LD3 Autumn Funding Call 2018

Call Information Overview

Dr R. Barber – LD3 Deputy Director
Dr C. Alberti-Segui – LD3 Research Manager
Leicester Drug Discovery and Diagnostics (LD3)

Our Aim……..

Is to progress the world leading basic biomedical and clinical research performed within the College of Life Sciences, into translational projects aimed at developing novel clinical interventions - therapeutics, diagnostics and devices.
Translational Support Call

Where does it ‘fit’ external funding sources?

Industry/NHS/University Collaboration:

Translational Requirements from Concept to Commercialisation

Industry Funding

NIHR Funding

Translational Funding

Biomedical Research

Valley of Death

Medical Development & Market Approval

Wolds of Woe

Clinical Practice & Adoption

UoL/UHL interests
The Confidence in Concept Award Remit

• To ensure that fundamental science is translated into new therapies, diagnostics and medical devices.

• To accelerate the transition from discovery science to the early stages of therapeutic/biomarker development by supporting early translational work.

• The award can support a number of preliminary-stage translational projects

• The projects must provide sufficient preliminary data to establish the viability of an approach in order to seek more substantive translational funding e.g. from the MRC Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme (DPFS)

• Applicants should explore how awards could be used to develop academic-industry interactions.

• People exchange (in either direction) is permitted, where focused on the delivery of specific project objectives.

• Co-funded projects & the development of early-stage collaborations are strongly encouraged.
CiC funding is not intended to support:

- Entire translational projects
  Applicants seeking funding for entire projects are directed to DPFS Awards.

- Administration costs

- Industrial partner costs

- Staff between posts/funding (i.e. as “bridging” funds), or PhD studentships

- Continuation of normal research grants

- Costs relating to protection of intellectual property

- Projects that don’t fall within the ‘normal’ MRC funding remit

For more information please visit:
What we want from you......

• **Innovation** - new targets, approaches, devices, models in drug discovery, diagnostics and devices

• **Communication** – inform us of your idea, work, plan by completing our project proforma

• **Projects** – from all stages of translational research
  • innovation / proof of concept
  • evaluation (including late pre-clinical work/pilot studies)
  • Early clinical implementation
What we want from you……

Areas that are of special interest to us are:

• The priority areas for this call include, but are not limited to:
  ▪ projects that use **structural biology** approaches for novel therapeutic target validation
  ▪ drug discovery or diagnostics development projects for **respiratory disease**
  ▪ projects using **artificial intelligence** (AI) approaches to improve healthcare

• Cross disciplinary projects
What we want from projects that........

- **Engage with:**
  - Official Development Assistance (ODA)
  - Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF)
  - Life Sciences Industrial Strategy

- **Increase income:**
  - Strategic grant applications
  - Commercial engagement
  - Spin outs and licencing deals

- **Have impact:**
  - REF impact cases
  - Patient benefit
How to get the best out of your application

Key points when completing the Project Proforma

• General
  • Complete all sections
  • Keep to word/space limits

• Priority areas
  • Indicate which priority area your project falls in. If your project falls outside of this scope, please indicate your area of research under “Others”

• State the problem(s)/State the solution(s)
  • Make it clear and concise
    • In the problem section, highlight the clinical need in 2-3 sentences
    • In the solution section, highlight your key innovation. Make it exciting, but keep it brief!

• Project background (300 words max): further develop the problem
How to get the best out of your application........

Key points when completing the Project Proforma

- **Project Proposal (300 words max)**
  - Give an **overview** of your current work and explain how you are going to **address the problem/clinical needs**

- **Supporting evidences**
  - List a maximum of 3 **key articles** directly related to your lab activity and the work described above
  - Include **preliminary proof of concept data** (if available)
Key points when completing the Project Proforma

- Objectives, key milestones & timeline
  - Provide a **Gantt chart** to highlight a maximum of 4 key deliverables and associated Go – No/go decisions and milestones
  - Please use the one provided at [ld3-autumn-2018-support-call](ld3-autumn-2018-support-call) (see below) or your own

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[MRC Medical Research Council](MRC Medical Research Council)
Key points when completing the Project Proforma

• Resources/ consumables: The ‘call’ will fund projects between £20 - £60 K for up to 12 months
  • Resources can include:
    • Staffing: justify salaries or access to LD3 resources
    • Consumables
    • Consultancy/Contract Research fees

• Information about other internal funding calls (Proof of Concept, Prospects, Proximity to Discovery) and/or external support
  • Describe how the work in this application is different and/or complementary to that submitted elsewhere
  • We will not accept applications for the same work across multiple calls
Key points when completing the Project Proforma

• Current relationship with industry partner
  • Describe any formal/informal relationship you may have with industry (please indicate if you have a CDA, contract or MoU in place)
  • If you are not working with industry please indicate your plan/aspiration for industry engagement
  • Indicate any engagement with RED (include who you have spoken to and when)
How to get the best out of your application........

Key points when completing the Project Proforma

- **Financial Outcomes (150 words max)**
  - Is there an expectation to gain financial support from an Industry partnership? If so, please state the value, this can include contributions in kind.
  - What translational (or other) grant applications will this work result in? Please identify likely scheme(s) and the approx. value of application(s)?

- **IP Outcomes (150 word max)**
  - Will the work produce any novel IP (work to file or support patent applications)?
How to get the best out of your application

Key points when completing the Project Proforma

- **Other Outcomes**
  - Please list any additional benefits
    - Policy change
    - Patient engagement
    - Publications

For more information, contact Dr. Christine Alberti-Segui

e: drugdiscovery@le.ac.uk
t: ext. 5174
How projects will be assessed…..

• Projects will be assessed on the following criteria:
  • The quality of the ‘basic’ science
  • The commercial opportunity (e.g. Industry partnership, licensing opportunity) and Translational Readiness Levels (TRLs)*
  • College ‘fit’ for key research areas - including ODA and ISCF potential

• Assessment cascade:
  • Preliminary assessment by Screening Panel
  • Top projects (6-8 max) will be forwarded to the LD3 Steering Committee (including external members with ‘Industry’ experience) for consideration
  • The PIs of top ranked projects will be invited to present a 10 min ‘elevator pitch’ presentation to the LD3 Steering Group followed by a Q&A session (4th December)

• Communication of decision to PIs (10th December)
  • By email from LD3
  • With opportunities for follow up meetings with RED/LD3 team members

*For more information on TRLs please visit: https://ncai.nhlbi.nih.gov/ncai/resources/techreadylevels
THANK YOU For Your Attention!

Time for questions!