**Call for WEISS Proof of Concept Funding Applications 2020**

**Guidance**

The Wellcome/EPSRC Centre for Interventional and Surgical Sciences invites applications for funding of Proof of Concept projects in the following areas:

* Robotics and/or artificial intelligence for medical interventions/surgery
* Novel imaging and/or sensing modalities/technologies
* Human factors and/or clinical decision making

**WEISS Strategy**

The Wellcome / EPSRC Centre for Interventional and Surgical Sciences (WEISS) at UCL brings together a wide team of engineering and clinical experts working to develop new surgical technologies. The research is being developed with a wide range of clinical applications in mind, including vascular, paediatric, ophthalmic, neurological and robotic surgical interventions for cancer treatment. In particular, the Centre will advance engineering sciences in intraoperative imaging and sensing, data fusion and extraction, human-technology interfaces, tissue modelling, interventional instrumentation and surgical navigation.

Three fundamental research themes link the Centre’s interdisciplinary and cross-faculty groups:

* **Physiological Navigation:** fusing anatomical, physiological and pathological information for real-time guidance and monitoring
* **Clinical Experience:** optimising the cognitive and ergonomic workload of the clinical team
* **Precision Instrumentation:** designing interventional devices that both sense physiological/pathological information and interact with tissue to deliver therapy

The Centre has a robust translational strategy to ensure the research advances reach the clinic where possible by demonstrating impact in clinical trials, shortening bench-to-bedside time, increasing technology transfer through spin-offs and licensing agreements and improving engagement with the public, patient groups, industry and policy makers.

The Centre is based at Charles Bell House, which has recently undergone refurbishment as part of Transforming UCL. The new space houses state of the art facilities, allowing researchers from the Institute of Healthcare Engineering, the Division of Surgery and Interventional Sciences and the Centre for Medical Imaging to combine expertise on this ambitious project.

Public engagement is a core part of our research and translation at WEISS. Members are encouraged to consider how to involve and engage the public in ways that generate mutual benefit, for both research and the public. The centre is supported by a dedicated, full-time Public Engagement Coordinator.

**Funding Call**

This call is open to all UCL researchers who hold a permanent academic position or external fellowship who have a research idea that aligns with the scope of this funding call as well as the WEISS Centre Strategy. Early career researchers are particularly encouraged to apply. The WEISS Proof of Concept Fund expects to fund 3-4 individual projects in the range of £50-60k each, directly incurred costs only. Awarded projects should be of 9-12 months duration and will be expected to start within 3 months of award.

Proposals will be assessed based on the following criteria:

* Clarity and novelty of the proposed research plan
* Clinical impact and operational need
* Strength of sustainability and follow-on project funding plans

In addition, applications that have industry engagement and/or direct match funding will be particularly welcome.

Proposals are to be submitted using the form below. Please send:

* A completed application form
* A 2 page CV and 1 page of publications for each principal investigator and co-investigator
* A full economic costing generated via a “Standalone” Worktribe costing, using the “Wellcome Trust” funder template. WEISS Proof of Concept Funding Applications will be able to support DI costs only.

to the Head of Operations (su-lin.lee@ucl.ac.uk) by Monday 20 January 2020.

**Timetable**

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| Application launch | November 2019 |
| Application submission deadline | 23:59 Monday 20 January 2020 |
| Panel review meeting | Mid-February 2020 |

For all queries, please contact Su-Lin Lee (su-lin.lee@ucl.ac.uk).

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**Application Form**

Please refer to the preceding Guidelines for scope and eligibility, and guidance for the documents that are required along with this application form.

The deadline for submission is **Monday 20 January 2020**. Please email this application form, along with CVs/lists of publications and standalone Worktribe costing reports, to the WEISS Head of Operations (su-lin.lee@ucl.ac.uk).

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| **Principal Investigator Details**  |
| **Name** |  |
| **Post held** |  |
| **Department/Division** |  |
| **Faculty/School** |  |
| **E-Mail Address** |  |
| **Telephone Number** |  |
| **Co-Investigators** (please add additional lines as required) |
| **Name of Co-Investigator** |  |
| **Department/Division** |  |
| **Faculty/School** |  |
| **E-Mail Address** |  |
| **Key Collaborators/Staff**Please list key collaborators/staff. |
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| --- | --- |
| **Project Title** |  |
| **Proposed Start Date** |  |
| **Project Duration** |  |
| **Sum Requested** |  |

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| **Project Concept and Vision (max 300 words)**What is it and how does it fit with the remit of the Centre? How does the project fit with the multidisciplinary and translational aspirations of the Centre? |
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| **Project Proposal (max 2 pages)**Please include: * Background
* Aims and objectives
* Work Plan, with Deliverables
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| **References (optional)**Maximum of 10. |
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| **Technology Readiness Level (max 100 words)**What is the current readiness level of the technology? Outline any technological achievements. |
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| **Competition (max 200 words)**Provide an overview of the competitive landscape and current state of research/development for this technology worldwide. |
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| **Impact (max 200 words)**What is the potential impact of the clinical application of the proposed work? How will you engage relevant public groups in the project to achieve your desired impact (this may be at any and all stages of the research). Please describe feasibility and route to adoption. |
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| **Resources Requested**Please provide justification for the resources requested below. The fund can only award Directly Incurred costs, which should include indexation. |
| * Staff [% FTE, duration]
* Equipment [% time used, if relevant]
* Other Costs: Consumables, PPI, facilities, travel, etc.
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| **Next Steps (max 200 words)**What are the next steps for the project / grant funding beyond the duration of this award? |
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| **Signatures**  |
| **Principal Investigator**I declare that the information given on this form is complete and correct.  |
| Name (print): | Signature: | Date: |
| **Head of Department / Director of Division**I confirm that I have read and support the application. I agree to the research being carried out in my department/division and will provide the necessary accommodation and facilities. |
| Name (print): | Signature: | Date: |