

**NIHR University College London Hospitals Biomedical Research Centre (BRC)**

**&**

**UCLH Charitable Trustees / Clinical Research and Development Committee (CRDC)**

## **FAST TRACK GRANTS SCHEME**

### **WHAT IS THE FAST TRACK SCHEME?**

The Fast Track grants scheme is a joint initiative between NIHR University College London Hospitals Biomedical Research Centre and the UCLH Charitable Trustees. The scheme is managed by the Clinical Research and Development Committee.

### **WHAT KINDS OF RESEARCH WILL THE FAST TRACK SCHEME FUND?**

The scheme will have a particular focus on experimental medicine related to the UCLH BRC. As the source of funding for the fast track scheme is not the NIHR, the fast track scheme will consider pre-clinical proposals and later phase research proposals where alignment with the BRC's broader goals of translation can be clearly demonstrated.

Proposals will be particularly welcomed from applicants whose work is in line with the experimental medicine strategies of one or more of the BRC's Themes in Cancer; Neurological diseases; Dementia; Cardiovascular; Inflammation, Immunity and Immunotherapeutics; Mental Health; Hearing and Deafness, Oral Health and Dentistry; Obesity; Healthcare Engineering and Imaging, and; Healthcare informatics, genomics, omics and data science.

### **WHO IS THE FAST TRACK SCHEME FOR?**

The scheme aims to be accessible to **UCLH/UCL investigators working at all points along the translational pathway.**

Although open to all grades of staff the fast track scheme is highly appropriate for new Principal Investigators requiring support to build their programme of research, usually towards a planned application for more substantial support, e.g. research fellowship.

We strongly encourage applications from early career researchers with new ideas to pump prime larger studies.

To apply for CRDC funds the main applicant **must be a UCLH/UCL investigator and work must be carried out on one of the UCLH sites.** These sites include:

- University College Hospital (UCH)
- Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Obstetric Hospital (EGA)
- National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (NHNN)
- Eastman Dental Hospital

Staff working at the following sites are **not eligible to apply**:

- Royal Free and Whittington Campuses
- GOS Institute of Child Health/Great Ormond Street Hospital
- Institute of Ophthalmology/Moorfields Eye Hospital
- Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital/Stanmore Campus

UCL Staff who hold an honorary contract are not eligible to be a main applicant.

**Please note:**

- † An individual can only hold/be named as co-investigator on a Fast Track grant once in every three years and may not submit multiple applications in any given round.
- † Due to the nature of the funding we are unable to accept applications for work to be undertaken wholly at the Royal Free or other hospitals that are not part of UCLH.

**HOW MUCH FUNDING CAN I APPLY FOR UNDER THE FAST TRACK SCHEME?**

The maximum amount payable on a Fast Track grant is £40,000. The grants are not renewable. It is expected that the award will normally be spent in one year, but it must be spent within 18 months. Applications may include not only research personnel, but also bids for equipment (excluding IT equipment), running expenses and visitors.

**WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?**

Applications are considered by a Committee, which meets twice a year, in March and September. The closing dates are November and June, to enable the Committee to seek peer-review of applications in advance of each meeting. Confirmed opening and closing dates will appear on the UCL SLMS website [www.ucl.ac.uk/slms/vacancies](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/slms/vacancies).

If approved, projects may be started immediately.

All Fast Track proposals must have the clear support of at least one BRC Programme Director <http://www.uclhospitals.brc.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/our-team>. Or the BRC Director where there is no alignment with one of the Programmes (Cancer, Cardiometabolic, Infection, Immunity & Inflammation or Neurosciences).

The application form can be downloaded from [www.ucl.ac.uk/slms/vacancies](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/slms/vacancies) under the Funding Opportunities tab (old copies of the form will not be accepted).

**To apply**

- ❖ Please submit by email to Andrew Parsons at [a.parsons@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.parsons@ucl.ac.uk)
- ❖ One full set of the signed application form/attachments as a single PDF or Zip documents

**IMPORTANT**

- > The file name must include the surname of the principal applicant
- > By signing and submitting the application form, the principal investigator and prospective grant holders confirm that all information contained within the application to be true and correct. Should any part of the application be filled in incorrectly or information missing, it will result in the application not being considered for shortlisting
- > We cannot accept multiple applications from an individual/group in any given round.
- > If you are unable to scan in a signed copy then you must additionally provide one hard copy with original signatures:

*In person: Reception, Maple House 1A, First Floor, 149 Tottenham Court Road*

➤ Due to very tight deadlines, extensions to the closing date/time will not be permitted.

**CRDC Committee Secretary**

**Andrew Parsons**

Tel: 0203 108 8983 (internal 58983)

Email: [A.Parsons@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:A.Parsons@ucl.ac.uk)