

## Announcement UCC NORD CONNECT (Cooperative NORD-Networking for Early Career Teams) Grants 2022

We aim to promote collaborative cancer research projects and the exchange of young medical & clinician scientists within the UCC NORD consortium.

Therefore, we will award up to 50,000 € per project according to your plans for innovative & trend-setting tandem projects between UCCSH (Kiel or Lübeck) and UCCH scientists.

Team up with a partner from the UCCSH or UCCH and hand in your joint proposal (one proposal by two PIs) until September 20, 2022!

Here is everything you need to know:

### What are the criteria for participation?

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Tandem Project    | The project must be executed by a <b>tandem team</b> , with one partner based at the UCCH (Hamburg) and the other at the UCCSH (Kiel or Lübeck).  |
| Topic in Oncology | The applicants need to work in the UCCH or UCCSH on an <b>oncology-related topic</b> that ideally fits into the core focus areas of UCCH and UCCSH (research programs and focus areas can be found on the respective websites).                               |
| Position          | Eligible are <b>early career medical &amp; clinician scientists</b> , up to 6 years after completion of their doctoral thesis (MD or PhD). A very good doctoral degree (magna or summa cum laude) is a requirement. Habilitation is an exclusion criterion *. |
| Publication       | Minimum: per applicant 1 publication as (shared) first or last author, at least manuscript submitted.   |

\* At least one of the two PIs must fulfil this criterion. Parental leave: up to 2 additional years/child may be recognized.

### What to hand in and how to submit your work?

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| CONNECT Grant Proposal | Please use the CONNECT Grant Proposal Template [word file]. The application should be written in English, font Arial 11 pt., and should not exceed 4 pages excluding references and appendices. |
| CV                     | Please provide a short CV from each partner (one page per person)   |
| Letter of support      | Please provide a letter of support for each of the applying PIs by their respective Department Head.  |
| Submission             | Please email your CONNECT grant proposal to <a href="mailto:ucch.science.info@uke.de">ucch.science.info@uke.de</a>  |

### What's the timeline?

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Announcement                   | <b>Early July 2022</b>   |
| Deadline                       | <b>September 20, 2022</b>  |
| Decision announcement          | <b>End of October 2022</b>   |
| Funding period                 | <b>January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023</b> |
| Project Presentation - Results | NORD Seminar   |

**What are the criteria for evaluation ? (strongest criterion is “added value”/strategic implementation within UCC NORD)**

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|---|
| Added value – how well do the partner sites complement each other/make use of shared resources (biobank, technologies etc.)? Will there be an overall strategic benefit for the UCC NORD? |
| Potential – how strong is the potential of the project for follow-up studies and funding?   |
| Innovation – does the project represent a new and innovative idea that was not already followed before?   |
| Quality – what’s the degree of excellence of the proposed research project?   |
| Feasibility – how realistic is the implementation of the proposed project in the given time?  |

Funding for the CONNECT initiative is kindly provided by the medical faculties of the Universities of Kiel and Lübeck and the Mildred Scheel Cancer Career Center Hamburg (MSNZ HH) which is funded by the German Cancer Aid.

In case of questions do not hesitate to contact us at:

Email: [ucch.science.info@uke.de](mailto:ucch.science.info@uke.de)

Phone UCCH: 040-7410-59212

Phone UCCSH: 0431-500-18512

**Background:**

*Currently, there are 14 CCCs in Germany which are funded by the German Cancer Aid; Hamburg is in a pioneering position as the only CCC in Northern Germany. The aim of the CCC initiative of the German Cancer Aid is to establish a nationwide network of oncology centers with excellent research and, above all, patient care, so that everyone in Germany has access to the best possible preventive and screening measures and, in addition, people suffering from cancer in Germany have access to the best possible medical treatment based on the latest research findings, regardless of where they live. Every center or consortium must take part in the competition every four years and re-apply for the award. Since the number of funded centers or consortia has increased only minimally in recent years, more and more university cancer centers are currently applying for the award in consortia, i.e. jointly. Such an application is now also planned for the 10th Call for Applications of the DKH in 2024 by the UCCH together with the University Cancer Center Schleswig-Holstein (UCCSH).*

*In order to connect our centers in advance in the best possible way and to launch joint initiatives, numerous activities are already ongoing within several working groups. To ensure that young scientists - our clinicians and medical scientists at all three sites (Hamburg, Lübeck and Kiel) - can also participate and contribute to the success of the joint application in 2024, the working group “Young Scientists” within the task force “Translational Research” has developed the CONNECT grants. These grants are intended to give a boost to joint projects which are conceived by you, the young scientists. The aim is that larger projects can emerge from these initiatives, which may then be able to attract further funding from larger funding bodies. In addition, we would like to strengthen the scientific exchange between the two locations (UCCH and UCCSH) and motivate you to look around at the other location for suitable partners who may be pursuing similar research goals as you. In the end, this will not only benefit us, but also you and your further networking and career planning. For this reason, we invite you to participate in this call for proposals and send us your best joint project ideas by September 20, 2022 using the attached template. You can apply for up to 50.000 € for one year distributed over two locations (HH-Kiel or HH-Lübeck). To find suitable partners, please check our websites: [UKE - University Cancer Center Hamburg - Hubertus Wald Tumor Center - Research programs, www.uke.de/msnz](http://uke.de) and [Grundlagenforschung und Translationale Forschung \(uksh.de\)](http://Grundlagenforschung und Translationale Forschung (uksh.de)) or contact us for counseling.*