



Comprehensive
Cancer Center



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Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center

2026 Annual Pilot Collaborative Call for Applications to Support Cancer Research

Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center (MCCCC) and Cancer Research Karolinska Institutet (CRKI)

OVERVIEW

The Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center (MCCCC) and Cancer Research Karolinska Institutet (CRKI) are pleased to announce the 2026 Request for Applications (RFA) within the areas of breast cancer, other solid tumors, and hematologic malignancies with a submission deadline of **April 6, 2026**.

The Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center (MCCCC) and Cancer Research Karolinska Institutet (CRKI) have created a unique collaborative international network focused on innovative science and translation and are in an excellent position to leverage this relationship to make a global impact on cancer through research focusing on innovative scientific discovery and/or the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer. In 2026, these collaborative efforts will support up to 3 projects.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this funding is to initiate and further enhance collaborative research endeavours in the cancer area between Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center (MCCCC) and Cancer Research Karolinska Institutet (CRKI).

We seek highly innovative approaches that may involve considerable scientific risk, but which may potentially lead to a breakthrough in a particular area, or to the development of new techniques, agents, methodologies, models, and applications that could have a major impact on cancer research and patient outcomes. It is expected that support via this program will lead to impactful publications, discoveries and targeted submission of subsequent extramural peer-reviewed grants seeking support from other sources. These will be the metrics of success for this grant award program, and regular followup with the investigators will be done to ensure progress.

FUNDING

Up to three (3) individual projects will be awarded for one year with a second year of funding contingent on satisfactory progress in the first year. Project investigators may request up to \$100,000 (total cost) for the Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center (MCCCC) component (\$50,000/year for 2 years) and up to 1 MSEK for the Cancer Research Karolinska Institutet (CRKI) component (500,000 SEK/year for 2 years) per project. Indirect costs are included in the total award. Funding for this RFA is through established philanthropic support at the Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center and Cancer Research Karolinska Institutet (CRKI).

KEY DATES

- Application submission deadline Sweden: 23:59 on **April 6, 2026**
- Application submission deadline Rochester, MN, USA: 5:00 pm (CT) on **April 6, 2026**
- Award announcements: **June 17, 2026**
- Award period: **July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028**

ELIGIBILITY

Mayo applicants must hold a faculty* position at any of the three Mayo Clinic sites. At CRKI, all faculty with a PhD and working at least 50% at any Karolinska Institutet Department are eligible to apply for funding. Each collaborative application must include one investigator from Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center and one investigator from Cancer Research Karolinska Institutet (CRKI).

**AC, SAC or Consultant; Research Scientists may be included on an application as Co-Investigator with faculty level applicant*

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The application should be written in English and contain:

- **Research program** (four pages maximum, excluding references)
- **Applications need to clearly identify how the research strengths of each investigator will synergize such that the research could not move forward without the collaboration. Applications from Mayo/KI investigators forging new collaborations as well as from investigators with a prior track record of collaboration are welcome.**
- **For Mayo investigators**, a current NIH biosketch is required.
- **For Karolinska investigators**, a **short CV** of the principal investigator (including current funding) and a **Publication list** for the last eight years (2018–2026), also including contact information (email address).
- **Project budget** for Year 1 and 2 as well as simple budget justifications for MCCCC partner in dollars and CRKI partner in SEK.
- **Formatting:** Arial font, size 11, margins 1" inch, single spaced with page numbering.

SUBMISSION

Please send your application as a single pdf file named "Mayo_CRKI collaboration call_first name_last name" to mccccrki@mayo.edu and cancerresearchki@ki.se by the deadlines stated above.

Late submissions will not be accepted. There will be no exceptions.

EVALUATION

The applications will be subjected to a scientific review that will include both internal (Mayo) and external (CRKI) scientific reviewers. The evaluations will be combined and an executive committee (co-chaired by the MCCCC Enterprise Deputy Director for Translational Research and the Director of Cancer Research Karolinska Institute (CRKI) (pending no conflict of interest exists) will make the final funding decision based on the ranking from the combined evaluations.

Review Criteria: Reviewers will consider each of the criteria below:

- Scientific merit, including adequacy of design and proposed statistical analysis.
- Originality and innovativeness of the proposal and relevance to the overall goals of the Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center (MCCCC) and Cancer Research Karolinska Institutet (CRKI) Collaboration.
- Qualifications of the key personnel and their ability to conduct the proposed research.
- Degree to which the project addresses an issue of significant importance for reducing cancer incidence and mortality rates and increasing survival and quality of life.
- Potential for the project to obtain subsequent extramural/external peer-reviewed external research funding and the potential source (programmatic grant, collaborative grant, individual investigator grant).

ENABLING COLLABORATION

To facilitate new collaborations, we are offering assistance in identifying research partners at both institutions. Please write a short description of the proposed project and send to both Angie Emanuel at emanuel.angela@mayo.edu and Liselotte Bäckdahl at liselotte.backdahl@ki.se at CRKI (CRKI investigators). We will identify contact details for potential research collaborators in the appropriate area of research.

INQUIRIES

Additional inquiries may be emailed to mccccrki@mayo.edu or cancerresearchki@ki.se.