

RDM Funding Bulletin – August 2017

Internal Funding Opportunities	Deadline*
John Fell Fund (JFF)	RDM internal deadline 25 September 2017
MRC Confidence in Concept (CiC) Fund	RDM internal deadline 27 September, noon
Oxfordshire Health Services Research Committee (OHSRC) Research Grants	2 October 2017
Medical Sciences Internal Fund (MSIF)	RDM internal deadline 5 October 2017
Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund (WT ISSF)	RDM internal deadline 5 October 2017
Lab282 – small and large scale awards	Submit by 27 October 2017 in time for next quarterly meeting.
Returning Carers' Fund	RDM internal deadline 1 November 2017
Oxford-UCB Prize Fellowship in Biomedical Research	6 November 2017
Other Funding Opportunities	Deadline*
2018 Global Young Scientists Summit	RDM internal deadline 5 September 2017
EDCTP 2017 calls for proposals	Depends on topic. First deadline is 5 September 2017
The Sir Jules Thorn Award for Biomedical Research	13 September 2017, noon
The Alan Turing Institute and BHF launch research grants	TBC, expected to be mid-October 2017
Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)	Stage 1 submission deadline is 24 October 2017
Lister Institute Research Prize 2018	3 November 2017
External Fellowship Funding Opportunities	
Please see the RDM Funding Database , which lists fellowship opportunities and deadlines.	
NIHR Fellowships, Round 11	Call opens week beginning 2 October and deadlines are in early to mid December

***Please remember that your local admin team and Research Services deadlines (where applicable) will be well in advance of the above deadlines.**

Please contact [Dr Ruth McCaffrey](#) or [Dr Serena Briant](#)

- With any queries related to funding opportunities
- For advice on potential sources of funding tailored to your career stage
- For guidance and support with fellowship applications

Internal Funding Opportunities

New online system for internal grant applications (IRAMS)



The University and Medical Sciences Division (MSD) is now using the [Internal Research Award Management System \(IRAMS\)](#) for internal grant applications. This is the same online system that we have been using for the JFF. The following funds are now managed using IRAMS:

- John Fell Fund
- Medical Sciences Internal Fund
- Wellcome Trust Institutional Support Fund
- MRC Confidence in Concept Fund

In addition, all other future internal funds and co-ordinated bids are most likely to be submitted via IRAMS. When you submit your application, it will be sent to Dr Ruth McCaffrey and Dr Serena Briant. **All applications made via IRAMS will have an earlier RDM deadline** to allow Ruth and Serena time to submit your application to MSD, or where indicated in this bulletin, go through an RDM internal review process to add value to your application. You will be able to track your application on IRAMS.

When completing your application in IRAMS, in the field called **'Form editors'** please add the **name and details of your local divisional administrator**. You will need their SSO ID (you can find this in Outlook (it is listed under 'Alias', when you look up the Outlook properties of the contact)).

John Fell Fund (JFF)

Funding to support: (a) pump priming, (b) early career researcher, (c) other academic activities likely to lead to new research initiatives, (d) Research Facilitators, (e) support related to bids for external funding, (f) strategic investment in research assets.



John Fell OUP Research Fund

Amount: small award scheme (< £7.5k) or main award scheme (> £7.5k with no upper limit).

Eligibility: Current employee of the University holding an academic post, or a research fellowship awarded competitively and intended to enable you to establish an independent research career. Senior postdoc researchers who are genuinely on an independent career track (planning to submit external fellowship applications) are now eligible to be the lead applicant on JFF applications. You will need to discuss this with [Ruth McCaffrey](#) or [Serena Briant](#) well in advance of applying, as a letter of support from the Head of Department will be required.

[More information.](#) Please contact [Ruth McCaffrey](#) if you have any questions about the online application process, categories to apply for and appropriate levels of funding to request.

