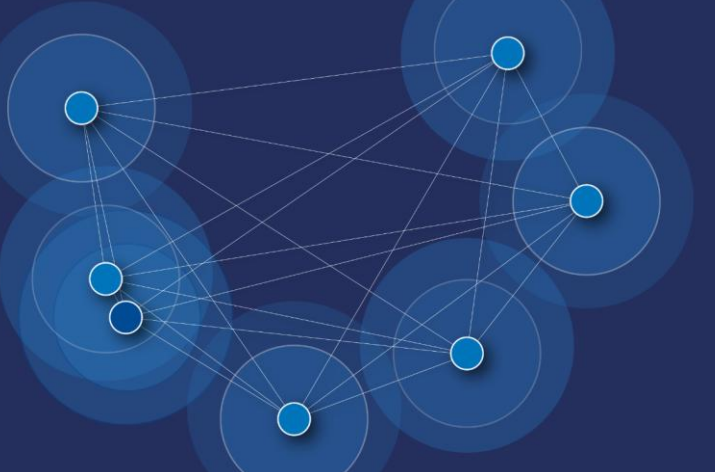




NCT COMMUNITY RETREAT

3.–4. Dezember 2026
HEIDELBERG CONGRESS CENTER (HCC)

Call for Early-Career Development Grants: NCT Community Retreat 2026 for early-career medical professionals, researchers and clinical trialists

The **National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT)** is pleased to announce a call for applications for Early-Career Development Grants to attend the **NCT Community Retreat 2026**.

The retreat aims to foster scientific collaboration by bringing together researchers and patient representatives from all NCT sites and the DKFZ. It will focus on the NCT Priority Research Themes (PRTs) and Priority Disease Areas (PDAs), sharing new study ideas and expanding networks. For details on the NCT research agenda, see the NCT Strategic Concept and Implementation Plan:

<https://hub.dkfz.de/s/2Ho3pF6JxPBAezc>

Additionally, the retreat will provide expert consulting to help participants prepare successful trial synopses for the NCT investigator-initiated trial (IIT) portfolio. This call is tailored for **early-career medical professionals, researchers and clinical trialists from NCT sites and the DKFZ** who are eager to advance their skills, engage in meaningful collaborations, and contribute to the design and development of cutting-edge clinical trials.

The **NCT Community Retreat** will take place **December 3-4, 2026, at the Heidelberg Congress Center (HCC)**.

Grant eligibility and criteria

We invite applications from:

- **Medical doctors, researchers and clinical trialists** in the early stages of their careers, i.e. within 10 years of receiving their medical licensure (Approbation) **from NCT sites and the DKFZ**, who may currently be undergoing specialized medical training (Facharztweiterbildung); a doctoral degree (PhD or MD) is recommended but not mandatory.
- Individuals with a strong interest in building a career centered on the **design, planning, and conduct of clinical trials**, who demonstrate a commitment to collaborative, interdisciplinary clinical cancer research.
- **Applications must be submitted on an individual basis**, as evaluation criteria and grant benefits are tailored to single applicants. While joint applications are not permitted, **multiple individuals may apply separately based on the same trial concept**.

Grant Benefits

- **Full travel expenses** to and from the retreat location (train/bus fare).
- **Accommodation** during the duration of the retreat (max. 2 nights).

- **Access to all retreat activities**, including workshops, seminars, and consultation opportunities.
- **Dedicated agenda items for early-career professionals**, for example an Early Career Professionals Lunch offering targeted mentoring and focusing on specific needs, challenges, and opportunities for professional development and collaboration.
- **Graphical summary** professionally designed for both personal use and official NCT communication.
- **Certificate of Award**: Recipients will receive an official certificate recognizing their selection for the NCT Community Retreat 2026 Early-Career Development Grants which will be awarded during the retreat.

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit the following materials by **August 14, 2026**:

1. **Retreat impact statement:**
 - Statement (max. ½ A4 page) outlining how attending the NCT Community Retreat would support the advancement of your clinical trial concept and your professional development in clinical research.
2. **Curriculum Vitae (CV):**
 - Provide a short CV, including educational background, professional positions held, research experience.
3. **Summary of a clinical trial concept:**
 - Applicants are encouraged to submit a brief synopsis (1-2 pages) of a clinical trial idea or concept. This may be an idea in its early stages, and will serve as a foundation for collaboration during the retreat.
 - Additionally, applicants may request a consultation with a member of the NCT Steering Committee regarding their clinical trial concept.
4. **Agreement from supervisor and NCT site spokesperson** (please use the downloadable template).

How to Apply

Please reach out to your local NCT coordination office ([LINK](#)) to prepare your application documents, including the agreement letter from the NCT site spokesperson.

To apply, please submit all required materials using our Indico platform ([LINK](#)) by **August 14, 2026**.

All materials should be submitted as a single PDF document: "NCT Community Retreat 2026 Early Career Development Application – [Your Full Name]".

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by members of the national NCT Education & Training Committee. Selected applicants will be notified via email by **Mid-September 2026**.

Why Apply?

The **NCT Community Retreat** is an exceptional opportunity to:

- Build an NCT-wide network.
- Receive mentorship and feedback from leading experts in clinical trial design.

- Collaborate on real-world clinical trial proposals.
- Gain insights into the operational, regulatory, and ethical aspects of clinical research.

Whether you're currently engaged in clinical trials or looking to transition into this exciting field, the retreat provides an immersive environment to grow your skills and professional network.

Application Deadline: August 14, 2026.

For further inquiries, please contact nct-sccr@dkfz-heidelberg.de.