

## Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF)

### UCL and Partner Hospitals: AI in Healthcare Funding Call 2019

UCL is the recipient of a Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF) award that enables us to invest in our excellent research capabilities in the life and biomedical sciences in strategically important research activities that are within the Wellcome remit.

In partnership with the three UCLPartners NIHR Biomedical Research Centres (BRCs), ISSF funding is now being deployed for a new call in **Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare** with the aim of pump-priming collaborative projects. We invite UCL researchers and clinicians affiliated with the GOSH, Moorfields or UCLH<sup>1</sup> BRCs to submit joint proposals that address operational and clinical challenges using artificial intelligence.

Successful awardees will be invited to present outputs of their research projects at a UCLPartners BRCs meeting in 2020-21.

#### Dates

Call for Applications	July 10 <sup>th</sup> 2019
Deadline for Applications	September 16 <sup>th</sup> 2019
Successful applicants notified	Mid-late October 2019
Project funding period	6-12 months from Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> 2020

#### Research scope

This call is aimed at complex problems in healthcare that might now be tackled through the application of artificial intelligence approaches, and whose solution is likely to be of substantial impact to the quality of patient care. The scope of the call is broad, covering clinical and operational problems aligned to scheduling, flow and/or anomaly detection, where a novel solution could be rapidly deployed for clinical use.

Projects might focus on systems for clinical pathway optimisation, automated and high precision triage, models of patient flows, or diagnosis or outcome prediction from clinical and investigational data. Proposals with a social science and ethical focus are also welcome.

Applicants should indicate how they seek to manage and store data during the project.

#### Eligibility

As these are collaborative multidisciplinary research projects addressing a clinical need, competitive proposals are expected to have clinical and non-clinical co-applicants. We encourage early career researchers as well as senior academics to apply for this call as far as their contract of employment allows. For queries on eligibility please contact Dr Ruth Wainman - [r.wainman@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:r.wainman@ucl.ac.uk).

In addition:

- Applications will require sign off from their appropriate UCL Divisional/Departmental leadership.
- Proposals should fall within the remit of the Wellcome Trust (<https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding>) and be aligned to BRCs' research interests.
- Industry partners may be involved but cannot be charged as a cost to the project.

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<sup>1</sup> Incorporating the Royal Free Hospital for the III Programme.

- As these are pump-priming projects, applicants must demonstrate feasible access to the relevant data sets as well as prior ethical approval where required. For UCLH projects, the BRC Clinical Research Informatics Unit [CRIU] may be able to help if the data required for the project is routinely collected clinical data.
- Funds are expected to be used between Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 and Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2020.

### **Funding and Eligible Costs**

Awards are expected to be in the range of £25-75k. Projects should be 6-12 months in duration with an expected start date of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. The project costs should be appropriate for the proposed plan of work and justified within the application.

Awards will support direct costs only, including but not limited to research staff costs, consumables, essential equipment, and data access and storage fees. Due to the relatively short nature of these projects we would expect that the projects are supported by existing staff or reallocation or secondment of staff. If recruitment of new staff is proposed, please state the recruitment timelines clearly.

These awards are considered pump-priming funds, to support proofs of concept or generate preliminary data and resources that would support and strengthen larger grant applications, PhD proposals, or other downstream funding modalities. Applicants should describe how their projects will attract further investment and/or be taken forward beyond the pump-prime period.

### **Application and Review Process**

Applicants will be required to submit a completed application form and Worktribe standalone budget as one single PDF document to Dr Ruth Wainman. We will not accept applications in any other format.

A review panel will comprise members of UCLH/GOSH/Moorfields NIHR BRC executive, UCL AI Steering Group and Vice Deans (Research). Additional expertise from other academics may be called upon to support the review process if required.

Proposals will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Clinical and operational need
- Availability and quality of data sets
- Appropriately experienced and qualified research team
- Clarity and novelty of the proposed research plan
- Feasibility to complete in the proposed timeframe
- Strength of sustainability and follow-on project funding plans

### **Contact Information**

Pre-submission discussion of your proposal is encouraged. Please contact your respective BRC office at Moorfields (Karen Bonstein – [k.bonstein@nhs.net](mailto:k.bonstein@nhs.net)), GOSH (Dr Laura Turner – [laura.turner@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:laura.turner@gosh.nhs.uk)) and UCLH (Dr Dan Herron – [daniel.herron@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:daniel.herron@ucl.ac.uk)) and/or the UCL SLMS Research Coordination Office (Dr Ruth Wainman – [r.wainman@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:r.wainman@ucl.ac.uk)).