

Score	Scientific Merit Rating Scale (Revised May 2014)	Priority for funding
4.8 – 5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exceptional research with extremely significant and novel aims</li> <li>• Leading edge nationally and internationally</li> <li>• Addresses extremely important questions, challenges existing paradigms and will substantially improve our understanding of cancer</li> <li>• Extremely likely that all objectives will be met</li> <li>• No weaknesses</li> </ul>	Highest
4.5 – 4.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outstanding research with very significant and novel aims</li> <li>• Nationally and internationally competitive</li> <li>• Addresses essential questions and will have a major impact on our understanding of cancer</li> <li>• Very likely that all objectives will be met</li> <li>• Virtually no weaknesses</li> </ul>	Very High
4.2 – 4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent research with significant and novel aims</li> <li>• Nationally competitive and potentially internationally relevant</li> <li>• Will have a significant impact on our current knowledge of cancer</li> <li>• Somewhat likely that all objectives will be met</li> <li>• At least one minor weakness</li> </ul>	High
3.9 – 4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very good research with important and novel aims</li> <li>• Potentially nationally competitive</li> <li>• Potential to contribute considerably to our knowledge of cancer</li> <li>• Very good likelihood that most objectives will be met</li> <li>• Some minor weaknesses that can be addressed during the term of the grant</li> </ul>	Medium-High
3.6 – 3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good research with important aims</li> <li>• Potentially nationally relevant</li> <li>• Potential to improve our knowledge of cancer</li> <li>• Good likelihood that most objectives will be met</li> <li>• At least one moderate weakness</li> </ul>	Medium-Low
3.3 – 3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research with low potential to yield important results</li> <li>• Numerous moderate weakness</li> </ul>	Low
3.0 – 3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research with very low potential to yield important results</li> <li>• At least one major weakness</li> </ul>	Lowest
Below 3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research in need of further development before being competitive</li> <li>• Numerous major weaknesses</li> </ul>	None
Unscored (mark as 0.01)	The application was triaged by the panel and not discussed. The weaknesses of the proposed research far outweigh the strengths and therefore there is a low expectation of success.	None