

PEER REVIEW PROCESS FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

For all programmes relating to Medical Research (currently Sir Jules Thorn Award and Sir Jules Thorn PhD Scholarship), the Trust uses independent expert reviewers to help us decide which projects to fund. They are selected as experts in their field who are qualified to provide an informed and impartial review. The process is central to our decision-making and we are extremely grateful to those who undertake this work for the Trust.

The peer review processes for Medical Research are co-ordinated by the Trust's Medical Advisory Committee (MAC), which provides independent scientific advice to the Board of Trustees. The criteria applied by the Committee and external reviewers are outlined in the guidance for the award programmes.

Our peer review processes have a number of stages depending on the programme. Currently, we utilise peer review in the following ways.

- **Sir Jules Thorn Award**

- Preliminary Applications are peer-reviewed by members of the Medical Advisory Committee
- Those taken forward to the next stage of the process are invited to submit a full application, and to nominate a number of independent experts who would be qualified to provide a peer review
- The Trust will also identify expert external reviewers
- A minimum of two peer reviews will be obtained for each long-listed application, at least one of which will be from an external expert identified by the Trust. The Trust will normally seek to obtain 3-5 reviews per application
- External reviewers will provide a written report on the research application. Their feedback is passed onto the MAC to assist in its assessment
- Shortlisted applicants are invited for interview and asked to comment on unattributed copies of reviewers' comments in advance of the interview
- The Medical Advisory Committee and an expert peer-reviewer then complete the interview process
- The Committee provide a recommendation to the Trustees on which (if any) of the shortlisted applications should be funded.

- **Sir Jules Thorn PhD Scholarship**

- Applications are peer-reviewed by the Medical Advisory Committee

The discussions, recommendations and paperwork related to all Committee meetings are confidential. Unsuccessful applicants may be provided with feedback by Trust staff following these meetings, but it is not possible to do this in all cases depending on the number of applications received.

Applicants should not contact Committee members or Trustees about their application. Any requests sent to Committee members or Trustees are forwarded to Trust staff.