

RDM Funding Opportunities Bulletin

Internal Funding Opportunities	Deadline**
RDM Pump Priming Funding	Noon, 30 th March 2016
Novo Nordisk Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Training Fellowships	Noon, 8 th April 2016
Public Engagement with Research Seed Fund	Noon, 11 th April 2016
John Fell Fund (JFF)	RDM internal deadline 12 th April 2016
MRC Confidence in Concept Fund	Noon, 18 th April 2016
Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund (WT ISSF)	RDM internal deadline 25 th April 2016
Oxford Celgene Fellowship	27 th April 2016
Medical Research Fund (MRF)	RDM internal deadline for bridging funding applications 3 rd May 2016 Noon, 9 th May 2016 for all other applications
Returning Carers Fund	17 th June 2016
WIMM 5 yr research fellowships in Computational Biology	TBC

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

Internal Funding Opportunities

1. RDM Pump priming funding

Deadline for receipt of applications is: noon, Wednesday 30th March 2016

RDM is keen to build new collaborations between researchers in different parts of the department and to foster new synergies. To aid in this process, we are making funding available to pump prime new initiatives. We are looking to fund novel and innovative projects which would be difficult to get funded from external peer-reviewed sources because the project is too high risk or the data is too preliminary, or where a rapid decision is needed, or where there are concerns about confidentiality that make external peer-review unattractive.

Priority will be given to applications that initiate a new collaboration between researchers who have not previously worked together and who are based in different divisions of RDM (CVM, IMD, NDCLS, OCDEM, & WIMM). However, if well justified, applications will be also considered where a new collaboration is being established between researchers within the same division of RDM.

Please note: you do not have to be a PI in order to submit an application. Any researcher within RDM can submit an application, in accordance with the application guidelines.

We anticipate funding up to 3 awards, up to a maximum of £50k per award.

Full details on the [RDM pump priming call and how to apply](#) are available. Any questions should be directed to [Ruth McCaffrey](#).

Future deadline: TBC. Usually this is an annual call.

2. Novo Nordisk Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Training Fellowships

Deadline for submission of applications is: noon, Friday 8th April 2016

The Novo Nordisk Fellowship programme aims to support the development of a new generation of exceptional young diabetes researchers, who will become future leaders in the field, while further developing scientific excellence within diabetes and ultimately improving the lives of patients.

We are currently recruiting 4 postdoctoral research fellows and 1 clinical research training fellow, each for a 3 year period.

Each fellowship includes the fellow's salary, a generous travel allowance for the fellow and generous consumable support for the lab in which they are based. The expectation is that Fellows will get to spend a period of time in the labs of Novo Nordisk in Copenhagen.

Basic science applicants should be in the final year of their PhD or no more than 3 years post PhD (excluding career breaks). Clinical applicants should 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. These prestigious fellowships are open to outstanding candidates of any nationality.

Applicants can choose from a list of 12 research projects that are listed on the [Novo Nordisk Fellowship website](#).

Full details on the [Novo Nordisk Fellowship scheme](#), [details on how to apply](#) and [biographies of the current 7 Fellows](#) are available. Enquiries should be directed to [Ruth McCaffrey](#).

Future deadline: the next call for applications will be advertised in Sept 2016.

3. Public Engagement with Research Seed Fund

Deadline for submission of applications is: noon, 11th April 2016

This seed fund is part of the University's Research Councils UK Catalyst Seed Fund Award, which aims to improve institutional support for Public Engagement with Research.

- Funding is available to support Public Engagement with Research activities
- Grants are typically expected to be around £1000 to £2,500
- The Principal Applicant must be a researcher employed by the University of Oxford (co-applicants can include other researchers, research students, teaching staff; public engagement officers and research facilitators)
- Projects must identify the key Purpose of their activity and the specific public audience/s that they wish to engage

Further information on the Seed Fund, together with details on how to apply and the application form can be found on the [University website](#).

If you would like to discuss your project ideas in more detail, please contact: **Dr Lesley Paterson**, Senior Facilitator & Coordinator, Public Engagement with Research, Research Services; 01865 616571; lesley.paterson@admin.ox.ac.uk. Enquiries from those new to Public Engagement with Research are welcome.

4. John Fell Fund (JFF)

RDM internal deadline is: Tuesday 12th April 2016 (end of day)

JFF deadline for submission of applications is noon on Wednesday 20th April 2016.

As all departments have to rank the applications being submitted, we have set an earlier RDM internal deadline which will be strictly applied. This internal deadline will give us time to review and rank the applications from RDM (we will convene a small group of PIs from across RDM to do this), give you feedback on your application and enable you to make changes to your application.

