TRANSLATIONAL BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AWARD

GUIDANCE NOTES

FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

www.julesthorntrust.org.uk

These notes should be read in conjunction with the application form and Terms and Conditions for the grant programme; both of which are available on the Trust's website.

The deadline for Expression of Interest applications is 18th February 2021

General information

The Trust is conscious of the disruption that the pandemic has caused to research across universities and the NHS, and the impact that the pandemic has had on other sources of research funding.

The Trust has therefore set up the Translational Biomedical award to provide a grant of up to £1 million to support a single outstanding research project, in any discipline or disease area, which is at an advanced stage of translation and demonstrates a clear pathway to benefit for patients. The Applicant's team must have already generated data or samples to proceed to the next stage of their work and now be seeking funding to translate the research into clinical outcomes. This might include, for example, teams who have gathered Covid-related data and now require the funding for analysis. Alternatively, teams working in other fields may have data from previous studies but have been unable to progress their work during the pandemic and now find other charitable funding is unavailable.

There is no defined time period over which work must take place or funding should be drawn down. However, the Trustees wish to support work at an advanced stage of translation and expect this to be reflected in applicants' research plans

Eligibility

Applications for the award are open to UK medical schools and NHS organisations. Each eligible institution/organisation may only submit one application and will therefore need to select the proposal which is put forward. Where a medical school and affiliated NHS organisation both have a prospective proposal, they must coordinate the selection process to decide which one should be submitted.

The proposed research must have a justifiable claim to be at the leading edge of international science and must be led by a clearly identified Principal Applicant. The Applicant may be at any stage of their research career but must be of outstanding quality and with a track record of peer-reviewed funding and publications which demonstrate their ability to deliver the proposed research project.

The work involved must be the major commitment of the Principal Applicant, comprising the majority of his/her research time.

The Award may not be used to meet the salary costs of the Principal Applicant. The Applicant will therefore need to hold an institutionally funded post for the duration of the project.

Applications will need to demonstrate the organisation's:

a) track record in international cutting edge clinical translational research,
b) adequate infrastructure support; and
c) commitment of internal resources for the synergy required.

The Trust's charitable status does not permit the provision of a grant which might, whether directly or indirectly, contribute to a commercial profit for a manufacturer. An application cannot therefore be considered where a manufacturer is supplying a cash grant or equipment, materials, drugs etc. at no cost, whether express or implied, for commercial use of the findings of the project.

Applications must cover the following points:

1. All research must be undertaken, and funding is restricted to work, including data collection, carried out in the United Kingdom.
2. Any co-applicants are expected to be actively involved in the work. Their precise role and time commitment must be stated.
3. The Award may not be used to meet the salary costs of the Principal Applicant(s) who should be in institutionally funded posts for the duration of the grant.
4. There must be visible strategic commitment to the research by the host institution.
5. All outcomes from the grant must be made freely available within three months of publication.

Please also note that the Trust will not support applications that are to supplement an existing project supported by other funding bodies, or to cover expenditure already incurred. Applications submitted concurrently to other funders will be accepted but subsequent short-listing would be conditional upon any such applications being withdrawn unless the Trust agrees otherwise. It is essential that any related applications are noted in the full application form.

Application Process

There is a three-stage application process for the award.

The key dates are as follows:

2020

•December   Call opens for initial applications

2021

•18th February   Closing date for submission of preliminary applications

•March   Long listed applicants invited to submit a full application

•10 June   Closing date for submission of full applications

•June-September   Peer review

•Early autumn   Presentation of short-listed applications to the Trust's Medical Advisory Committee

•End November   Announcement of the outcome of the competition.

How to Apply

Initial applications must be submitting using the on-line application form.

The form must be accompanied by the following attachments:

a) Letter of support from the Research Dean / Head of Department or other appropriate senior member of staff explaining why the proposal has been selected and its relevance to the institution's research strategy.

b) Key references (maximum of 30) supporting the proposed research. Each reference should include a PubMed ID number, title, name of first author and number of citations

c) Short CV for the principal applicant, including major publications relevant to the application, a list of current grant awards and a list of grant applications awaiting decision. The CV, publications list and grant list should not exceed 3 pages in total

d) a single page appendix containing figures/diagrams may also be included.

Preliminary applications will be evaluated by members of the Trust's Medical Advisory Committee and other experienced reviewers identified by the Trust. The Medical Advisory Committee will agree a longlist of applications to be taken forward to the second stage of the process, based on its assessment of the relative merits of the submissions. The Trust will **not** provide feedback at this stage of the competition or enter into discussion about the reasons for the decisions.

Further questions about the award should be directed to the Trust team at donations@julesthorntrust.org.uk.

Application Guidance

Applications must be completed in a typeface no smaller than 11 point Arial font.
Abbreviations should not be used unless fully explained.

The application must be complete in itself. No additional pages will be accepted unless specific instructions are given.

Contact Information – Applicant

Please provide the contact information of the Principal Applicant. Please note that all items marked with a * are required and the form cannot be submitted without these items being completed.