RDM internal deadline: 25 September 2017 (end of day). If you would like to apply, please inform your local administrator and [Ruth](#) or [Serena](#) in advance. Ruth is happy to comment on draft applications before the RDM internal deadline. This earlier deadline will be *strictly applied* as a group of PIs from across RDM will be convened to review applications. When you have completed your application via [IRAMS](#), click the submit button, which sends your application to Ruth and Serena. Future deadline: 2 January 2018 (RDM internal deadline).

MRC Confidence in Concept (CiC) Fund

Background: The MRC CiC is a block grant provided to the University by the MRC. It is used to support the earliest stages of **translational** research projects. It is intended to accelerate the transition from discovery research to translational development projects by supporting preliminary work or feasibility studies to establish the viability of an approach. Applications for interdisciplinary research are particularly welcomed – it is anticipated that half of the available funding will be awarded to interdisciplinary projects.

Amount: The total cost of individual projects will be in the order of £100-150k. Awards will be made for up to 50% of the **direct** costs of the project only **and funded projects will be required to demonstrate at least 50% matching from another source.** Direct costs requested from the CiC should be around **£50k-£75k per project.** Matched funding from industry is especially encouraged.

Duration: Projects are expected to last between six and nine months and have a start date of approx. 1 Jan 2018, and completing in late 2018.

[More information.](#)

RDM internal deadline: 27 September 2017 (noon). When you are ready to submit your expression of interest, you must use the online Internal Research Award Management System (IRAMS). This will send your application to Ruth and Serena. We are not going to review all expressions of interest within RDM prior to submission – however, if you would like your application reviewed, we are happy to arrange this if you send us your application 10 days before the above deadline (please let us know in advance, if you plan to do this at funding@rdm.ox.ac.uk).

Oxfordshire Health Services Research Committee (OHSRC) Research Grants

Funding to support: 1) support research in the areas of clinical research, community/primary care research, relevant laboratory studies; 2) provide opportunities for research by health service workers arising out of, and closely related to, their day-to-day practice; 3) wholly fund small projects or pilot studies which can be carried out within two years.

Amount: Up to £10k.

Eligibility: salaried staff working within the NHS in Oxfordshire, including those with honorary contracts, and to GPs. Note that these grants aim to provide opportunities for younger researchers

who are in the early years of their research careers (this normally means that established researchers are very unlikely to receive an award).

[More information.](#)

Deadline: 2 October 2017.

Medical Sciences Internal Fund (MSIF)

Funding is available for:

- 1) **Pump priming:** enables investigators to obtain pilot data to support larger scale applications for external research funding in the future (<£10k). **Postdocs are eligible to apply as the PI - an ideal opportunity to secure some funding in your own name.**
- 2) **Clinical pre-fellowship:** provides short-term (up to three months) funding to cover the salary of clinicians who will shortly begin an externally funded research training fellowship at Oxford.
- 3) **Bridging and family leave:** Bridging funding supports salary costs (typically three months) pending the application of an externally submitted grant. To be eligible to apply researchers must: 1) be externally funded and bridging to another external grant; 2) not be bridging from startup packages regardless of funding source; 3) not be bridging to non-medical research, eg BBSRC or Leverhulme funding.

While the guidelines on the divisional website say there is no deadline for bridging funding applications, and IRAMS states that the deadline is rolling, **RDM sets an internal deadline** (see below). This is because we can only submit 15 applications by the whole department per year.

Funding can also be requested to support maternity/shared parental/adoption leave bridging costs for researchers whilst employed on an externally funded research grant. Applications to support this type of bridging are **not** included in the cap of 15 applications per department.

[More information.](#)

RDM Internal Deadline: 5 October 2017 (end of day). If you would like to apply, please inform [Ruth McCaffrey](#) or [Serena Briant](#) in advance. Ruth and Serena are happy to comment on draft applications before the RDM internal deadline. This earlier internal deadline will be strictly applied as a group of PIs from across RDM will be convened to review applications. Submit your application online via [IRAMS](#), which sends your application to Ruth and Serena. For the clinical pre-fellowship, the application is done as before using a Word application form (please send to funding@rdm.ox.ac.uk by the RDM internal deadline).

