

RDM Funding Opportunities Bulletin – March 2017

Internal Funding Opportunities	Deadline*
John Fell Fund (JFF)	RDM internal deadline 5 April 2017
Oxford-Celgene Fellowship – call for PIs to submit project proposals	7 April 2017, Midday
Novo Nordisk – Oxford Research Fellowships in Diabetes and Metabolism	19 April 2017, Midday
RDM Pump Priming Awards	20 April 2017
Medical Sciences Internal Fund (MSIF)	RDM internal deadline 26 April 2017
Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund (WT ISSF)	RDM internal deadline 26 April 2017
Returning Carers' Fund	RDM internal deadline 17 May 2017
Lab282 – small and large scale awards	Applications can be submitted at any time
Other Funding Opportunities	Deadline*
AXA Post-Doctoral Fellowship	12 April 2017
European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Health Programme	12 April 2017
Worldwide Cancer Research Project Grant	21 April 2017
BHF Translational Award	24 April 2017
BSCR Bernard and Joan Marshall Research Prizes	31 May 2017
Bloodwise Project Grants	2 June 2017
MRC Confidence in Concept	Call to be announced soon
External Fellowship Funding Opportunities	
Please see the RDM Funding Database , which lists fellowship opportunities and deadlines.	

***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

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.



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 postdoctoral 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.

Further details: [Webpage](#). 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: 5 April 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 internal deadline will be *strictly applied* as a group of PIs from across RDM will be convened to review applications. Please note, when you have completed your online application, click the submit button, which sends your application to Ruth and Serena. Future deadline: October 2017.

Oxford–Celgene Fellowship – call for PIs to submit project proposals



Aim: The goal of the fellowship scheme is to stimulate new scientific discovery and translation and to facilitate skills transfer between researchers in academia and industry. The project proposals are aimed at fellows who must be committed to translational science and interested in obtaining experience with drug development in an industrial setting.

Research areas: Proposals should be targeted to research areas of interest for Celgene (eg novel targets, biomarkers or translational models in: immune-oncology, neurodegenerative/ neuroinflammatory diseases, fibrosing disorders, rheumatic and dermatological disorders, haematological disorders).

Funding is available to support: Clinical (Grade E64) or basic research scientists (Grades 7 to 8).

Duration of funding: 3 years.

Eligibility: Principle Investigator in Medical Sciences Division.

[Further Information](#)

Deadline: 7 April 2017, Midday.

Future deadline: Annual call.

Novo Nordisk – Oxford Research Fellowships in Diabetes and Metabolism



Aim: 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.

Career Stage: Early

Funding is available to support: fellow's salary, consumable support and generous travel allowance.

Duration of funding: 3 years

[Further Information.](#) Enquiries can be directed to [Serena Briant](#).

There are two types of fellowship:

1) Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (2 posts)

Eligibility: A PhD, or near to completion in a medical/biological subject. Be no more than 3 years post PhD at the start of the fellowship (Autumn 2017). [See details of selection criteria.](#)

2) Clinical Research Training Fellowship

This fellowship is aimed at clinicians who wish to undertake a DPhil and who aspire to a career in academic medicine.

Eligibility: 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. [See details of selection criteria.](#)

Deadline: 19 April 2017, Midday

Future deadline: Annual call.

RDM Pump Priming Awards

Aim: RDM is keen to build new collaborations between researchers in different parts of the department and to foster new synergies. These pump priming awards are 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.

Funding can be requested for: consumables, equipment, animal costs, travel costs and personnel costs. You can request a maximum of £50k per award (we will fund up to 3 awards per year).

Eligibility: Any researcher based within RDM is eligible to apply; you do not have to be an RDM PI. 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 also be considered where a new collaboration is being established between researchers within the same division. Applications with non RDM applicants or collaborators will not be considered.

[More Information](#). Please direct enquiries to [Ruth McCaffrey](#) or [Serena Briant](#).

Deadline: 20 April 2017, Midday

Future deadline: Annual call

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 3 months) funding to cover the salary costs 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 3 months) pending the application of an externally submitted grant. Please note that this is also called 'MRF Bridging Funding' on the application form.

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. There is a cap of 15 applications submitted by the whole department per year.

In addition, funding can 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.

[Further details](#) for pump priming and clinical funding.

[Further details](#) for bridging funding. Please note that while the guidelines on the divisional website say there is no deadline for bridging funding applications, **RDM is setting an internal deadline.**

RDM Internal Deadline: 26 April 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 applications to funding@rdm.ox.ac.uk.