Section 1: The Project

Please state the title of your project

Provide a concise scientific title for your project.

Please state the total estimated cost of your proposed research project.

This is an estimated total cost of your proposed research project and the figure can be revised if the application is shortlisted. Please note that the Trust will not accept requests to cover overheads of the host institution or any costs incurred by the sponsoring organisation.

Please summarise your proposed research, outlining the background to the application, including any data or previous work that will be utilised, and the proposed aims of the research to be undertaken. (Max 1,000 words)

Please describe what you propose to do, briefly detailing the key hypothesis and objectives to your project. The hypothesis must be based on pre-clinical experimental data, arising from the applicant's own work, (not derivative of someone else's observations).

You should describe any data or previous work that supports the rationale of the proposal and provides a basis for doing this research now.

Please ensure to provide a brief summary of the top level, relevant background information necessary to understand the wider context of your proposal. Please remember that we're specifically looking for patient benefit rather than scientific research only.

This section should provide a clear and succinct summary of the proposed project (applicants shortlisted to the Second Stage will have the opportunity to elaborate further on their project design). This scheme is aimed to support hypothesis-driven research.

Please detail the translational aspects of the project. (Max 250 words)
We want to see translational research, at an advanced stage, which has high potential to make a real impact in the short term. You should therefore make a clear case as to how your proposal is translational, explaining how it will differ from or complement any planned, ongoing, or recently completed studies. You must clearly define how your research will translate into benefit for patients and the timescale within which this will take place.

Projects that are NOT deemed to be sufficiently translational will be rejected before the Second Stage.

Please describe the anticipated outcomes of your project and the potential short- and long-term impacts. (Max 200 words)

We wish to understand the potential outcome you seek to deliver as well as any impacts of your research both in the short and longer term, and how your research fits into the wider research landscape. We look to aid delivery of clinical impact as quickly as possible rather than solely academic outputs.

However, we also understand that several additional steps may be required in order to deliver longer term impacts. Please provide brief details of those subsequent steps and how you intend to fund them and any plans for commercial licencing or exploitation (if applicable).

Please detail your proposed timelines for this project. (Max 200 words)

This section is meant to provide an 'at a glance' summary of your project plan and key milestones. Please keep it succinct and to the point. Where there are multiple components to your proposal, please clarify who will be leading/delivering each component or sub-study.

Please detail the involvement of patients and the public in the proposal. You should describe the role of patients, or their relatives/partners etc., and how they will be involved in this research. (Max 100 words)

You should describe whether patients are to be recruited into the project, or if patients (and their relatives/partners etc.), will be involved in the design, planning or management of this research, and if so, what their role will be.

For more information on involving patients and the public in your research, please visit the Involve website.

Section 2: The Principal Investigator

Please outline how the applicant fits the eligibility criteria and detail their ability to deliver the proposed research including the level of institutional resources supporting the research. (Max 150 words)

The Principal Applicant must be the Principal Investigator who will lead the research and be responsible for delivering the project. The Applicant may be at any stage of their research career but must be of outstanding quality and with a track record of peer-reviewed funding and publications which demonstrate their ability to deliver the proposed research project. Please detail the suitability of the lead applicant to deliver the project, detailing their track record in international cutting edge clinical translational research and state the level of institutional resources and support available for the research project.

Please note that the application cannot be used to meet the salary of the lead applicant, and the lead applicant must, therefore, hold an institutionally funded post for the duration of the project.

Please outline how the applicant will meet the time commitment requirements for this proposal. (Max 150 words)

Please detail the time commitment of the Principle Investigator required for the successful delivery of the project.

Please provide evidence of impact of published work, grant support and draw attention to any specifically related to the application. (Max 400 words)

Please detail the grants already held/ completed by the lead applicant and any published work the lead applicant has undertaken, detailing how this has provided impact to patients/pubic. Please detail how the lead applicants track record has enabled the development of this research proposal.

Key references

Please upload a list of up to 30 key references supporting the proposed research. Each reference to include PubMed ID number, title, name of first author and number of citations

CV of Lead Applicant

Please upload a short CV of the principal applicant, including major publications relevant to the application, a list of current grant awards and a list of grant applications awaiting decision: (CV, publications list and grant list not to exceed 3 pages in total)

Letter of Support

Please upload a letter of support from the Research Dean/Head of Department or equivalent indicating how and why the proposal was selected, including its relevance to the institution's research strategy

Additional Information

A single page appendix containing figures/diagrams may also be included

Contact Information – Head of Department

Please provide the contact information of the Head of Department. Please note that all items marked with a * are required and the form cannot be submitted without these items being completed.

Consent Statements

Declaration from the Lead Applicant is required to confirm that all of the information provided within the application is accurate and correct (to the best of your knowledge) and that you have read and accept our Terms and Conditions of award (approving the application will imply that the approver agrees to abide by our terms and conditions if a grant is awarded).