



Providing *Hope* to
Cholangiocarcinoma Patients
Through Funding *Research*,
Mentoring, and *Advocacy*.

www.crainescancercure.org

2027 RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

Request for Applications (RFA)

Award Opportunity

The Mike Shane Innovation in Cholangiocarcinoma Research Grant

Established by Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew in Memory of Mike Shane

Providing hope to cholangiocarcinoma patients through funding research, mentoring, and advocacy.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Welcome Letter
2. About Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew
3. Our Commitment to Research
4. Grant Overview
5. Funding Information
6. Eligibility
7. Letter of Intent
8. Full Research Application
9. Budget
10. Intellectual Property Claims
11. Reporting Requirements
12. Terms and Conditions of the Award
13. Required Attachments
14. Regulatory Compliance
15. Certification
16. Submission Checklist
17. Scientific Review Process
18. Acknowledgments

WELCOME LETTER

Dear Research Colleagues,

Thank you for your interest in the **Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew Research Grant Program**.

Founded in 2012 by Lisa and David Craine, Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals affected by cholangiocarcinoma through research funding, patient mentoring, advocacy, and education.

As a patient-founded organization, we recognize the urgent need for continued scientific discovery. Every advancement in cholangiocarcinoma research begins with investigators who pursue innovative ideas, challenge existing knowledge, and seek better treatment options for patients facing this rare and aggressive cancer.

The **Mike Shane Innovation in Cholangiocarcinoma Research Grant** reflects our commitment to supporting promising investigators whose research has the potential to advance the understanding, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship of cholangiocarcinoma.

We are particularly committed to supporting **early-career investigators**, recognizing that today's emerging scientists will become tomorrow's leaders in cholangiocarcinoma research.

Our vision extends beyond funding a single project. We hope this grant will serve as **seed funding**, generating the preliminary data necessary for investigators to establish themselves in the field while pursuing larger competitive funding opportunities through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other peer-reviewed funding organizations.

On behalf of Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew, thank you for your dedication to improving the lives of patients and families affected by cholangiocarcinoma. We appreciate your interest in our Research Grant Program and look forward to reviewing your application.

Sincerely,

Lisa Craine
Co-Founder
Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew

ABOUT CRAINE'S CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA CREW

Founded in 2012 by Lisa and David Craine, Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew is dedicated exclusively to improving the lives of individuals affected by cholangiocarcinoma through research funding, patient mentoring, advocacy, education, and awareness.

The organization was founded on the belief that meaningful progress against cholangiocarcinoma requires collaboration among patients, caregivers, clinicians, researchers, and advocates. Since its inception, Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew has remained committed to advancing research while supporting patients and families facing this rare disease.

In addition to funding promising scientific research, Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew has mentored more than **1,300 patients and caregivers worldwide** and continues to support research collaborations, patient advocacy initiatives, and educational programs that advance the understanding and treatment of cholangiocarcinoma.

The **Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew Research Grant Program** honors the memory of **Mike Shane** through the annual **Mike Shane Innovation in Cholangiocarcinoma Research Grant**, supporting innovative scientific research with the potential to improve patient outcomes and create hope for future generations.

Mission Statement

Providing hope to cholangiocarcinoma patients through funding research, mentoring, and advocacy.

OUR COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH

Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew believes that research is the driving force behind progress in the fight against cholangiocarcinoma.

Every research proposal represents an opportunity to improve the lives of patients and families affected by this disease. We recognize that meaningful advances require scientific excellence, innovation, collaboration, and responsible stewardship of every charitable dollar entrusted to our organization.

We are committed to funding research that is scientifically rigorous and capable of demonstrating meaningful patient impact while advancing the cholangiocarcinoma research community.

4. GRANT OVERVIEW

Purpose

The **Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew Research Grant Program** is designed to support innovative, scientifically rigorous research that advances the understanding, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship of cholangiocarcinoma.

