, and/or budget in the submitted proposal.

If the Foundation is notified of any of these changes in after the applicant is notified of an award, the Foundation has the right to withdraw the award.

Section V. Application Review Information

Foundation's core requirements for proposals are:

- Based on world-class science, that has the potential to provide significant advance in cancer research and oncology
- Have goals that are clear, ambitious, and credible
- Yield practical, measurable outcomes
- Employ rigorous methodology
- Will achieve publishable results

This RFP allows submission of a limited or bridge study, providing that it has its own results contributing to a larger research project.

Awards are given based on individual merit; applications are not evaluated against one another.

1. Review Criteria

The Foundation will select grant winners based on the following criteria:

	Explanation	Weight (0-1)
Significance	Does the proposal address an important problem to advance the field? Is there a strong scientific foundation for the proposal? If the goals of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? Is there a high probability of publishing project's research results in high-impact journals?	1
Investigator	Does a Young Scientist or Early Career Investigator have appropriate experience and training? Factors considered include the quality and extent of past education, scientific training, research experience, research originality and productivity.	1
Novelty	Does the application seek to utilize novel concepts, methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?	0.66
Approach	Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific goals of the project? Have the investigators presented strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased approach? Are potential problems, risks, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented?	0.66
Environment	Are the institutional support, equipment and other resources available to the investigator adequate for the project	0.33

	proposed? Will the project benefit from some unique features of the scientific environment?	
Total Maximum Score		33

The Foundation uses a 9-point scale (from 1 to 9, with 9 being the highest mark) for all individual review criteria. Scores for each criterion will be accompanied by the review critique. The Foundation expects, that only applications with scores of at least 5 (“good”) for each criterion will be considered for funding.

The table below provides a guide for individual criterion scores:

Criterion Strength	Score	Descriptor
High	9	Exceptional
	8	Outstanding
	7	Excellent
Medium	6	Very Good
	5	Good
	4	Satisfactory
Low	3	Fair
	2	Marginal
	1	Poor

2. Review and Selection Process

The Foundation employs a rigorous scientific review process to evaluate proposals received in response to RFPs.

Submitted proposals are first evaluated for completeness and formal compliance with an RFP by the Foundation.

Proposals that comply with the requirements of the RFP will be considered conforming. Only conforming proposals will be evaluated further.

The Foundation may assign proposals for scientific review to a minimum of three Reviewers.

Once scientific reviews are complete, the reviewers' evaluation reports are forwarded to the Foundation. The Foundation will review each proposal and associated evaluation reports to ensure that the evaluation reports adequately document the review conducted. It is the Foundation's responsibility to ensure that the Reviewers have provided sufficient, substantive rationale for their review findings.

The Foundation then compiles a full recommendation package, which includes reviews and texts of all of the selectable proposals. The recommendation is sent to the members of the Scientific Advisory Board. They review the complete evaluation package and give their funding recommendations for each selectable proposal.

Finally, the recommendation package is forwarded to the Board of Directors for the funding approval.

In parallel, the applications will be approved for funding by the Board of RUSSCO within their internal process and the similar timelines. The final decision will be based on the results of the review by both organisations.

3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

After proposal evaluations are complete, applicants will be notified as to whether their proposal was deemed selectable as a result of the review process. Applicants can expect to be notified no later than April 20, 2018, via email to their primary email address on file. Notification may also be sent by email to the Applicant's organization Administrative Representative identified on the proposal Cover sheet. Applicants should ensure that their and their organization's AR primary email addresses on file are updated prior to April, 2018.

Applicants should add grant@rakfond.org to their safe senders list to ensure they receive timely notifications such as document submission notifications, application submission confirmations, etc. If applicants are not receiving notifications, they should check their junk/spam folders first, then contact grant@rakfond.org for additional assistance.

Section VI. Award Administration Information

1. Additional Administrative Requirements

None for this RFP.

2. Reporting

The number and types of technical and financial reports required under the project are specified in Section II.2 "Terms & Conditions", Subsections G and H.

Section VII. Foundation Contacts

The Foundation will use email for all technical and administrative correspondence regarding this funding opportunity.

Technical Point of Contact: grant@rakfond.org

Mailing address:

Foundation for Cancer Research Support
Rochdelskaya str. 15, bld. 17-18, 3rd floor, room III,
Moscow, 123033
Russia

Solicitation Website: www.rakfond.org/grants/rfp-2018-01-ys-eci-en/

Section VIII. Other Information

None for this RFP.