There is no deadline for maternity/shared parental/adoption leave bridging funds and applications can be submitted at any time to the secretary of the Medical Sciences Internal Fund Committee mrf@medsci.ox.ac.uk, copying in funding@rdm.ox.ac.uk. As with all applications, we are happy to comment on drafts.

Future deadline: October 2017

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 8 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: 26 April 2017 (end of day). Submit applications to funding@rdm.ox.ac.uk. 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.

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: October 2017

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: 17 May 2017. Submit applications to funding@rdm.ox.ac.uk.

Lab282 – small and large scale awards



Lab282 was recently launched and is a partnership between the University of Oxford, Oxford University Innovation, Oxford Sciences Innovation and Evotec.

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.

Other funding opportunities

AXA Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2017 campaign



In the second campaign, AXA will be proposing up to 25 Post-Doctoral Fellowships to outstanding researchers, which are expected to last for an 18–24 month period and can be awarded up to €130,000. The University has to identify its best possible candidates and therefore a coordinated bid process has been put in place. Interested candidates are asked to complete a brief expression of interest and return it to their selected department/faculty no later than 12 April 2017. Due to the fact that the AXA Scientific Board is likely to approve Oxford to propose **only one candidate** for this round, departments and divisions are asked to select only one candidate each to go forward for final selection. [Further information](#).

Deadline: 12 April 2017. Please email applications to funding@rdm.ox.ac.uk.

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Health Programme



The University of Oxford is a core partner in the EU EIT Health programme, which is a consortium of businesses, research centres and academic institutions. EIT Health provides funding to consortia formed of partner organisations and EIT external collaborators that contribute to the competitiveness of European industry, improve the quality of life of Europe's citizens and the sustainability of the healthcare system.

The programme consists of **three funding pillars (Campus, Innovation Projects and Accelerator)** aimed to promote healthy living, support active ageing and improve healthcare.

Call: There is currently a call for Innovation Projects and Accelerator Awards.

Innovation Projects are multidisciplinary and contribute to at least one societal challenge. They include areas ranging from lifestyle interventions and nutrition, to brain health and treating chronic diseases, to social care and managing risk of exclusion, to improving healthcare systems.

Accelerator business plan competitions provide a forum for innovators to stand out among their peers throughout Europe. Winners will also gain easy access to a European network of living labs, test beds and investors. EIT Health business advisors assist all EIT Health projects throughout the development process to identify business opportunities, and help link entrepreneurs to public and private funding. Prizes are worth €50K.

[Further information is available here](#) or contact martin.kerr@medsci.ox.ac.uk.

Deadline: 12 April 2017

Worldwide Cancer Research Project Grant



Aim: To support research that might in future help reduce the incidence of cancer or improve cancer survival. Grants are awarded that support fundamental or translational research into the causes, mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment or prevention of cancer.

Funding can be requested for: Direct costs of the project including consumables and reagents, the salaries of research staff working directly on the project, travel to conferences or to visit collaborators, and any essential services or small pieces of specialist or unusual equipment. Up to £250K.

Duration of funding: 12 to 36 months.

Eligibility: Researcher must have a PhD followed by at least three years of research experience. Only one application from the same research group will be accepted in any 12 month period.

[Further information.](#)

Deadline: 21 April 2017.

BHF Translational Award



Aim: To support the pre-clinical development of new cardiovascular medicines and technologies so that they are attractive for follow-on funding. The award will help to bridge the funding gap between promising innovations and the clinic with the aim of accelerating advances in cardiovascular science for patient benefit. The development can be for therapeutics (novel/repurposed), devices, imaging technologies, diagnostics, computer models and algorithms.

Funding can be requested for: The award can be used flexibly eg for staff salaries, consumables, equipment, IP consultancy fees. Up to £250K.

Eligibility: The PI will be a senior researcher working in an established research institution in the UK.

[Further information.](#)

Deadline: 24 April 2017 (preliminary application)

Future deadline: October 2017

BSCR Bernard and Joan Marshall Research Prizes



The British Society for Cardiovascular Research (BSRC) has announced the call for the Bernard and Joan Marshall Research Prizes.

1) The **Young Investigator Prize (£2500)** is open to students and post-docs who are within 3 years of the award of their PhD or MD. Applicants should have undertaken their higher degree at a UK institution and/or be currently working as a post-doc within the UK. [Further information.](#)

2) The **Research Excellence Prize (£4000)** is open to established independent researchers who are within 15 years of receiving their higher degree. [Further information.](#)

The Young Investigator Prize finalists and Research Excellence Prize winner will be selected by the BSCR committee and will present their work at the Autumn meeting to be held at the University of Oxford in September 2017.