The **2027 Mike Shane Innovation in Cholangiocarcinoma Research Grant** is intended to support **early-career investigators**, or established mid-career investigators embarking on a new, previously unfunded line of cholangiocarcinoma research.

Our goal is to invest in investigators with the potential to improve patient outcomes, foster scientific collaboration, and generate preliminary data that may lead to future discoveries and competitive peer-reviewed funding from agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other national funding organizations.

Research supported through this program should demonstrate scientific merit, innovation, feasibility, and meaningful potential to improve the lives of individuals affected by cholangiocarcinoma.

Award Information

Program

Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew Research Grant Program

2027 Award

Mike Shane Innovation in Cholangiocarcinoma Research Grant

Award Amount

Up to \$75,000

Project Period

Twelve (12) months

Number of Awards

One or more awards may be made annually, based upon available funding and recommendations of the Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew Medical Advisory Board.

Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew reserves the right to fund all, part, or none of any application.

Important Dates

Activity	Date
Letter of Intent Due	March 1, 2027
Invitation to Submit Full Research Application	May 1, 2027
Full Research Application Due	July 1, 2027
Scientific Review	August 15, 2027
Award Notification	Sept 1, 2027
Grant Start Date	Sept 30, 2027
Six-Month Progress Report	Six months after initiation of award funding
Final Research Report	Within 60 days of project completion

5. FUNDING INFORMATION

Grant Disbursements

Grant funds will be distributed according to the following schedule:

- **50%** upon execution of the Grant Award Agreement and receipt of all required institutional approvals.
- **25%** upon submission and approval of the Six-Month Progress Report.
- **25%** upon submission and approval of the Final Research Report.

Future payments are contingent upon satisfactory progress and fulfillment of all reporting requirements.

Allowable Expenses

Grant funds may be used only for direct research expenses necessary to complete the approved project, including:

- Research personnel directly involved in the project
- Laboratory supplies and consumables
- Research materials
- Core laboratory services
- Statistical support and data analysis
- Patient-related research expenses
- Publication costs directly related to the funded research
- Scientific meeting travel (see below)
- Other direct research expenses approved by Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew

All requested expenses must be clearly justified within the proposed budget.

Scientific Meeting Travel

Travel support of up to **\$1,500** may be requested to present findings from the funded research at a national or international scientific meeting.

Travel expenses must:

- Be directly related to dissemination of results from the funded project.
- Be included in the approved project budget.
- Receive prior approval from Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew.

Non-Allowable Expenses

Grant funds may not be used for:

- Institutional indirect costs (Facilities & Administrative costs)
- General institutional overhead
- Construction or renovation
- Capital equipment unrelated to the approved research
- Expenses incurred before the award period
- Lobbying or political activities

6. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must meet **all** of the following requirements at the time of application:

- Be affiliated with an accredited academic, medical, or research institution located within the United States.
- Hold an **early-career academic position**, including Instructor, or Assistant Professor; **or** be sponsored by an eligible Principal Investigator if applying as a post-doctoral fellow or trainee.
- Conduct research directly related to cholangiocarcinoma.
- Demonstrate the ability to complete the proposed project within the designated grant period.
- Obtain all required institutional and regulatory approvals prior to initiation of funded research.

Eligible Applicants

Applications are encouraged from:

- Physician Scientists (MD or DO)
- Research Scientists (PhD or equivalent)
- Junior faculty at the level of **Instructor or Assistant Professor**
- **Associate Professors** are eligible **only** if proposing a novel line of investigation that has not previously received external funding.
- Postdoctoral Fellows (MD, DO, or PhD) must identify an established senior faculty mentor who will provide scientific oversight throughout the project.

Definition of Early-Career Investigator

For purposes of this program, an **early-career investigator** is generally defined as an investigator within approximately **five (5) years** of completing their terminal research or clinical training and who has not yet established an independently funded cholangiocarcinoma research program.

Research Focus

Projects must focus exclusively on **cholangiocarcinoma**.

