

‘Pieter Van Vlierberghe Award’ - best paper in oncology award for young CRIG researchers

Background – a tribute to Prof. Pieter Van Vlierberghe

End of 2022, we had to say goodbye to CRIG group leader Prof. Pieter Van Vlierberghe, after his brave yet unfair battle against cancer.

Pieter, bio-engineer by education, started his research career with a PhD in the Netherlands and a postdoc position in Boston (USA). He obtained a competitive Odysseus type 2 grant from the Research Foundation Flanders that allowed him to start an independent research group at Ghent University in 2013, focusing on the genetic basis of human leukemia. Since then, Pieter has been one of the driving forces of cancer research in Ghent, successfully applying for a variety of prestigious grants like a Starting Grant from the European Research Council (ERC) and receiving several awards for his outstanding work, such as the prestigious award of the Baillet Latour Fund in 2018.

Pieter was very active in the field of (pediatric) leukemia and lymphoma and did not cease these activities when he became ill beginning of 2020. He led many projects in childhood leukemia and lymphoma and made great strides in elucidating the biology of leukemia. He really embodied the mission of CRIG to stimulate cancer research through collaboration, as he was always open to discuss, share and inspire.

But most of all, Pieter was a wonderful person and a fantastic friend to many of us. He was an excellent leader and motivator for his colleagues, co-workers and PhD students. Always positive and smiling, always empathetic and interested.

To honor and remember him, CRIG launches the 'Pieter Van Vlierberghe Award', a yearly award for the best paper in oncology published by a young CRIG researcher. We want to emphasize that it was the wish of Pieter himself that the award would go to young researchers.

Guidelines, regulations and criteria

1. Eligible candidates

- Candidates are CRIG member (or CRIG group leader) at the time of submission.
- Candidates are predoctoral researcher, or PhD holder for max. 10 years. The award is intended for young cancer researchers.
- The candidate is first author (or last/corresponding author) on the paper for which this application is submitted (see next section for eligible papers)
- In case first (or last/corresponding) authorship is shared on the paper, it is also allowed that the shared candidates submit one application together to share the prize.
- Although the candidate can submit the application himself/herself, it is also allowed that the candidate is nominated by the principal investigator / last author / promotor. In this case, the

latter submits the application, but the candidate that is nominated should be at least informed that an application is submitted.

2. Eligible papers

- For the 2023 (1st) award, the paper **must be accepted for publication or published in 2022, in a peer-reviewed international journal, and with clear focus on oncology**
- Papers focusing on fundamental, translational, clinical and/or psychosocial/nursing cancer research (any cancer research discipline) are eligible
- It must be clear that the paper is exceptional, ground breaking and very important for the field (any discipline in oncology); also see further

3. Frequency of the call and budget

- A call will be launched each year (in which a paper is awarded that is published the year before, see higher)
- One laureate (or shared co-authorship team, see higher) will be selected that will receive a personal prize of 500 EUR

4. Application procedure, selection and announcement of the award

- Submission deadline for this first call: Monday 10 April 2023 at latest
- Proposals should be submitted via the specific form below + send a pdf version of the paper (including supplementary materials)
- All submitted proposals will be reviewed by the jury, existing of the CRIG steering committee members.
 - Jury members that are promotor (and/or heading the research lab) of the candidate(s) who submitted an application, and/or co-author on the paper cannot score this application. The scores by all voting jury members per project will be averaged.
 - The jury will come to the final selection of a laureate (or team) in consensus.
- The laureate (or team) of this first call will be announced and awarded during the closing session of [CRIG's PrIOMiC-OncoPoint symposium](#) (4 May 2023). **The laureate is also expected to shortly (max. 10') present the paper during this session.** (Note: all candidates that submitted an application will be informed on beforehand whether or not to prepare a presentation).

5. Selection criteria

- The paper must be exceptional, ground breaking, innovative and very important for the particular discipline in oncology.
- The focus of the paper must be on oncology (as indicated higher, can be any discipline in oncology)
- A collaborative research paper can be a plus

Pieter Van Vlierberghe award 2023 - Application form

Provide all information in English

Submit the pdf version of this form + the pdf of the paper (and supplementary materials)
by e-mail to CRIG@UGent.be (and in cc: Anna.Rose@UGent.be)

PART I: Personal information

1.1. Name of candidate (or names in case the application is submitted by the shared authors of the paper, cfr. the guidelines):

1.2. E-mail address:

1.3. Phone number:

1.4. Current position and affiliation

What is (are) your function(s)? (e.g. PhD researcher, postdoctoral researcher, clinician, ...)

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Employment at which institution? (e.g. UGent, UZ Gent, VIB). In case of employment by different institutions: please specify % of employment and function per institution

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1.5. What is the candidate's host lab and who is the direct supervisor / principal investigator / head of the lab?

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PART II: Info on the paper

2.1. Title of the publication:

2.2. Journal in which the paper is published:

2.3. Exact date of publication and date of acceptance:

2.4. Impact factor (2022 or most recent year for which the journal impact factor is known):

2.5. Ranking of the journal (multiple rankings according to different domains are possible):

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