There is no deadline for maternity/shared parental/adoption leave bridging funds and applications can be submitted at any time online via [IRAMS](#). As with all applications, we are happy to comment on drafts.

Future deadline: January 2018

Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund

1) Individual Career Support

Aim: pump priming funding is available to support researchers, who currently hold little or no WT funding, to make a subsequent competitive application to the WT or other external funder.

Funding is available to support the four categories below – both small (<£10k) and main (<£100k) funding requests are invited.

- a) **Early Career Researchers** – for researchers who have held a post for less than eight years, which involved developing their own research agenda. Funding is intended to accelerate applications for WT Fellowships, Investigator or Seed awards.
- b) **Early Career Clinical Academics** – funding is intended to support clinical lecturers in career development (eg through attending a conference, training, secondment, RA or admin support etc).
- c) **Career Transformation Scheme** – for researchers who hold an independent post who have a reduced research portfolio eg due to sickness or caring reasons or due to increased teaching load. Funding is intended to reinvigorate research careers so applications for further funding can be made eg WT Seed awards.
- d) **Discipline Hopping** – funding is available to independent researchers who currently work outside of the WT remit so that they can apply their expertise to the WT goals.

Eligibility: Must fit into one of the categories above. DPhil students, post-docs and clinical research fellows are not eligible to apply. Only projects in the [WT research areas](#) can be supported.

Important: Applications for awards that are >£10k and <£100k must have a minimum 20% match component at the point of application. This match funding can be cash or in-kind (eg equipment). Match funding can come from external sources (excluding any existing or new WT grants), or departmental funds.

[Further information on Individual Career Support.](#)

2) Interdepartmental Strategic Initiatives:

Aim: to support strategic initiatives across departments. Only projects in the [WT research areas](#) can be supported.

Funding is available to support (<£200k):

- 1) **Equipment, research assets or staff within shared facilities** where there is evidence of strategic need.
- 2) **Establishment of cross cutting themes** through activities such as research facilitation, symposia or conferences in order to encourage collaboration in new areas.

Projects that are limited to only one department/faculty will not be supported.

Eligibility: Must be employed by the University. DPhil students, post-docs and clinical research fellows are not eligible to apply.

[Further Information on Interdepartmental Strategic Initiatives](#)

RDM Internal Deadline: 5 October 2017 (end of day). Submit applications online via [IRAMS](#), which sends your application to [Ruth McCaffrey](#) and [Serena Briant](#). Ruth and Serena are happy to comment on draft applications before the RDM internal deadline. This earlier internal deadline will be strictly applied as a group of PIs from across RDM will be convened to review applications.

In some cases (as indicated on the application form), a letter of support is required from the Head of Department, Professor Hugh Watkins. This will be provided following the RDM internal review panel meeting. If you have a query related to needing a letter of support, please contact [Ruth McCaffrey](#) in the first instance.

Future deadline: January 2018

Lab282 – small and large scale awards

Lab282 was launched in 2016 and is a partnership between the University of Oxford, Oxford University Innovation, Oxford Sciences Innovation and Evotec. [Details of the second round of awards](#) have been recently announced.



Aim: Lab 282 provides funding and expertise to achieve pre-clinical proof of concept for ground-breaking therapeutics.

Funding is available to support: activities in the following areas: target identification, target validation, screening and hit identification, testing novel therapeutics in in vitro and in in vivo models, drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics, medicinal chemistry, and proteomics and metabolomics. Both small scale (<25k) and large scale (£250k) projects will be supported.

Eligibility: Any PI employed by the University. Any post-doc who is contracted to be employed by the University for at least the expected duration of a funded project may also apply with a letter of support from a PI.

[Further Information.](#)

Deadline: Apply at any time, but applications are reviewed quarterly. Submit by 27 October 2017 in time for next quarterly meeting.

