



INVESTIGACIÓN PARA
OTRA OPORTUNIDAD



Real-Life Trials in Cancer PROGRAMME

**A joint call between Gustave Roussy Foundation
and CRIS Cancer Foundation**

Call for Applications 2026

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Introduction

Clinical research represents the tool to explore and, more importantly, to validate the utility of medical strategies. Clinical trials include very different designs and require very different levels of infrastructure depending on the question they address. As an example, trials testing new drugs or new devices usually require a high level of infrastructure and, therefore, present a high cost per patient. These trials usually require a cost of around \$20,000 per patient. At the other extreme, trials testing strategies without novel drug innovation require a lower level of infrastructure and data collection.

These trials could be called « **real life trials** » as they ask questions related to daily practice in oncology, do not require specific infrastructure, require a minimal amount of data collection, and have the potential to impact millions of patients worldwide. As an example, the lungRT trial sponsored by Gustave Roussy Foundation recently tested the impact of radiation therapy in resected stage III NSCLC. Getting an answer to this question is now translating into better practice for around 400,000 patients per year worldwide.

While these trials were abundant in the 90's, their number is decreasing. This is partly due to the preference of centres to run trials investigating therapeutic approaches implicating a high level of innovation and mostly driven by pharmaceutical companies. But their number is also decreasing because investigators do not find funding to run such pragmatic trials. This latter reason is a paradox because these trials should theoretically have a very low cost. Investigators and clinical research operators often generate high budgets because they overload the trials with data acquisition, data management and clinical operations that are not necessary. As an example, most of the trials require extensive clinical exams or blood tests that are not helpful in addressing the primary endpoint and generate extra-costs.

This introduction therefore generates a rationale to develop a new generation of practice-changing or practice-informing trials that will require low-level infrastructure, minimal data acquisition and therefore minimal cost.

The Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer Foundation are calling for applications to their Real-Life Trials in Cancer Programme to support the development of practice-changing clinical trials in France and Spain.

Candidates must be specialist clinicians currently working in France and/or Spain with clinical research experience and with the potential to develop transformative clinical trials. The participation of patient associations in the development of the project will be valued.

The aim of the Real-Life Trials in Cancer Programme is to provide competitive funding conditions to clinical researchers to develop their trials in France and Spain.

Definition of a Real-Life Trial (Pragmatic Trial)

A Real-Life Trial, also known as a **Pragmatic Trial**, is a type of clinical study designed to evaluate new treatment approaches under real world conditions that can be implemented in routine clinical practice across diverse healthcare settings.

Key characteristics include:

- **simplicity**
- **affordability**
- **feasibility** by utilizing minimal infrastructure and data collection.
- **broad applicability**, have the potential to change or inform practice across clinical settings and geography
- **Broad Inclusion Criteria**, include diverse patient populations to reflect real-world practice.
- straightforward inclusion and exclusion criteria
- endpoints that are directly relevant to patients
- the primary aim is to generate evidence that informs or changes cancer therapy or prevention practices on a large scale, ensuring practical utility and accessibility for widespread adoption.
- Cannot have any component of innovation.

Real-life trials avoid excessive complexity and focus on strategies that are cost-effective and impactful, addressing significant gaps in patient care without requiring high levels of technological innovation or resources.

Call for Applications

Every year, the Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer Foundation run a programme to **Award Clinical Trial Proposals**, as part of the **Real-Life Trials in Cancer Programme**. The purpose is to fund trials led by a pair of principal investigators (one in France (at Gustave Roussy Institute) and one in Spain).

The number of proposals to be funded will be decided after selection, depending on ranking and individual budget submitted. The maximum amount to be funded per project in the call is a **range of €500.000-€750.000 for 3 years**.

The programme invites applications from all specialist physicians who have a transformative clinical trial proposal and look for co-investigators in France or Spain to develop the trial.

The trial should run for a maximum of 3 years. In case of justifiable delay of the project, the principal investigators may ask for an extended period and the GRF-CRIS Committee will evaluate to confirm or deny the extension.

The call for applications opens on 15th April 2026 and closes on 16th June 2026 at 15 pm (Central European Time - CET).

Beneficiaries must accept their place on the programme between 1st January and 30th June 2027. The start date must be communicated to the Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer Foundation prior to that date. In duly justified cases of force majeure, this start date may be postponed, subject to individual assessment by GRF-CRIS

Programme resources

The funding per project will range between €500.000–€750.000 spread over three annual instalments, to be equally split between the French and Spanish principal investigators. Several projects may be funded if they demonstrate outstanding quality and sufficient funds remain available.

