

## Coronavirus (COVID-19): statement on our research funding (08/05/2020)

The COVID-19 pandemic brings major challenges for all of us both personally and professionally. At this extraordinary time, everyone's immediate focus should rightly be on the safety and well-being of themselves, their families and those that they are responsible for.

We felt it was important to be clear on our position with regards to our research funding as follows:

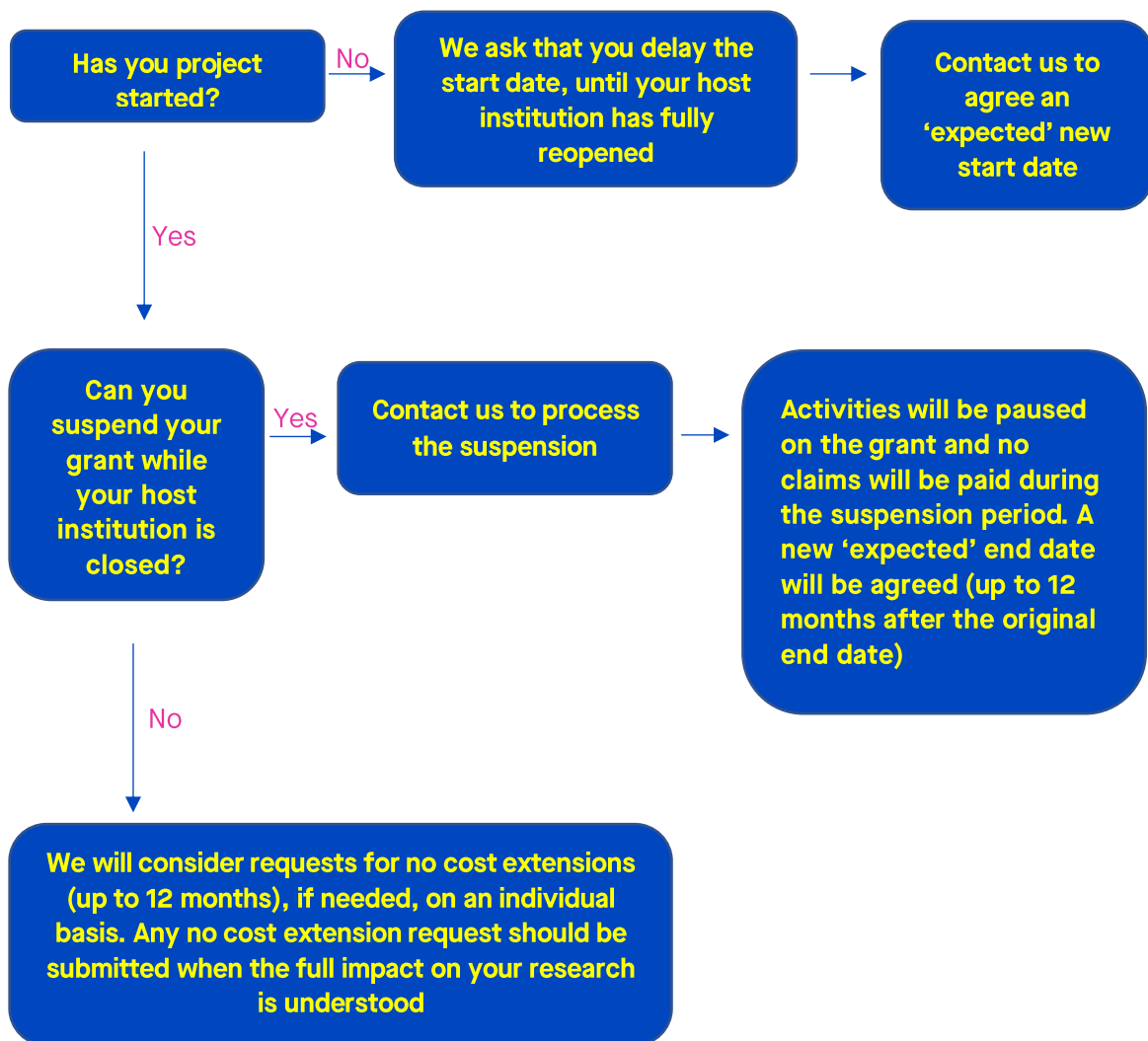
### **Current project grants**

We recognise that COVID-19 is likely to have a substantial impact on you and your research. As the situation is still rapidly developing, the full implications will take some time to become clear. We intend to address the issues that arise as sympathetically and flexibly as possible, whilst minimising the impact on your research.