Funding is available in a number of categories: (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.

Please note that you can apply to the small award scheme (less than £7.5k) or the main award scheme (over £7.5k with no upper limit).

Full details on the [John Fell Fund, including their online application system](#), are available.

Please let your local administrator and [Ruth McCaffrey](#) know in advance if you are planning on submitting an application. If you have any questions about the online application process, categories to apply for & appropriate levels of funding to request, please do not hesitate to contact Ruth.

Future deadline: The JFF have not announced their next deadline but it should be in October 2016.

5. MRC Confidence in Concept (CiC) Fund

Deadline for submission of expressions of interest is: noon, Monday 18th April 2016

The MRC CiC is a block grant provided to the University by the Medical Research Council. 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.

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 so **projects will be required to demonstrate at least 50% matching from another source.** Match funding from industry is especially encouraged, it is anticipated that half of the funding available will be awarded to projects able to demonstrate an industry match.

Applications for interdisciplinary research are particularly welcomed, it is anticipated that half of the funding available will be awarded to interdisciplinary projects. Projects are expected to be between 6 and 9 month in duration and have a start date before or on 1 October 2016.

Full details on the [MRC CiC Fund, including how to apply](#), are available.

Future deadline: there will be a second call for applications in late 2016.

6. Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund (WT ISSF)

RDM internal deadline is: Monday 25th April 2016 (end of day)

WT ISSF deadline for submission of applications is noon Tuesday 3rd May 2016.

All applications must be endorsed by the Head of Department (Prof Hugh Watkins) and therefore we have set an earlier RDM internal deadline which will be strictly applied. Applications should be sent to [Ruth McCaffrey](#) by Monday 25th April 2016 and she will ensure that the endorsement is obtained and then submit the application on your behalf.

The Wellcome Trust ISSF is open to all academic members of staff across the whole University. The ISSF Committee especially welcomes cross divisional bids. Applications are invited across a broad range of themes. Projects must meet the strategic priorities of the Oxford Wellcome Trust ISSF. Details of the themes and strategic priorities can be found on the [strategy page](#) of the ISSF website.

Details of the fund, how to apply and the application form can be found on the [ISSF website](#).

Each application to the ISSF requires a 50% or greater matching contribution from the Department, Division or University. Please let [Ruth McCaffrey](#) know, as early as possible, if you are considering applying. Requests for funding can be in the range of £50K - £250K total funds (ISSF plus match, or £25k - £125k from the ISSF).

Enquiries about applying to the ISSF should be directed to: enquiries@issf.ox.ac.uk

Future deadline: None have been announced as the current deadline is the last one from the current ISSF grant.

7. Oxford Celgene Fellowship

Deadline for submission of applications is: Wednesday 27th April 2016

Celgene and Oxford University are together embarking on a fellowship programme to support training in translational research and facilitate skills transfer between academia and industry. Funding will be awarded

to Oxford PIs for projects that can demonstrate a clear translational value to the advancement of therapeutics in high interest areas for the company. The funding may be used to support two distinct groups of trainees:

- Physician investigators interested in obtaining real life experience with drug development in an industrial setting (grade E64)
- Laboratory and informatics based research scientists (postdocs) committed to translational science (grade 7 or 8)

Up to four, three year Fellowships will be funded each year.

Further details on the Fellowship, together with a list of high value research areas for Cellegene, and details on how to apply can be found on the [MSD website](#).

Future deadline: not announced.

8. Medical Research Fund (MRF)

RDM internal deadline for MRF bridging funding applications is: Tuesday 3rd May 2016 (end of day)

Deadline for submission of MRF applications to the pump priming and clinical pre-fellowship scheme is noon, Monday 9th May 2016.

As all departments can submit **no more than 5 applications for bridging funding** in any one round, we have set an earlier RDM internal deadline which will be strictly applied. This internal deadline will give us time to review and rank the applications from RDM and select those to be submitted.

The Medical Research Fund (MRF) supports **medical research** conducted in **all departments** of the Medical Sciences Division. Funding is available in the following categories:

- Bridging funding: supports salary costs (typically 3 months) pending the application of an externally submitted grant application and supports family leave costs. Please note that applications for bridging funding will only be funded if the external research grant “promotes work in the field of **medical research**” (a grant application to the BBSRC may not count as medical research). *See note above about cap on 5 applications per department and earlier internal deadline.*
- Pump priming: supports small awards (up to £10k) to enable investigators to obtain pilot data to support larger scale applications for external research funding in the future. **Postdocs are eligible to apply as the PI, so it’s an ideal opportunity to secure a small bit of funding in their own name.**
- Clinical pre-fellowship: provides short-term (up to 3 months) funding to cover the salary costs of clinicians who will shortly begin an externally funded research training fellowship at Oxford.