Annual instalments may include:

- a. **Salary:** to cover labour costs corresponding to the intensification in the working hours of sub-investigators, nursing, or study coordinators. This cost includes Social Security contributions and any other amounts payable by the institution, as well as the gross remuneration of the beneficiary.
- b. **Costs associated to the clinical trial** including:
 - Fee per patient included to cover all the site costs: clinical practice, extraordinary tests, other services costs, and institution overhead. (NOTE: Standard of Care procedures cannot be included).
 - Consumables for any trial related testing. (NOTE: Translational research will not be funded).
 - Outsourcing of services related to the management of the trial, CRO, central pharmacy, central lab, database management, etc.
 - Other expenses related to the clinical trial as the insurance policy, regulatory agencies taxes, couriers, publication costs, etc.

Please note that the allocated funds must be equally balanced between the two participating institutions/countries (France/Spain). Applications, where the trial in one country is already funded and funds are only requested to cover the costs of the other country, will not be considered.

These amounts will be subject to the corresponding legal tax retention.

Gustave Roussy Foundation will sign an agreement with the Gustave Roussy Institute and CRIS Cancer Foundation will sign an agreement with the Spanish host institution, which will receive the programme allowance directly and must cover all expenses specified at the programme budget at each hosting institution.

The contractual relationship between the investigators and their institution shall comply with the provisions of the legislation in force at any given time.

The principal investigators are the named recipients of the funding and must be employees by the host institutions. The principal investigators must declare any other funding sources for the project.

Requirements for applicants

Training

Applications will be admitted from specialist physicians in France (at Gustave Roussy Institute) or Spain, who have proven experience on developing and managing independent clinical trials.

Nationality

Real-Life Trials in Cancer Programme is open to clinical researchers of any nationality working at Gustave Roussy Institute or any Spanish institution.

Clinical Trial

Candidates must provide a proposal of the clinical trial associated with the call for applications and which will be the object of funding. The clinical trial shall demonstrate a high level of methodology and scientific quality. The trial must be **practice-changing or practice-informing** and must have a measurable impact on patient outcome and patient management, whether the primary endpoint is met or not.

Principal Investigator (PI)

There will be two Principal Investigators, a Spanish PI (working at a Spanish institution) and a French PI (working at Gustave Roussy Institute)

Information about their background must be provided along with the application.

Both investigators shall show an active role in the development of the clinical trial.

Restrictions

The following restrictions apply to the submission of applications:

- A researcher cannot submit several proposals to the same call for proposals.
- A researcher may only be a beneficiary of one **Real-Life Trials in Cancer Programme** at the same time. They may only re-apply following completion of the previous programme.
- Only Gustave Roussy Institute and institutions in Spain can be the beneficiary of the **Real-Life Trials in Cancer Programme**.
- Members of the scientific evaluation board will not be able to apply for these programmes.
- Candidates must carry out the research project in person, at the host research institution. Clinical practice and research must be carried out on a full-time basis at the host institutions.
- Any breach of ethical considerations will lead to immediate termination of funding and said individuals will not be allowed to reapply to the programme.

Documentation required for the application

Candidates or their institutions can access the Real-Life Trials in Cancer Programme call for applications, at:

- Gustave Roussy website:
<https://www.gustaveroussy.fr/en/clinical-research>
- CRIS cancer website:
<https://criscancer.org/cris-fellowships> selecting GRF-CRIS Real-Life Trials in Cancer programme button

All applications must be submitted by filling the form <https://forms.gle/Mw2MbchjASZjjAdj7> during the application submission period for the 2026 programme.

All the templates needed are available at the Gustave Roussy website (<https://www.gustaveroussy.fr/en/clinical-research>) and at the CRIS cancer website (<https://criscancer.org/cris-fellowships>) selecting GRF-CRIS Real-Life Trials in Cancer programme button.

All applications must provide two blocks of documentation, which **must be completed entirely in English**.

1. The Clinical Trial proposal form.

The provided template must be used, including general information about the candidates and institutions, and information of the Clinical Trial

2. Budget.

Provided template must be used.

Project resources and budget detailing foreseen annual costs and payment schedule by study milestones.

Note that:

- Range of €500.000-€750.000 in 3 annuities per project
 - Standard of Care must not be included.
 - The budget must be allocated 50% to France and 50% to Spain.
 - Overheads cannot exceed 10%.
3. Candidates should also include at the application their **Curriculum Vitae**, using a standardised summarised format (for example <https://cvn.fecyt.es/>) following an **abbreviated** template of standard forms for public calls for applications (for example CVA). This document must be provided in English.
- i. **Spanish PI's abbreviated CV** (maximum 5 pages)
 - ii. **French PI's abbreviated CV** (maximum 5 pages)

The requested documents must be submitted in PDF format (no more than 4Mb). These documents may be provided in the English language.