Deadline: 31 May 2017. [Further information.](#)

Bloodwise Project Grants



Aim: to address key questions in the field of blood cancer. The remit of the project grant scheme has been updated to include research projects that maximise the value and outcome of a clinical trial and specifically includes applications that would previously have been considered through the Trial-Associated Research Project scheme. ([See guidelines for preparing an application](#)).

Funding is available to support: Salary of one full-time or two parttime staff member(s). Eligible staff include postdocs, research assistants and technicians (not clinical staff or PhD students). You can also apply for funds for consumables, animal costs and equipment. Up to £250k total.

Duration of funding: Between 6 and 36 months.

Eligibility: Tenured group leaders, or staff at group leader level on fixed-term contracts where their contract term encompasses the duration of the proposed grant.

[Further Information.](#)

Deadline: 2 June 2017

MRC Confidence in Concept

Aim: To support the earliest stages of translational projects. The scheme is intended to accelerate the transition from discovery research to translational development projects by supporting preliminary work of feasibility studies to establish the viability of an approach ie to provide confidence in the underlying concept. Note that applications for interdisciplinary research are particularly welcomed.



Funding can be requested for: The total cost of individual projects will be in the order of £100-150K (funded projects will be required to demonstrate at least 50% matching from another source; match funding from industry is especially encouraged). Therefore you can request £50-75K per project from the Confidence in Concept funds. Projects are expected to be between 6 and 9 months in duration.

Eligibility: Researchers at Oxford.

[Further information.](#)

Call: A call is coming soon, but the deadline is yet to be announced.

Other relevant information

NIHR Webinar: How to win friends and influence people – promoting a clinical academic career to your organisation.

The NIHR is passionate about promoting clinical academic careers and opportunities. Clinical academics bridge the gap between the NHS and academia and help organisations to recognise and address research questions that are relevant, and support staff and their patients to use evidence effectively to continuously improve care. This webinar will provide help and guidance to current and aspiring clinical academics who wish to promote clinical academic careers in their organisation.

For further information and to register: <http://bit.ly/influencewebinar2017>

When: 29 March 2017 at 11am for 1 hour.

ERC Advanced Grant application workshop

The Research Services European Team will be running a workshop for University of Oxford ERC Advanced Grant applicants. The workshop will be useful for applicants, administrators and anyone else also supporting an Advanced Grant application in the 2017 call. Attendees of all disciplines are welcome. Registration is open by [doodle poll](#).

When: 9 May 2017 – 14.00 to 16.30 in the Department of Engineering Science

Changes to MRC Skills Development Fellowship Scheme

In a new approach to promote interdisciplinarity and career flexibility, [MRC Skills Development Fellowships \(SDF\)](#) will move to be appointed directly by participating host research organisations. SDFs are capacity building training fellowships that support individuals gaining expertise in quantitative skills applied to biomedical research questions, [an MRC Skill Priority](#).

From 2017, individuals seeking MRC SDF support will no longer apply directly to the MRC. Instead individuals should wait until 2018 and apply for a fellowship position at a participating host research organisation at that time. [Further information on MRC website](#). Details are not yet available for the Medical Sciences Division.

MRC: support for preprints

MRC is encouraging researchers to share their pre-peer reviewed manuscripts via established preprint repositories or services (eg bioRxiv, PeerJ Preprints, arXiv, SocArXiv or PsyArXiv). Researchers will be allowed to cite preprints in their grant and fellowship applications from 1 April 2017. [Further Information](#).

Wellcome Trust: pre-prints accepted in grant applications

The Wellcome Trust now permits researchers to cite preprints, or pre-peer reviewed manuscripts, in their grant applications and end-of-grant review reports. [Further Information](#).

Wellcome Trust: removal of post-PhD time restrictions for fellowships

Time restrictions based on the number of years since a researcher was awarded their PhD have been removed from Wellcome fellowship schemes. [Further Information](#).

Wellcome Trust: new approach to innovation funding

Following the publication of a new [Innovation for Impact strategy](#), the Wellcome Trust has announced it would make up to £500m of funding available over the next five years, starting with [a call for Innovator Awards](#) and a new Wellcome Flagships programme. [Further Information](#).

[Innovator Awards](#) (up to £500K) support researchers who are transforming great ideas into healthcare innovations that could have a significant impact on human health. The current focus areas are mental health, neurological disorders and neglected tropical diseases. There is no deadline for this scheme.

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 2 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](#).

Upcoming funding deadlines that are announced after we have circulated the Funding Opportunities Bulletin are posted directly onto the [Funding Opportunities Bulletin page](#) on the RDM website.