

## **UCL IHE & Rosetrees Trust Healthcare Engineering Award**

### **Calls for research proposals**

#### **Award objectives**

The Institute of Healthcare Engineering (IHE) is pleased to announce a new award scheme in collaboration with the Rosetrees Trust. The aim of the award is to support early stage translational projects seeking to develop healthcare technologies with high potential for impact on patient care and people's well-being.

Reflecting the IHE's role as an umbrella organisation that brings together multidisciplinary researchers involved in health, medical and digital technologies across UCL, the award is looking to support interdisciplinary projects from a broad spectrum of healthcare related themes from rare diseases to the most pressing health challenges affecting larger populations.

The scheme will support applied and interdisciplinary healthcare engineering projects to enable research teams to undertake developmental, pilot or feasibility work that is likely to lead to further significant funding, e.g. from NIHR, Biomedical Research Centres, Research Councils, or medical charities. The project must address an area of significant healthcare need, and have a clear pathway toward making a significant impact on healthcare.

#### **Funding available**

The scheme will fund a total of four projects, each receiving up to £50K for directly incurred costs only.

The projects must also have in place matched funding, up to 20% of which can be as in-kind contribution, but this must be justified in the application form and will be approved on a case by case basis.

Funding is available to support projects lasting up to 2 years, with the expectation that at the end of the funded period the project team will have submitted an application to a larger funding scheme.

#### **Eligibility criteria**

Projects must:

1. Have at least one healthcare engineer and one clinician/biomedical scientist to fit the interdisciplinary remit of the scheme.
2. The PI must hold a permanent academic position or external fellowship.

3. Show compelling potential that the proposed technology would lead to impactful improvements in patient care and well-being.
4. Have a clear vision of how the proposed technology will help improve a particular health condition or solve a healthcare problem.
5. Show clear forward planning and indicate how the award will accelerate a successful bid for a larger award.
6. Show a strong commitment to achieving the translation goal through proactive collaboration with the available support within UCL and targeting a particular set of grant schemes to fund the next stage of the translational pathway.
7. Demonstrate a clear plan for intended end-user engagement.
8. Have a clear work plan and risk mitigation strategy.
9. Provide evidence of sufficient matched-funding in place.

#### Please note

- Project teams are expected to submit progress update reports every 6 months.
- Project teams must keep the IHE informed of issues that may risk project delivery and seek timely support for mitigation.
- Patient and public involvement is an important part of ensuring research outputs have real impact on people's lives, therefore research teams are expected to have considered how this type of collaboration will be implemented and supported as part of their planned activities.
- Expected patient impact should reflect a realistic timeframe of the translation process.
- Investigators are expected to acknowledge the Rosetrees Trust and the IHE in all publications and output materials.

### **Assessment Process**

Proposals will be reviewed by an award panel made up of the IHE Director, Rosetrees Trust representative, IHE R&D manager, and invited thematic experts.

Applications will be assessed based on -

- The extent to which the proposal meets the call objectives.
- Feasibility and deliverability.
- Scientific merit and potential for impact on healthcare.

### **Additional information**

The support provided by the scheme will consist of

- Up to £50K (subject to matched funding)
- Input from the Research Translation Mentoring Group
- IHE Research & Development Project Management support
- IHE Communications, Marketing and Public & Patient Engagement support

### *Research Translation Mentoring Group*

The role of this group is to ensure that awardees receive timely advice and support from those within UCL with the expertise required to successfully deliver translational projects, with the ethos that as 'mentors' those involved are actively shaping the journey of the research project together with the research teams to ensure overall success.

The Research Translation Mentoring Group can help the research team to -

- Understand what the translation pathway looks like from the outset, and set a clear roadmap for their particular project in order to establish what support is needed and by when.
- Identify which funding scheme to aim for and plan for this in their overall work strategy.
- Understand how to 'de-risk' their project in relation to the funding schemes they are aiming for.
- Understand the opportunities and challenges around the IP of their potential technology and set realistic expectations.
- Obtain patient / public feedback that could help inform the development of their technology and help support their grant application for translational funding.
- Understand the regulatory process and proactively prepare for any regulatory requirements later down the pathway.

### *IHE Project Management*

The IHE R&D manager will work closely with the research team to provide support which can be tailored according to the needs of the project and its team.

Types of support that can be provided include:

- Project planning with key milestones – enabling the research team to aim for and meet the deadlines of appropriate funding schemes.
- Risk and issues mitigation management.
- Support in the creation of a Study Masterfile containing essential documentation (e.g. ethics and regulatory approvals) which will be required later down the translation pathway.
- Facilitation and coordination of the support provided by the scheme's Research Translation Mentoring group.

## *Communications, Marketing and Engagement*

The IHE will also provide support for a broader set of activities, for example communication of research outputs to a wider public audience, and/ or conducting patient involvement workshops and surveys to support research development. This is enabled through the IHE PPIE Coordinator and the Communications and Marketing Team.

### **How to apply**

Please send the following documents to: [marilyn.aviles@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:marilyn.aviles@ucl.ac.uk) by the closing date:

- Completed application form
- Evidence of approved match-funding
- 2-page CVs from the PI and co-applicant(s)
- Publications list for the PI and co-applicant(s)
- Standalone Worktribe costing report

### **Key dates**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Call open	25 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2019
<b>Deadline for full proposal</b>	<b>12:00 noon 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2020</b>
Panel meeting	March 2020

For any queries, please contact the IHE Research and Development Manager (Marilyn Aviles) on 0207 679 7126