In case the candidates or their institutions have any questions about the **Real-Life Trials in Cancer Programme**, they can e-mail to convocatorias@criscancer.org and RLtrials@gustaveroussy.fr or visit the webpages of the call for applications (<https://criscancer.org/cris-fellowships>) selecting GRF-CRIS Real-Life Trials in Cancer programme button or <https://www.gustaveroussy.fr/en/clinical-research>).

Selection process

The selection process is designed to identify outstanding candidates regardless of their origin, gender, nationality, or other aspects that could skew the selection. The goal is to ensure transparency, fairness, and impartiality throughout the process.

The members of the **GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee** choose proposals, according to their own criteria, of clinical trials practice-changing or practice-informing which must have a measurable impact on patient outcome and patient management, and candidates that provide evidence of the greatest merits and abilities.

GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee

The **GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee** will be composed of scientists from various disciplines of the highest international scientific standard.

The evaluation committee shall consist of a Chairperson and five other members participating in the evaluation and a secretary lead of the committee.

The **Secretary Lead**, in addition to coordinating and monitoring the evaluation process, will perform the following tasks:

- Distribute the candidacies to the evaluators considering the expertise of each evaluator and the research area of the candidate.
- Ensure that each evaluator prepares a summary evaluation report for each application received.
- Ensure the evaluators who participate in the evaluation process do not present a conflict of interest with the candidates.
- Draw up a final report. The evaluation committee will meet at the end of the evaluation process and draw up a report listing the chosen candidates.

Stages of evaluation and expert panels

All applications that meet the necessary conditions will be evaluated by expert scientists.



There are three rounds of evaluation:

1. Eligibility check

When evaluating eligibility, it will be checked:

- if the proposal match with “Pragmatic Trial” definition
- if the proposal, PIs and institutions fix the requirements of the call

All applications received will be evaluated, and those that do not meet the criteria set out in the terms and conditions of the call for applications will be rejected.

There will then be a period during which any outstanding documentation will be requested, or any corrections or clarifications should be made.

All rejected applications will receive an email detailing the reason for rejection.

2. Individual Evaluation

A second round will be screened by the GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee.

Each proposal shall be reviewed by two different evaluators. Candidacies shall be evaluated in accordance with the criteria specified below in the section on General evaluation criteria.

The higher scored candidates will go through to the final evaluation stage.

3. Final Discussion (and interview)

The GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee will hold a virtual meeting and shall review and discuss all the finalist applications, in accordance with the criteria specified below in the section on General evaluation criteria.

If the GRF-CRIS Evaluation Committee considers it necessary to interview the applicants for deciding the awardees, the top-scored candidates will be contacted by the committee for interview.

The best candidate/s will be selected for the Real-Life Trials in Cancer Programme.

Please note that, the evaluation decision will be final and not subject to appeal

General evaluation criteria

In general, these aspects will be taken into consideration:

1. Clinical Trial Proposal: 60 points

- a. Is it an innovative and transformative project? Is it a proposal of practice-changing or practice-informing trial?
- b. Is the expected impact on the target population a significant gain on the clinical management of these patients?
- c. To what extent are the proposed methodology and operating system suitable for the achievement of the objectives set out?
- d. To what extent are the timescale, resources, and commitment of the candidate appropriate and justifiable?
- e. Is the proposal feasible and achievable? What is the probability of success?

2. Candidates - capability, experience, and creativity: 30 points

2.1 Spanish Principal Investigator:

- a. To what extent has the candidate demonstrated sufficient capacity to conduct disruptive research?
- b. To what extent has the candidate provided evidence of independent creative thinking?
- c. Evaluation of previous publications in the relevant strand of research and new strands. Do they represent significant progress in their field?
- d. Experience in independent clinical trials and the capacity to train new researchers.

2.2 French Principal Investigator:

- a. To what extent has the candidate demonstrated sufficient capacity to conduct disruptive research?
- b. To what extent has the candidate provided evidence of independent creative thinking?
- c. Evaluation of previous publications in the relevant strand of research and new strands. Do they represent significant progress in their field?
- d. Experience in independent clinical trials and the capacity to train new researchers.

3. Host institutions: 10 points

3.1 Spanish Institution:

- a. To what extent is the investigator able to develop the trial at his/her institution?
- b. To what extent is the centre a suitable place to develop the research project?