Research may include basic science, translational research, clinical investigation, precision medicine, immunotherapy, biomarker development, early detection, drug development, quality of life, survivorship, or other innovative approaches that have the potential to improve patient outcomes.

Collaborative and multidisciplinary projects are encouraged.

7. LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)

Submission of a **Letter of Intent (LOI)** is required before submission of a Full Research Application.

The Letter of Intent enables Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew to estimate reviewer needs, identify potential conflicts of interest, and ensure that proposed projects align with the objectives of the Research Grant Program.

Submission of an LOI does **not** guarantee invitation to submit a Full Research Application or receipt of funding.

Letter of Intent Requirements

The Letter of Intent must not exceed **one (1) attached page** and should include:

- Project Title
- Principal Investigator
- Institution
- Research Category
- Brief Project Summary
- Specific Aims
- Estimated Budget Request
- Anticipated Patient Impact
- Key Collaborators (if applicable)

Applicants selected to advance will be invited to submit a Full Research Application.

8. FULL RESEARCH APPLICATION

General Instructions

Applicants invited to submit a **Full Research Application** should prepare a concise, scientifically rigorous proposal describing the proposed research project.

The **Research Proposal** portion of the application is limited to **five (5) pages**, including figures, and excluding:

- Scientific Abstract
- Lay Summary
- References
- Budget and Budget Justification
- NIH Bio sketches/Curriculum Vitae
- Letter of Institutional Support
- IRB/IACUC documentation

Applications should be prepared using a minimum **12-point font, single spacing**, and **¼-inch margins**.

The five-page Research Proposal includes the following sections:

- Background and Significance
- Specific Aims
- Research Design and Methods
- Innovation
- Expected Outcomes and Future Directions
- Patient Impact Statement

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Principal Investigator

Name: _____

Degree(s): _____

Academic Title: _____

Department: _____

Institution: _____

Institution Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Co-Investigator(s) (if applicable)

Name(s):

Institution(s):

Role(s):

Senior Faculty Mentor (Required for Fellows)

Name:

Institution:

Academic Title:

Role in Project:

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title

Amount Requested

\$ _____

Project Duration

☐ Twelve (12) Months

Research Categories (Check all that Apply)

- ☐ Basic Science
- ☐ Translational Research
- ☐ Clinical Research
- ☐ Precision Medicine
- ☐ Immunotherapy
- ☐ Biomarker Development
- ☐ Early Detection
- ☐ Drug Development
- ☐ Quality of Life
- ☐ Survivorship Research
- ☐ Other _____

LAY SUMMARY

Maximum: 250 words

Provide a brief, non-technical summary describing the proposed research for patients, caregivers, donors, and the general public.

If funded, Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew may use this summary in educational materials, publications, and grant announcements.

SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACT

Maximum: One (1) page

Provide a concise scientific summary of the proposed project, including:

- Background
- Research Question
- Specific Aims
- Study Design
- Expected Outcomes

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

A. Background and Significance

Describe the scientific background supporting the proposed research and explain why the project is important to advancing the understanding, diagnosis, treatment, or survivorship of cholangiocarcinoma.

B. Specific Aims

Clearly state the hypothesis and primary objectives of the proposed research.

C. Research Design and Methods

Describe the overall study design, methodology, statistical approach, and anticipated analyses. Provide sufficient detail to permit scientific review while remaining concise.

D. Innovation

Describe how the proposed research represents a novel concept, methodology, or application that advances the field of cholangiocarcinoma research.

E. Expected Outcomes and Future Directions

Describe the anticipated scientific findings and explain how the results may contribute to future research, clinical investigation, improved patient care, or subsequent funding opportunities.

Applicants should specifically describe how this project is expected to generate preliminary data supporting future competitive, peer-reviewed funding, including applications to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or other external funding agencies.

PATIENT IMPACT STATEMENT

Describe why this research is important to patients and families affected by cholangiocarcinoma.

