



GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

Background

Bowel & Cancer Research (B&CR) is a registered charity (1119105). Its vision is that no-one should die of bowel cancer, have to live with chronic bowel disease, or face life with a permanent stoma.

We aim to deliver our vision by funding scientific and clinical research to save lives and improve the quality of life of individuals with bowel cancer or other bowel diseases. We support ways that involve the public in the design and delivery of research.

The charity operates out of the UK's first National Centre for Bowel Research and Surgical Innovation, based at Barts & the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London. The centre, which opened in 2012 and was officially opened in March 2013 by Her Majesty The Queen, is a national initiative aimed at: bringing together different research disciplines to improve understanding of disease processes; to develop and validate new therapies; and to drive forward the innovation and adoption of surgical techniques and medical devices. The Centre focuses on gastrointestinal and bowel research and aims to provide a working model which can be replicated in any other disease area.

Bowel & Cancer Research was founded in 1990 by Professor Norman Williams B, MS, FRCS, FMedSci, the current President of the Royal College of Surgeons (Eng).

B&CR PhD Studentships

Up to 3 PhD Studentship awards will be made in November 2013. Projects should be designed with the aim of bringing tangible benefits closer for people who are suffering bowel cancer, chronic bowel disease or who are living with a permanent stoma, today and in the future.

For this round one project will be chosen relating to ulcerative colitis and one to colorectal cancer. Support will be given to:

- Experimental medicine; studying human disease in human tissue
- Innovation; therapeutic, diagnostic or devices
- Trials; outcomes research

In general the charity does not fund work using experimental animals.

Because of the very strong link between B&CR and the National Centre for Bowel Research and Surgical Innovation, preference will be given to those applications that make some direct use of the facilities of the Centre or demonstrate a strong collaborative approach.

Eligibility

- The project must focus on a specific research question (or questions). Funding directed toward general infrastructure development is not provided.
- The project must focus on a question that delivers patient benefit, and have a clearly defined human disease focus.
- The main focus of funding follows the research strategy of the NCBRSI – thus research should generally fall under the umbrella of experimental medicine (study of human disease in humans or human tissue), innovation (therapeutic, diagnostic or monitoring devices: EU Directive 2007/47/EC) or clinical trials (outcomes research). In general, the charity does not support studies using experimental animals.
- In keeping with the limited resources available, the project must have a link to QMUL or Barts Health Trust. This link could take many forms e.g. some experiments are physically conducted within QMUL; recruitment of patients from Barts Health Trust; applicant or co-applicant is a member of staff at one of these institutions. With the recent merger, applications that include other members of University College London Partners are welcome.
- Because of the very strong link between B&CR and the NCBRSI, preference will be given to those applications that make direct use of the facilities of the Centre or demonstrate strong collaboration.

Application process

- The award scheme is a one stage process for applicants.
- All applications received will be considered and rated by the B&CR grants committee
- The rating process will identify a number of projects (up to 8) to go forward for peer review
- All applicants will be informed by email the decision on taking their application forward
- Peer review will be sought, with one referee being from those detailed by the applicant on the application form and two others independent of the applicant or the grants committee members
- Shortlisted applications with associated peer reviews will be considered again by the grants committee in the autumn and funding decisions will be made
- Email and offer letters will go out in the week following the grants committee to inform all applicants of decisions
- The grants committee's decision is final. While it is happy to provide a brief feedback on unsuccessful applications at this stage, this cannot be viewed as an opportunity to amend or clarify an application on which the decision has already been made and no further correspondence will be entered into.

Project assessment criteria

Projects are reviewed by at least 2 external reviewers. Assessment is made on the following criteria:

- Importance (clinical need, originality, likelihood of delivering patient benefit)
- Scientific potential (applicant's and centre's track record in the field)

Updated 20.03.13

- Research plans (design, feasibility and meeting award eligibility criteria)
- Justification of resources

Timetable

Submission deadline for application: 5pm Thursday May 30th 2013

Initial selection: Thursday June 20th 2013

Notification of awards: November 2013

Guidance on filling in the application form

All sections must be completed in accord with short guidance notes included on the form. In general, the forms are self explanatory.

Section C:

This section will appear on the B&CR website and is critical to raising awareness of research. It **MUST** therefore be a LAY summary; the word limit of 200 words must be adhered to. The following are suggestions:

- ✓ The first sentence is crucial - could you explain your research in 25 words?
- ✓ What is the wow factor?
- ✓ Avoid technical and scientific terms, acronyms and abbreviations. If you do use one explain it;
- ✓ Use short, simple words and plain language; use everyday (Anglo-Saxon) words; avoid Latin-based words - ideally avoid Latin altogether;
- ✓ Use short, simple sentences - sentences should be less than 25 words long.
- ✓ Provide context. Give concrete (everyday) examples - paint a picture for the reader.
- ✓ Ensure that the text indicates where the research is taking place
- ✓ Finish with a sentence that gives some indication of the likely patient benefit

Section D:

Please ensure that this is a structured abstract with subheadings as suggested and adhere to the 250 word limit.

Section E:

Please use the suggested subheadings and note formatting guidance (fonts and length restriction). Tables and figures can be embedded and are encouraged.

Confidentiality

Project applications are considered confidential by the B&CR committee and reviewers. All reasonable steps are taken to ensure that this confidentiality is not breached. In the instance where funding is sought for a specific innovation that has unprotected IPR, please contact Debs Gilbert to discuss before submission.

Contact for further information

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