3.2 French Institution

These aspects will be evaluated based in this table. Please note that only those applications with very good scores (above 75 points) will be considered to be awarded:

Rating	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very Good	Excellent
SCORE	0-19	20-49	50-74	75-89	90-100
Clinical trial proposal (60%)	Proposal lacks innovation and relevance. No meaningful expected impact on patient outcomes or clinical management. Methodology is inadequate or unclear. Timeline and resources are unrealistic or unjustified. Not feasible; very low probability of success.	Limited innovation. Unclear benefit for the target population. Methodology has significant flaws. Timeline/resources poorly justified. Feasibility is doubtful; low probability of success.	Solid proposal with some innovative aspects. Expected clinical benefit is reasonable but not substantial. Methodology is generally appropriate but with some weaknesses. Timeline and resources are mostly reasonable. Feasible overall; moderate probability of success	Clearly innovative and potentially practice-informing. Expected to provide meaningful improvement in patient management. Robust and appropriate methodology. Well-justified timeline and resource allocation. Feasible; high probability of success.	Highly innovative and transformative; strong potential to change clinical practice. Significant impact on patient outcomes and clinical management. Methodology is rigorous and fully aligned with objectives. Timeline and resources are perfectly justified and realistic. Fully feasible; very high probability of success.
Candidate (30%) (Applied to Spain PI and France PI)	Candidate shows insufficient capacity for disruptive research. No evidence of creativity. Weak or irrelevant publication record. No experience in clinical trials or training.	Limited evidence or innovation. Modest publication record with low impact. Limited experience in clinical trials and weak mentoring capacity.	Demonstrates adequate research capacity and some creativity. Solid publication record with moderate impact. Some experience in clinical trials and training.	Strong evidence of innovative thinking. High-quality publications with clear impact. Proven experience in leading trials and training researchers.	Outstanding leader in the field with clear disruptive research capacity. Highly original thinker. Exceptional publication record with major impact. Extensive experience in independent trials and strong track record in mentoring.
Host institution (10%) (Applied to Spain center)	Institution lacks infrastructure, support, or environment to conduct the trial. Major feasibility concerns.	Limited institutional support or infrastructure. Some concerns regarding feasibility and execution capacity.	Adequate institutional environment. Basic infrastructure and support are in place to conduct the project.	Strong institutional support with appropriate infrastructure and experience in similar projects.	Outstanding research environment with excellent infrastructure, strong support systems, and proven capacity to successfully deliver complex clinical trials.

Appointment

The list of Beneficiaries shall be published on the website of the Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer Foundation in the Real-Life Trials in Cancer Programme.

In the event that the chosen beneficiaries decide not to take part in the programme, the respective grant shall be awarded to the next highest-scoring candidate as ranked by the Evaluation Committee.

The Evaluation Committee, the Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS Cancer Foundation reserve the right to declare a post null and void if none of the highest-scoring candidates fulfils the requirements of the programme.

The beneficiaries must submit the protocol to regulatory authorities by **30th June 2027**, the latest. Under duly justified cases, if the proper documentation has been provided, this date can be delayed by up to 3 months. If this deadline is not respected, the funding will not be released for the programme.

Follow up and monitoring

Annually beneficiaries should provide to CRIS and GRF the following documentation:

- Impact report: to collect key information on scientific progress, in order to monitor the project's development and assess the scientific and clinical impact of CRIS-GRF funding.
- Scientific and technical report: to describe the progress of the project throughout the duration of the programme including the clinical approval from the Ethics Committee and Regulatory agencies.
- Financial report: Host institutions will provide a detailed economic report breaking down the costs of activities carried out by the French and Spanish investigator.

At the end of the programme, beneficiaries must submit the corresponding final versions of the above reports, together with a final financial audit report issued by an independent external auditor, certifying that the awarded funds have been used in accordance with the approved budget and the terms and conditions of the call.

Data protection and privacy

Gustave Roussy Foundation and CRIS fully comply with current legislation on the protection of personal data.

The personal data of the researchers or any other individual listed in the application documents will be incorporated onto the GRF/CRIS database and will only be used for the evaluation of proposals or GRF/CRIS information and further grant dissemination. By applying, the participant agrees for information about the Project to be incorporated onto the GRF/CRIS database.

To learn more about the transfer of data and how applicants may exercise their rights, you may request additional information by emailing RLtrials@gustaveroussy.fr and

convocatorias@criscancer.org and you may also exercise your rights of access, correction, or erasure of your personal data, as well as limit or contest the processing of said data

Observations

The submission of an application for this funding presupposes the candidate's express acceptance of these terms and conditions. Any breach of these conditions may lead to termination of the application or programme, revocation of the funding, and, where applicable, reimbursement of the funds received.

Beneficiaries must comply with data management and funding rules; failure to do so, including cases of double funding, may result in corrective measures or reimbursement. Data generated under the project must be managed in accordance with applicable regulations, deposited in an appropriate repository, and made openly accessible whenever possible, in line with FAIR principles, with beneficiaries retaining ownership while granting GRF-CRIS a non-exclusive licence for research and policy purpose.

In the event that results susceptible to economic exploitation are derived, the GRF-CRIS will have the right to receive a return of the amounts paid. In any case, the parties will sign the appropriate agreement in order to determine such participation.