

## Announcement NORD CONNECT (Cooperative NORD-Networking for Early Career Teams) Grants 2024

We aim to promote collaborative cancer research projects and the exchange of young Medical & Clinician Scientists\* between the Cancer Centers Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein.

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

Team up with partners (teams from 2-4 researchers are eligible) from the respective other center (UCCSH or UCCH) and hand in your joint proposal (one joint proposal by all partners) until **September 8, 2024!**

Here is everything you need to know:

### What are the criteria for participation?

Team Project	The project must be executed by a <b>team</b> , with at least one partner based at the UCCH (Hamburg) and one at the UCCSH (Kiel or Lübeck).
Topic in Oncology	The applicants need to work at 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 teams of up to four <b>early career Medical &amp; Clinician Scientists</b> . MD/ PhD students, scientists with completed medical studies or STEM Master degree are included. <b>W2/W3 professors are not eligible. At least one</b> of the applicants has to fulfil all of the following criteria**: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• before or up to 6 years after completion of their doctoral thesis (MD or PhD)</li> <li>• not habilitated</li> </ul>
Publication	Minimum: per applicant 1 publication as (shared) first or last author, at least manuscript submitted.

\* A Medical Scientist is a researcher in biosciences (e.g. Biology, Life Sciences, Health Care Research etc.), a Clinician Scientist (CS) is a clinician who is also doing research (either clinical, translational or basic).

\*\* Parental leave: up to two additional years/child may be recognized.

In case of uncertainty, please contact the CONNECT team at: [ucch.science.info@uke.de](mailto:ucch.science.info@uke.de)

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

CONNECT Grant Proposal	Please use the CONNECT Grant Proposal Template [word file]. The application must be written in English, font Arial 11 pt., and must <b>not exceed 4 pages</b> 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 applicant by their respective Department Head. For CS, a written confirmation of clinical release times by the Department Head should be provided.
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>June 12, 2024</b>
Deadline	<b>September 8, 2024</b>
Decision announcement	<b>October/November 2024</b>
Funding period	<b>January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025</b>
Project Presentation - Results	NORD Seminar

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

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 NORD consortium?
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 Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein 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)

**Background:**

*In order to connect our centers 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 Clinician and Medical Scientists at all three sites (Hamburg, Lübeck and Kiel) - also participate in and benefit from the cooperation between the two cancer centers, the joint working group “Early Career Scientists” 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. The NORD Workshop series (next event on June 26, 2024 in Hamburg) could provide a possibility to network & find partners. 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 8, 2024, using the attached template. You can apply for up to 50.000 € for one year distributed **equally** 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](http://www.ukc.de), [www.ukc.de/msnz](http://www.ukc.de/msnz) and [Grundlagenforschung und Translationale Forschung \(uksh.de\)](http://www.uksh.de) or contact us for counseling.*