Returning Carers' Fund

Aim: Funding to support the development of research careers following a break to care for a child or close relative.

Funding is available to support: 1) Teaching buy-out to enable you to concentrate on research; 2) training or professional development; 3) short-term secondments to enable you to 'get up to speed' with recent research; 4) conference attendance to enable you to re-establish your profile; 5) short-term research or admin assistance; 6) small scale lab equipment purchase; 7) funding visits to Oxford by your recent collaborator. This list is not exhaustive and any reasonable applications will be considered providing the link to career development in scientific research can be demonstrated.

Eligibility: All those who: are currently on leave for a min. of six months; have returned from a break of at least six months within the last two years; or have returned from two breaks each of at least six months within the last five years. A break may comprise two or more discontinuous periods of leave totalling at least six months provided that they relate to a single life event, eg as part of a shared parental leave arrangement.

[Further Information.](#)

RDM internal deadline: 1 November 2017. If you are planning on applying, please contact [Ruth McCaffrey](#) or [Serena Briant](#) in advance.

Future deadline: February 2018

Oxford-UCB Prize Fellowship in Biomedical Research



Aim: the fellowships combine scientific excellence with the opportunity to make a significant difference for patients. It provides unique career development opportunities, including in biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, and access to world-leading institutes including those in the US.

Research area: Epilepsy, inflammation, neurodegeneration, neuroinflammation, immunomodulation, fibrosis, metabolic disease and disorders affecting bone and/or cartilage.

Career Stage: Early

Funding is available to support: Salary, consumables and travel. The award also includes a £10k prize to be used towards the fellow's professional development. For clinical fellows wishing to undertake a DPhil during their fellowship, EU fees will be provided.

Duration of funding: Three years.

There are two types of fellowship:

1) Postdoctoral Fellows

Eligibility: A PhD / DPhil in a relevant medical/biological subject (viva and corrections to have been completed before the start of the fellowship). Have no more than three years postdoc experience at the time of application.

2) Clinical Research Fellows

Eligibility: Be a GMC registered Medical Practitioner. Have prior research experience (typically a BSc), a medical degree and some specialist experience, typically having obtained MRCP or equivalent, but not CCT or consultant status.

[Further Information.](#)

Deadline: 6 November 2017, Midday

Other funding opportunities

2018 Global Young Scientists Summit, Singapore, January 2018

The University has been invited to nominate up to 'five bright, enthusiastic DPhil students or postdocs' to attend the 'Global Young Scientists Summit' - an international multi-disciplinary research summit.

Nominees should be doctoral students or postdocs who are 35 years old or below (at the time of the Summit), drawn from 'any field of Science & Technology'. The final selection is made by the GYSS Organising Committee. RDM has had a successful applicant each year for the last three years!

[More information.](#)

RDM internal deadline: There is an internal application process within RDM as we must review and rank applications before the University's deadline. Please send your applications to [Ruth McCaffrey](#) by **Tuesday 5 September (end of day)**. After the deadline, we will review applications and provide a letter of support from the Head of Department, Professor Hugh Watkins.

EDCTP 2017 calls for proposals

The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) has released its 2017 Work Plan. EDCTP "aims to accelerate the development of new or improved drugs, vaccines, microbicides and diagnostics against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as well as other poverty-related infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on phase II and III clinical trials". The calls for proposals aim to support clinical research and capacity building in sub-Saharan Africa.

[More Information.](#)

Deadline: Depends on topic. First deadline is 5 September 2017.

The Sir Jules Thorn Award for Biomedical Research

The University has been invited to submit one application for the Sir Jules Thorn Award for Biomedical Research. Applicants are expected to be an outstanding quality researcher in the early years of an established research and academic career. **Up to £1.5m** is available over a maximum of five years to support a programme of translational biomedical research.