[Further details on the MRF and on how to apply](#) are available.

Applications for bridging funding should be emailed to [Ruth McCaffrey](#) by Tuesday 3rd May 2016. The 5 strongest applications will then be submitted to the Division. Applications for pump priming and clinical pre-fellowships should be emailed directly to the secretary of the MRF Committee: mrf@medsci.ox.ac.uk copying in your local administrator and Ruth McCaffrey to demonstrate that your department is aware of the application.

Future deadline: RDM internal deadline is Tuesday 19th July 2016 (end of day) for bridging funding applications. All other MRF applications, noon Monday 25th July 2016.

9. Returning Carers Fund

Deadline for submission of applications is: Friday 17th June 2016

The Returning Carers' Fund has been established as part of the Vice-Chancellor's Diversity Fund for the advancement of diversity among academic and research staff at Oxford. **It is a small grants scheme intended to support the return to research of women and men who have taken a break of at least six months for caring responsibilities (a child or close relative)**. Support could include, but is not limited to: teaching buy-out, training or professional development, short-term secondments, conference attendance, short-term research or administrative assistance, funding visits to Oxford by your research collaborator(s).

The expectation is that awards will normally be up to £5k. In exceptional circumstances, larger amounts may be awarded, up to an absolute maximum of £10k.

[Further information on the scheme, including eligibility and details on how to apply](#), are available.

Enquiries should be directed to Brid Cronin: brid.cronin@medsci.ox.ac.uk or athena-swan@medsci.ox.ac.uk and applications should also be emailed to Brid.

Future deadline: yet to be announced.

10. WIMM 5 yr research fellowships in Computational Biology

Deadline for submission of applications: TBC

The WIMM will open a new purpose built Centre for Computational Biology in June 2016. The Centre will include up to 40 computational scientists with expertise in bioinformatics, statistical genetics, imaging and analysis of data from single cells.

The WIMM will shortly be advertising five-year Fellowships in computational biology to join the new Centre. The research fellows will have an excellent track record in computational analysis and a strong publication record reflecting this. Successful candidates will be given sufficient resources to develop / establish independent research groups. We would be particularly interested to hear from computational scientists with an interest in the analysis of single cell data and its application to clinical medicine.

The new Fellows will take a leading role interacting with laboratory based researchers and clinician-scientists in the WIMM (Doug Higgs). They will also develop links with the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics (Peter Donnelly) and the Big Data Institute (Gil McVean).

The Institute would at this point be pleased to receive expressions of interest from those keen on joining this exciting new initiative. Please send a curriculum vitae and a letter outlining your interests to Professor Doug Higgs, c/o Liz Cloke liz.cloke@imm.ox.ac.uk.

Other relevant information

11. Coordination of Fellowships in RDM

A reminder that RDM has implemented a process for coordinating and supporting all fellowship applications being submitted from RDM. The details of the scheme are available on the [RDM website](#). For research staff aiming to become independent researchers, successfully obtaining a fellowship, and then subsequently continuing down the fellowship path, can be a critical component of their career progression. The process we have implemented will ensure all fellowship applicants (1) receive equal support with their application, irrespective of the Division of RDM they are based in, and (2) benefit from the extensive expertise within RDM, across a broad range of funding bodies.

The process is being co-ordinated by [Dr Ruth McCaffrey](#) and is as follows:

- Anyone wishing to apply for a fellowship must notify Dr Ruth McCaffrey, Research Strategy Coordinator for RDM, as early as possible (preferably at least 3 months in advance of the funder's deadline; the earlier you inform us, the more support we can provide), of their intention to apply and provide a summary of their proposed research and a copy of their CV.
- The above information will be circulated to a group of Senior PIs in RDM who will provide feedback on the strength of the CV and the proposed research, which will be anonymised and fed back to the applicant. Please note that it is advice that will be given, which we hope applicants will find useful and take on board. At that point it will be up to the applicant (and, where relevant, their supervisor or sponsor) whether to proceed with the application.
- Each fellowship applicant will then be given an advisor (a PI in RDM who is familiar with the funder, where possible) who will provide support and proof read the application.
- Each fellowship applicant will also be put in contact with other holders of the fellowship they are applying for, both within RDM and the wider Medical Sciences Division. In addition, if an Oxford PI sits on the fellowship review panel, their input will be sought, where appropriate.
- Where needed, a letter of support from the Head of Department will be provided.
- If the applicant is invited for interview, Ruth will organise a mock interview for the applicant.

