

Statement on the use of artificial intelligence tools that use Large Language Models in AIRC funded research and peer review

At AIRC we are aware that powerful new tools of generative artificial intelligence based on the use of Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGTP, are now available. The current tools are just the beginning of a new technological era, which will have a significant impact on many aspects of society, including academic research.

When used responsibly, LLMs have considerable potential to contribute to authoring, word processing and assessment practices. They may help researchers accelerating their studies towards the development of more effective diagnostics and therapies to the benefit of cancer patients. And they may contribute to speed up the work of reviewers in the evaluation of fellowships and grant applications. However, many uncertainties and risks remain and require that these systems are used responsibly, as such tools may pose critical ethical, legal and integrity issues.

In line with this, we are monitoring the development and evolution of LLMs and are following the discussion among several international research funding bodies and scientific publishers on the implications of these new models. Such developments require the scientific community to continue to reflect on the desirability, potential and risks of using LLMs in the academic setting. As a first step, we have revised our policies on conflict of interest, confidentiality and responsibility on research integrity that, respectively, reviewers involved in our peer review and AIRC funded researchers and their Hosting institutions must abide by.

Additional updates in our guidelines and policies may follow to protect AIRC, its grantees and applicants against potential ethical, legal and integrity issues, and to maintain the high standards of the research we fund.