The crisis is having a major financial impact on many sectors. Currently, we do not know how this will affect our fundraising activities. We are therefore asking you, and our other funded researchers, to be responsible stewards of our supporters' donations, and so we ask that you **work within your original grant budget – we expect we will not be in a position to award additional funding.**

We, also, ask you to **delay the start of/suspend your grant wherever possible.** We understand that this could mean a shortfall in funding for salaried staff paid through your grant during the suspension period. In these circumstances we would expect you to work with your host institution to resolve this issue, e.g. through the take up of national government support/furloughing measures. These actions, to support costs while your host organisation is closed, will ensure that as much of your grant funding remains for you to restart your research and successfully complete the project, when your host institution reopens.

We will consider requests for extensions (up to 12 months), if needed, on an individual basis. However, these will be no cost extensions and no additional funding will be awarded.



- We will be flexible on the use of underspend and budget virements to help lessen the impact on your research by the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure that your research project is successful.
- If one of your research staff, being funded by the grant, becomes unwell or called away to other duties, it is the responsibility of your host institution to meet its obligations under employment law, and in line with your Conditions of Award, salary costs cannot be reimbursed during this period.
- If you have paid for conference attendance or other travel which has been cancelled, please take all necessary steps to obtain reimbursement of these costs or claim under insurance.
- Any disruptions to your research will be taken into account when assessing your research progress and outputs and outcomes from your project.

## Requesting Grant Delays, Suspensions or Extensions

All requests must be submitted to [grants@worldwidecancerresearch.org](mailto:grants@worldwidecancerresearch.org) with your grant reference number and answers to the relevant question(s) -see below.

If you would like to delay the start of your grant, please provide us with the anticipated new start date.

If you would like to suspend your grant, please provide us with the start date of the suspension and the suspension period duration. If the suspension request is longer than 6 months, please provide us with detailed justification.

If you would like to request a no cost extension (NCE), you should be up-to-date on your claim and progress report submissions. This allows us to have a better understanding of the current budget and project progression. If you would like to submit a request, please provide us with the following information:

1. When did your lab shut or reduced access begin?
2. What is the anticipated date you will be able to go back to the lab?
3. For the personnel paid by your WCR grant, who are the named personnel(s) and position (eg. PhD student, postdoc, technician)? What have they been working on since the lab shut or reduced access began?
4. Have you been paying these personnel using WCR grant funds during the lockdown/reduced working periods?
5. Are there any potential initiatives from government or your organisation to offset the salary paid during this period? If yes, please provide details.
6. Will you be claiming other costs (eg. animal housing) incurred during the time your lab has been shut or reduced access began?
7. How long would you like to extend your grant for (maximum 12 months)? Please provide a revised experimental plan including the project progress thus far and new timelines/milestones to support your request (maximum 3 pages).

We will be reviewing NCEs on a case by case basis based on the above information and in which year/quarter your grant is in (see table below).

	Maximum months for NCEs
<b>2 Year Grants</b>	
Year 1	6 months + up to additional 6 months if well justified
Year 2 Q1 or Q2	6 months + up to additional 3 months if well justified
Year 2 Q3 or Q4	Dependent upon remaining funding
<b>3 Year Grants</b>	
Year 1	6 months + up to additional 6 months if well justified
Year 2	
Year 3 Q1 or Q2	6 months + up to additional 3 months if well justified
Year 3 Q3 or Q4	Dependent upon remaining funding

## 2020 Grant Round

- Our 2020 grant round remained open for applications, with the deadline extended by 2 weeks.
- We received 393 applications (compared with 369 applications in 2019), reflecting a continued high demand for cancer research project grants.
- We plan to hold the autumn advisory committee meeting as scheduled, in order to make the final funding decisions.
- To help sustain this key activity and ensure that more grants are awarded by Worldwide Cancer Research in early 2021, we are relying upon the ongoing support of our research community, both advisory committee members and external reviewers. We understand that these are difficult times and greatly appreciate your support.

Our Research Funding team are continuing to work from home to support you. Please keep in touch, via [grants@worldwidecancerresearch.org](mailto:grants@worldwidecancerresearch.org), and let us know of any changes to your research plans or with concerns you may have.