Research area: Projects must involve patients and have a clear strategy defining how the research will translate into patient benefit. The award will not support cancer or HIV/AIDS related research. There must be a clear specification of the hypothesis based on pre-clinical experimental data supporting the rationale of the clinical study, arising from the applicant's own work. The award may not be used to meet the salary costs of the applicant(s) who should be in institutionally funded posts for the duration of the grant.

[More information.](#) Also see the University's [co-ordinated bids page](#).

Deadline: Please contact [Dr Ruth McCaffrey](#) in advance of the below deadline as RDM can only put one application forward and to organise a letter of support from the Head of Department, which must accompany the application. The deadline to submit an expression of interest to research@medsci.ox.ac.uk is 13 September 2017, midday.

The Alan Turing Institute and BHF launch research grants

The BHF will soon be funding small-medium size grants (<£50k) to foster collaboration between data scientists at the Turing Institute and cardiovascular scientists in the UK. The application process will be run by The Turing, and there will be a fixed application time / deadline.

The
Alan Turing
Institute



As truly collaborative projects, the BHF want to give the research community advanced notice to get their proposals together for when the call opens in September.

Cardiovascular investigators seeking data science partners are invited to visit the [Turing website](#) for more information on its fellows or can contact Jennifer Stuart (jstuart@turing.ac.uk), Strategic Support Manager, The Alan Turing Institute.

[More information.](#)

Deadline: Expected to be mid-October 2017.

Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)

IMI has launched [Call 11](#) and [Call 12](#) – details of the call topics are available.



Deadline: Stage 1 submission deadline is 24 October 2017.

Lister Institute Research Prize 2018

Background: Five Lister Institute Research Prizes were awarded in 2017 and the Institute has stated their intention to make at least five £200k prizes in 2018.



Research area: Any biological, medical or clinical discipline or in related areas like chemistry. The only scientific restriction is that the research should lead to greater understanding in or have implications for the field of **preventive medicine**.

Funding is available to support: £200k per Prize recipient, which can largely be spent as wished in support of their research. The money cannot be used for a personal salary and they must therefore have guaranteed support for the first three years of the award. However, the money may be used to 'buy out' an applicant from teaching or administrative duties by funding a replacement (full or part-time) lecturer. This might make the award very attractive to a newly appointed young lecturer with research funding from another agency.

Duration of funding: Five years.

Eligibility: Three to ten years' postdoc experience on 1 Oct 2018. Applicant must have guaranteed employment for the first three years of the award.

[More information.](#)

Deadline: 3 November 2017. If you are thinking of applying, please contact [Dr Ruth McCaffrey](#) well in advance of the deadline to discuss your application and to organise a letter of support from the Head of Department, Professor Hugh Watkins, which must accompany the application.

Other relevant information

'Essential Guide to Grant Applications' Course

This course will be run by Research Design Service (RDS) South Central – it is a free comprehensive three-day masterclass on grant writing. It will cover:

- Writing a convincing application with a good structure, flow and argument;
- Presenting a strong methods section, including statistical, qualitative, health economics and Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) elements as appropriate;
- Producing clear and well thought through Intellectual Property, Management, Governance and other sections.

The course will also give guidance on what reviewers will be looking for. [Register and find out more.](#)



Research
Design
Service

When: 11-13 October 2017, 09.00 to 17.00.

Where: Richard Doll Lecture Theatre & Atrium, Old Road Campus, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7LF.

Who should attend: Researchers from across the South Central region (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Oxfordshire) who are intending to apply to any NIHR or other national competitive peer reviewed funding programme in the next 12 months.

NIHR is rolling out a two-stage application form

The NIHR is rolling out a two-stage application form across NIHR research and training programmes from Summer 2017. The two-stage process will be used by the following schemes:

- Fellowship Programme (Doctoral Research Fellowship, Post Doctoral Fellowship, Career Development Fellowship, Senior Research Fellowship, Transitional Research Fellowship and Knowledge Mobilisation Research Fellowship)
- ICA – Integrated Clinical Academic Programme (Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship, Clinical Lecturer and Senior Clinical Lecturer)
- Research Professors
- Clinician Scientist

[Find out more about the new application process.](#)



National Institute for
Health Research

'Act on acceptance' and 'gold' articles

Oxford's procedure for **gold** articles has been simplified: if an author has deposited their **final PDF** in the Oxford University Research Archive (ORA) (within three months of acceptance), they will no longer be asked for the Author Accepted Manuscript in addition.



