

SAKK Network Trial Award

Conditions of Participation and Evaluation Procedure

1. Definition

The SAKK Network Trial Award – A Boost for Clinical Cancer Research

Clinical cancer research trials make a major contribution to the ongoing refinement and improvement of existing cancer treatments. In its capacity as a decentralized academic research institute, the SAKK is launching a competition to fund a new SAKK clinical trial in medical oncology and hematology. The competition, which has prize money of CHF 1 million, invites proposals from doctors in the SAKK network.

The competition will only be held and judged if at least six proposals for clinical trials are submitted.

2. Entry

2.1 Participants

The competition invites proposals from oncologists and hematologists in the SAKK network whose primary place of research is Switzerland. Submissions from young doctors (aged 40 or under) are particularly welcome.

2.2 Trial Proposals

Trial proposals will be accepted if:

- their purpose is to conduct a clinical trial in medical oncology or hematology, and
- their focus is innovative, pragmatic, or interventional in nature, or revolves around patient and public involvement (PPI), and
- they have either never been assessed by the SAKK or have been accepted by the Scientific Committee, but are not yet fully funded.

2.3 Form

2.3.1 Content

The proposal dossier must

- be in English
- meet the requirements of the SAKK Trial Proposal Form. This form is available from the [SAKK Portal](#). Portal access can be requested from the SAKK Competence Center via the group's liaison person
- or contain at least the information highlighted in yellow in the SAKK Trial Proposal Form if a different proposal form is used.

2.3.2 Submission

Proposals must be submitted by e-mail bearing the subject line "SAKK Network Trial Award" to the Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) at proposals@sakk.ch no later than December 31, 2022.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment Criteria

- Simple and pragmatic, e.g., 2–3 secondary endpoints, no more than one translational research project
- Benefits to patients/cancer research
- Originality and innovation
- Appropriate methodology
- Feasibility (in terms of accrual and logistics, for example)

3.2 Evaluation

3.2.1 Evaluation Part I: Scientific Committee

The first step in the evaluation process is conducted by the SAKK Scientific Committee.

3.2.2 Evaluation Part II: Independent Jury

For the second step in the evaluation process, the SAKK Board will appoint an independent jury consisting of

- one non-medical member of the Board (representative of the public),
- one member of the Patient Advisory Board (patient representative), and
- one independent oncologist, e.g., member of the Scientific Advisory Board (scientific/medical representative).

The jury will rank the proposals based on the anonymized Scientific Committee's evaluation.

4. Financial Conditions

4.1 Prize Money

The CHF 1 million prize money may only be used to finance a SAKK clinical trial (in full or in part). The money will be paid in accordance with the trial budget to an account held by the oncology/hematology institution at which the winner works (not to a private account).

4.2 Conditions for Payment

If the prize money is insufficient to fully finance the trial, the winner has six months from the date on which the winner is announced to obtain funding to cover the shortfall with the support of the relevant liaison person in the SAKK Competence Center.

Should funding not have been obtained at the end of the six months, the prize money will go to the second-place proposal, provided the prize money is sufficient to cover that proposal's budget. If not, the prize money will go to the third-place proposal. If the prize money is insufficient to fund the third-place proposal too, it will be forfeited and the SAKK will use it to finance ordinary clinical cancer research.

4.3 Non-Nominated Proposals

The principal investigators of proposals that are not nominated will be contacted by the SAKK to discuss the further procedure. The SAKK will, if possible, endeavor to implement all proposals that received a positive assessment

5. Consent

Participants consent to the conditions set out here. They also consent to their personal data being processed and shared by the Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research to the extent necessary to conduct the project. They are aware that personal data (particularly names, qualifications, titles, and photos) of the researchers submitting the first-, second-, and third-place proposals will be announced at the award ceremony at the SAKK's Semi-Annual Meeting and will be published by the SAKK on the Internet, social media, and other channels. They consent to such announcement and publication.

6. Legal Recourse

The researchers submitting the first-, second-, and third-place proposals will be notified in person at the end of March 2023. An Award Ceremony will be held at the SAKK Semi-Annual Meeting in May 2023. No correspondence will be entered into concerning the assessment procedure. The jury's decision is final and may not be contested by any party. The jury will hold its deliberations and make its evaluations in private.