Please note that we require you to notify Ruth of (1) your intention to submit an application and (2) the outcome of your application. Thereafter the support being offered is optional, but we would hope that everyone will consider availing of it, to ensure they submit the strongest proposal possible.

12. Act on Acceptance – HEFCE's post 2014 REF Open Access Policy



HEFCE has introduced a new policy on Open Access that states that, from 1 April 2016, to be eligible for submission to the next REF, researchers must deposit a copy of the 'Author Accepted Manuscript' in an institutional or subject repository on acceptance for publication. In Oxford's case this means that **when you've had a journal article or conference paper accepted for publication, you need to 'Act on Acceptance' and deposit the 'author accepted manuscript' into Oxford's repository, ORA, within 3 months of acceptance. Failure to do so from 1 April 2016 will make your research outputs ineligible for the next REF. Depositing is easy and you do it via [Symplectic](#).**

Log into your Symplectic account and click on "Deposit your work" and follow the simple steps. A helpful PDF is available on the [Open Access website](#). Any Oxford author on the manuscript can deposit the paper (hence all researchers now have a Symplectic account). Further information can be found on the [University Open Access website](#) or email: openaccess@bodleian.ox.ac.uk or contact [Ruth McCaffrey](#) if you have questions.

Once you have deposited your 'Author Accepted Manuscript' the Bodleian team will check copyright and licensing conditions, create an ORA record and make the full-text available after the embargo period has ended (typically 6 months for papers published via the green open access route).

[IMPORTANT: you must still comply with your funders' Open Access requirements. Act on Acceptance does not replace the funders' requirements, it is an additional step.](#)

We have previously run a workshop on Open Access and Acting on Acceptance. If there is sufficient interest, we will happily organise another. Please email [Ruth McCaffrey](#) if you are interested.

13. ORCID iDs

An ORCID iD gives researchers a unique digital identity which can be kept throughout their career. This allows you to keep an on-going record of your scholarly activities even if you change research organisation or leave academia. In the short-term, an ORCID iD should ensure correct assignment of research outputs by allowing them to be unambiguously linked to their creators. It also increases the chances that your work is discoverable. In the longer term, it should bring about efficiency improvements by saving time and duplication in grant applications and enhanced reporting of research outputs to funders as well as improved analysis of outcomes.

The Wellcome Trust and the NIHR now require lead applicants to provide an ORCID identifier when submitting a relevant grant application and the Research Councils have recently announced that their grants system will be ready to start capturing ORCID identifiers (ORCID iDs) in 2016.

All researchers, including DPhil students, are encouraged to obtain an ORCID ID.

To apply for an ORCID iD or if you already have an ORCID iD and wish to link it to the University of Oxford, go to [ORCID at Oxford](#).

14. Workshop for ERC Advanced Grant Applicants

The Research Services European Team will be running a workshop on Tuesday 17th May for Oxford University ERC Advanced grant applicants. The workshop will be useful for applicants, administrators and anyone else also supporting an Advanced Grant application in the 2016 call. Attendees of all disciplines are welcome.

The workshop date and venue is:

- Tuesday 17th May - 9.15 am - 11.45 am
- Department of Plant Sciences, South Parks Road.

Please click on the doodle poll link [here](#) to register.

The ERC submission deadline for the 2016 Advanced Grant call is 4pm on 1st September (the call opens 24th May).

15. Changes to BHF Fellowships

From Jan 2016, BHF Intermediate Fellowships will be for 5 yrs with the possibility of an extension for another 2 yrs. In addition, the residency requirements associated with BHF Fellowships have been removed. Further information can be found on the [BHF website](#).

16. The UK's future in Europe – Business as Usual for Horizon 2020

With the upcoming referendum on UK membership of the EU, the possibility of the UK voting to leave the EU has raised the question of whether or not it is worthwhile planning applications to H2020 for calls late in 2016 and 2017. The Research Services European Team is advising researchers to proceed with preparations for grant applications because, even if the UK votes to leave the EU, it is unlikely that there would be an immediate cessation of H2020 funding for the UK. Experts suggest that it may take 12-24 months to re-negotiate the UK's status in the EU and it is the outcome of this that will determine what elements of funding the UK will be eligible for and on what basis we will be able to participate in projects.

If you have any specific concerns please email the European team: ecresearch@admin.ox.ac.uk