

Bern, January 2025

## SAKK / Novartis “Together for Patients Award”

### Definition

The Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) and Novartis Pharma Schweiz AG award the SAKK/Novartis “Together for Patients Award”. The Award is endowed with a maximal amount of CHF 30'000 and supports planned and ongoing patient-focused projects as described below in the field of Hema-Oncology and Oncology. It is particularly encouraged to submit hemato-oncological projects.

### Eligible Projects

- Eligible projects are such that aim to prevent or alleviate or reduce the burden of hemato-oncological and oncological diseases for patients and/or their relatives, thereby significantly improving patient care by optimizing aspects in e.g. in prevention, networking, communication, outcome, quality of life.
- Possible project proposals could include, but are not limited to:
  - Patient workshops to educate on specific topics
  - Tools to collect Patient-Reported Outcomes to improve patient care
  - (Digital) tools to enhance and support patient self-care (nutrition, movement, psychological and social aspects, etc.)
  - Platforms / projects to facilitate (timely and efficient) patient – physician communication and interaction (virtual visits, remote monitoring)
  - Platforms to facilitate data management / data collection
  - Projects for disease prevention for patients with hemato-oncological and oncological diseases
- Eligible projects must be conducted in Switzerland and might be even part of a larger project. In the latter case the submitted project should be a substantial part of such an overarching project and focus on a specific aspect. The amount of the award depends on the expected costs and is limited to CHF 30'000. Only costs that are still occurring can be covered by the award. Projects should not be connected to a single drug or treatment. Clinical trials and basic research are out of scope.

### Eligible Applicants

Office and/or hospital-based practicing physicians and other health care professionals (p.ex. nurses) or organizations that advocate for patients (e.g. patient organization) may apply for the award. Applicant must have a primary place of work in Switzerland.

### Application Process and Timelines

Applications must be submitted electronically via the SAKK website until March 31, 2025. Only complete submissions can be considered.

Briefly, the application must:

- Be written in English language
- Include project title, rationale, aim of the project and how this improves care of hematological and/or oncological patients
- Include a detailed description of the project encompassing the project plan, timelines/duration of the project (max. 5 pages, excl. CV)

- Include a detailed financial plan / budget (please be aware that the awarded amount is depending on the costs still occurring and may be less than CHF 30'000.- if upcoming project costs are smaller. The award will not cover past costs.)
- Include a CV of the applicants (max. 2 pages)
- Applications not fulfilling all the requirements mentioned above cannot be considered

## Jury

The jury acts and decides independently on the proposals and is composed of four individuals:

- Jury president (SAKK member), chairperson with 1 vote
- 2 Experts in hematology/oncology (will be selected by the chair), with 1 vote each
- 1 Representative of Patient Advisory Board with 1 vote

Each jury member has one vote for the evaluation of the project proposal. The winning project is selected based on a consensus process among the jury members. In case consensus cannot be reached, the chairperson has the final decision.

## Criteria for Project Evaluation

Project proposals will be evaluated only if they are deemed to be eligible and feasible according to the project scope defined above. Evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

- Estimated impact on certain aspects of hemato-oncological and oncological patient care such as: prevention, networking, communication, outcome, quality of life
- Innovation and feasibility of project
- Robustness of financial plans

## Notification and Grant Ceremony

All applicant(s) will be notified in writing within 6–8 weeks after the application deadline. The grant winner will be announced at the SAKK semi-annual meeting on May 22nd, 2025, where he/ she will be requested to present a short exposé on the planned project. Further announcements may follow in journals and newsletters.

## Payments

A respective grant agreement has to be signed by the grant winner and Novartis, specifying the amount and use of the granted amount over time (milestones). Payment of the granted amount will be made in agreed milestones, within 60 days after providing evidence of reaching the milestone. The transfer can only be made to the applicant's organization (Swiss (healthcare) organization/institution). The amount of the award depends on the expected costs and is limited to a maximum of CHF 30'000. Only costs that are still occurring can be covered by the grant.

## Follow-up

The award winner must provide a brief update on the progress or the results of the project at the next SAKK semi-annual meeting the following spring/summer. The winner must further provide a written summary of the project no later than 1 year after the award ceremony. The written summary sent to the SAKK, will be forwarded to the jury president.

## Contact Details

Questions about this grant can be addressed to:

SAKK Competence Center  
«Together for Patients Award»  
Effingerstrasse 33  
3008 Bern  
Tel +41 31 389 91 91  
E-Mail: events@sakk.ch

## General Terms and Conditions

No purchase of Novartis products is necessary to enter or win. A purchase or payment will not increase your chances of winning. In submitting an application, you acknowledge and agree to the Official Rules outlines here. If you do not agree to the General terms and conditions, you are not entitled to participate to “SAKK/Novartis: Together for Patients Award” and should not submit any application form.

Data Privacy Statement: When you apply for “SAKK/Novartis: Together for Patients Award”, you accept that Novartis and the jury members (who are nominated by the SAKK) will use the information you provide on your application to select the award winner, and to contact the successful applicant. Once the program is concluded for a particular year, if you have not been selected, your personal information will be deleted. By submitting this application, you permit Novartis and the jury to use your personal information as described, and to transfer the information between themselves as required.

Except as expressly stated in these General terms and conditions, all expenses in connection with the “SAKK/Novartis: Together for Patients Award” are in the sole responsibility of the applicants. The award winner may be subject to local or federal taxes required by law. By accepting the “SAKK/Novartis: Together for Patients Award”, the award winner releases Novartis, its subsidiaries and affiliated from any and all liability for any loss, harm, damages, costs or expense arising out of the participation in the “SAKK/Novartis: Together for Patients Award” or the acceptance, use or misuse of the “SAKK/Novartis: Together for Patients Award”, to the fullest extent permitted by the law. To the fully extent permitted by applicable law, Novartis will not be responsible for any and all claims of any kind or to any person or property, arising in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from acceptance, possession, use and misuse of the “SAKK/Novartis: Together for Patients Award” or participation in the “SAKK/Novartis: Together for Patients Award”.

The “SAKK/Novartis: Together for Patients Award” is not being given in exchange for any explicit or implicit agreement to purchase, prescribe, recommend, influence or provide favorable formulary status for any Novartis’ products. By accepting the “SAKK/Novartis: Together for Patients Award”, the award winner warrants and represents that he or she will invest the granted award sum in the proposed project in Switzerland only. The award winner warrants that he or she will retain appropriate support documentation of financial spending throughout the program’s implementation and will provide copies of these records to Novartis to confirm that the award sum had been used in accordance with these General terms and conditions.

The “SAKK/Novartis: Together for Patients Award” (including these General terms and conditions) is subject to and shall be construed in all respects according to Swiss law.