New Oxford policy for RCUK Open Access block grant

As there are limited funds remaining in the University's 2017/18 RCUK block grant, there is a new policy that will prioritise Article Processing Charges for fully open access journals.

The new procedure for the RCUK OA Block Grant applies from 21 August 2017:

1. Check first that funds are available. Authors should contact the APC team **before submitting article to journal** to ask if RCUK OA Block Grant funds are available and journal is funder-compliant (email the APC team at apc@bodleian.ox.ac.uk mentioning journal title).
2. If funds are available, **apply for block grant when submitting article to journal** (not at article acceptance or later) by sending an APC application form to the APC team, to log potential call on funds.

For hybrid journals (where you have the option to pay Open Access or not), RCUK-funded authors should not choose the (paid) Open Access option but use the 'green route' – deposit the accepted manuscript in ORA for [Act on Acceptance](#).

If an APC is paid, the article must be published with a [CC-BY licence](#) (Creative Commons Attribution). Existing RCUK APC applications currently being processed will not be affected. Policy and procedure for the [Wellcome Trust/COAF block grant](#) is unchanged.

[Read more on the Research Support Website.](#)

British Heart Foundation: new alumni network

The British Heart Foundation has set up an alumni network for researchers who are or were previously funded by the BHF. [More information](#).



Immunology@Oxford

[Dr Georgina Kerr](#) has started recently as a Research Facilitator for Immunology@Oxford, a divisional initiative that aims to increase communication and collaboration between immunology, infection and inflammation researchers across the University. Get in touch with Georgina if you'd like to find out more, or wish for her to represent your views.

Oxford Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

Colleagues can subscribe or unsubscribe to this mailing list via the [University Mailing List \(Sympa\) system](#). Follow Research Services GCRF and ODA updates [@Oxford_GCRF](#).

Researchers' toolkit

The Medical Sciences Division have recently launched a new online resource for researchers – the [Researchers' Toolkit](#). These webpages bring together information about divisional and central resources and support services, organised for easy browsing, and including a useful A-Z list.

New University of Oxford Research Support Website

This new website includes guidance notes on applying for funding, information on costing and pricing, governance and integrity, contracts, managing awards, reporting, training and innovation and impact. researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk

New egrants system for Royal Society



The Royal Society is implementing a new online Grants Management System, using a phased approach (e-GAP is being replaced with Flexi-Grant®). [More information](#).

More flexibility in timing of MRC fellowship applications

From 2018 the MRC will offer three opportunities a year to apply for a [Clinical Research Training Fellowship \(CRTF\)](#) and a [Clinician Scientist Fellowship \(CSF\)](#) - submissions deadlines will be in January, April and September in 2018. This is to reduce the barriers early career clinical academics face in managing critical career transitions and securing funding.

Reminders

- If your application requires a **letter of support from the Head of Department**, Prof Hugh Watkins, you must contact [Dr Ruth McCaffrey](#) at least two weeks in advance of the deadline to request the letter.
- The [RDM Funding Database](#) holds information on internal and external funding opportunities, including fellowships, travel, seed funding, translational grants, equipment and studentships. The 'Fellowships' tab is particularly useful because you can filter for career stage and whether you are a basic or clinical researcher, which provides a quick summary of potential fellowship opportunities.
- RDM has a process to [coordinate and support all fellowship applications](#) being submitted (with the exception of clinical research training fellowships). Anyone wishing to apply for a fellowship must notify [Ruth McCaffrey](#) as early as possible and provide a summary of their proposed research and a copy of their CV. [Further information is available on the RDM website](#).