Discuss:

- The unmet clinical or scientific need addressed by the project.
- The potential impact on patient care, quality of life, diagnosis, or treatment.
- The anticipated long-term benefit to the cholangiocarcinoma community.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Provide a summary of anticipated project milestones.

Time Period	Milestone
Months 1–3	
Months 4–6	
Months 7–9	
Months 10–12	

CURRENT AND PENDING EXTRAMURAL FUNDING

List all current, pending, or recently submitted external research funding related to the proposed area of investigation.

Include:

- Funding Agency
- Project Title
- Principal Investigator

- Funding Status (Current, Pending, Submitted)
 - Project Dates
 - Total Direct Costs
- If none, indicate **None**.

FUTURE FUNDING PLAN

Briefly describe how this project will position the investigator to pursue larger competitive funding opportunities.

Examples may include:

- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Department of Defense (CDMRP)
- American Cancer Society
- Other peer-reviewed federal or foundation funding mechanisms

9. BUDGET

Budget Summary

Provide a summary of the requested project budget. Grant funds should be requested only for expenses directly related to completion of the proposed research.

Budget Category	Amount Requested
Personnel*	\$
Laboratory Supplies	\$
Research Materials	\$
Core Laboratory Services	\$
Statistical Support / Data Analysis	\$
Patient-Related Research Costs	\$
Scientific Meeting Travel (maximum \$1,500)	\$
Other Direct Costs	\$
TOTAL REQUESTED	\$

*Personnel costs must be directly related to the approved project and clearly justified.

Budget Justification

Provide a concise justification for each budget category requested.

Explain how each expense directly supports completion of the proposed research.

Budget Justification

10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew does **not** claim ownership of any intellectual property resulting from research funded through this program.

Ownership of discoveries, inventions, patents, copyrights, software, data, and other intellectual property shall remain subject to the policies of the recipient institution.

Grant recipients are encouraged to publish and disseminate research findings in accordance with institutional policies while acknowledging support from the **Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew Research Grant Program**.

11. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Grant recipients are expected to maintain regular communication with Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew throughout the award period.

Six-Month Progress Report

A written Progress Report is required approximately six (6) months following the start of the grant period.

The report should include:

- Summary of research completed
- Progress toward Specific Aims
- Preliminary findings
- Challenges encountered
- Modifications to the research plan (if applicable)
- Updated project timeline
- Planned or submitted extramural funding applications related to the project

Approval of the Progress Report is required before release of the second grant payment (25%).

Final Research Report

A Final Research Report must be submitted within **60 days** following completion of the grant period.

The report should include:

- Executive Summary
 - Major scientific accomplishments
 - Progress toward Specific Aims
 - Final study findings
 - Future research directions
 - Planned or submitted extramural funding applications
 - Publications, manuscripts, abstracts, posters, or presentations resulting from the funded research
- Approval of the Final Research Report is required before release of the final grant payment (25%).**

Research Impact Summary

In addition to the Final Research Report, grant recipients shall submit a **one-page Research Impact Summary** written for a general audience.

This summary should describe the project in clear, non-technical language suitable for patients, caregivers, donors, and the public.

The summary should include:

- The purpose of the research
- Major findings
- Potential impact on patients and families affected by cholangiocarcinoma
- Future directions of the research
- **How support from the Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew Research Grant Program contributed to the project**

With the investigator's approval, Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew may use this summary in newsletters, annual reports, grant announcements, educational materials, fundraising initiatives, and on its website to communicate the impact of donor-supported research.

12. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Recipients of the **2027 Mike Shane Innovation in Cholangiocarcinoma Research Grant** agree to:

- Use grant funds only for approved research expenses.
- Notify Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew of any significant changes to the approved project, including changes in project scope, timeline, personnel, or budget.
- Notify Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew of any **new or additional extramural funding** received that is directly related to the funded project.
- Submit all required Progress Reports and Final Research Reports according to the established reporting schedule.
- Inform Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew of any publications, abstracts, posters, oral presentations, or other scholarly communications resulting from the funded research.
- Acknowledge support from the **Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew Research Grant Program** in all publications, presentations, posters, manuscripts, abstracts, and related communications arising from the funded project.
- Comply with all institutional, ethical, and regulatory requirements governing the conduct of research.

13. REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

Please submit the following documents with the Full Research Application:

- ☐ Completed Full Research Application
- ☐ Budget Summary
- ☐ Budget Justification
- ☐ NIH Biosketch or Curriculum Vitae for the Principal Investigator, **including a list of current, pending, and recently submitted extramural research funding.**
- ☐ NIH Biosketch or Curriculum Vitae for the Senior Faculty Mentor (if applicable), **including a list of current, pending, and recently submitted extramural research funding.**
- ☐ Letter of Institutional Support
- ☐ Documentation of Institutional Review Board (IRB) and/or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval, if available
- ☐ References (optional)

14. REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

If applicable, please indicate the status of required institutional approvals.

Human Subject Research

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Pending
- ☐ Not Applicable

Protocol Number: _____

Animal Research

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Pending
- ☐ Not Applicable

Protocol Number: _____

If funding is awarded, all required institutional approvals must be in place before grant funds are released.

15. CERTIFICATION

By signing below, the Principal Investigator certifies that the information contained in this application is accurate and complete and agrees to comply with all terms and conditions of this funding opportunity.

Principal Investigator

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Senior Faculty Mentor *(if applicable)*

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Institutional Official

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

16. APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Before submitting your application, please verify that all required materials are included.

- ☐ Letter of Intent
- ☐ Completed Full Research Application (**Research Proposal limited to five (5) pages**)
- ☐ Lay Summary
- ☐ Scientific Abstract
- ☐ Budget Summary
- ☐ Budget Justification
- ☐ NIH Biosketch/Curriculum Vitae (Principal Investigator)
- ☐ NIH Biosketch/Curriculum Vitae (Senior Faculty Mentor, if applicable)
- ☐ Letter of Institutional Support
- ☐ IRB/IACUC Documentation (if applicable)
- ☐ Signed Certification Page

Application Submission

Applications should be submitted electronically as **one PDF document**.

Submission Deadline: _____

Submission Email: _____

Website: **www.crainescancercure.org**

17. SCIENTIFIC REVIEW PROCESS

Following the application deadline, all submissions will undergo an administrative review to ensure eligibility, completeness, and compliance with the application requirements.

Applications meeting all eligibility and submission requirements will be evaluated by the **Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew Medical Advisory Board**, an independent panel of physicians, scientists, and researchers with expertise in cholangiocarcinoma and related disciplines.

The Medical Advisory Board will evaluate each application based on scientific merit, innovation, feasibility, investigator potential, patient impact, and the likelihood that the proposed project will generate meaningful preliminary data for future peer-reviewed funding.

Funding recommendations will be submitted to the leadership of Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew for final approval.

Funding decisions are final.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Medical Advisory Board members are expected to disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest related to submitted applications.

Board members with a conflict of interest will not participate in the discussion, review, scoring, or funding recommendation for the affected application.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All applications and supporting materials submitted to Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew will be treated as confidential.

Applications will be reviewed only by individuals directly involved in the scientific review process.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that proprietary information included within their application is appropriate for confidential scientific review.

18. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew gratefully acknowledges the physicians, scientists, researchers, patients, caregivers, donors, volunteers, and community partners whose dedication and collaboration make this Research Grant Program possible.

We are especially grateful to the members of our Medical Advisory Board for sharing their time, expertise, and thoughtful guidance in the development of this grant program.

Together, we share a common commitment to advancing scientific discovery, supporting the next generation of investigators, and creating hope for individuals and families affected by cholangiocarcinoma.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Craine's Cholangiocarcinoma Crew

Website: www.crainescancercure.org

Email: _____

Phone: _____