



RESEARCH STRATEGY

The Trust's strategy in regard to medical research should be seen in the context of its constitution and history.

The Trust was created by Sir Jules Thorn, whose endowment continues to generate investment income which is the Trust's sole source of income for funding grants. The Trust was not formed specifically to support medical research. Its Trust Deed gives the Trustees absolute discretion in distributing the Trust's resources. Thus it is a general grant-maker.

The Trust is a niche player, by virtue of its limited funds and the other calls on its resources. It seeks therefore to use the resources which it can commit to medical research to offer something different to the research community. The Trustees pay close regard to the wishes of the Founder, who hoped *inter alia* that the Trust he created would use its resources to bring benefit to patients and to aid the diagnosis of distressing conditions. It is against that background that the Trust focuses its grant-making for medical research on clinical work. The Trustees' aim is to support the highest quality translational research (selected only after rigorous peer review) where there is a clear strategy defining how the research will produce clinical benefit, and the timescale within which this will take place.

In reaching a judgement on grant applications the Trust has regard, *inter alia*, to the importance of the condition to be studied, including its economic impact and its priority for the National Health Service. All areas of research other than Cancer and HIV/AIDS are considered.

This strategy is reviewed regularly in the light of the post audit of completed research.

Grants are made to UK medical schools within two main schemes. The annual Sir Jules Thorn Award for Biomedical Research offers outstanding young scientists from medical schools across the United Kingdom the opportunity to compete for a prize of up to £1.7 million over 5 years or more, in order to conduct a programme of international quality translational research. This may be in any field other than research into Cancer or Aids. The Sir Jules Thorn PhD Scholarship Scheme provides support for Clinical Senior Lecturers by providing funding to enable three medical graduates each year to work for PhD degrees by undertaking research in the laboratories of Senior Lecturers.