

## RDM Funding Bulletin – December 2019

Internal Funding Opportunities	Deadline*
<a href="#">John Fell Fund (JFF)</a>	RDM internal deadline 6 January 2020 (noon)
<a href="#">Medical Sciences Internal Fund (MSIF)</a>	RDM internal deadline 8 January 2020 (noon)
<a href="#">Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF)</a>	RDM internal deadline 8 January 2020 (noon)
<a href="#">Oxford BHF CRE: Training, Infrastructure, Pump Priming Grants</a>	13 January 2020 (noon)
<a href="#">EPSRC Impact Acceleration Award</a>	13 January 2020 (noon)
<a href="#">Lab282 Awards</a>	15 January 2020
<a href="#">Novo Nordisk Pump Priming Awards</a>	31 January 2020
<a href="#">Returning Carers' Fund</a>	RDM internal deadline 12 February 2020 (noon)
<a href="#">Novo Nordisk-Oxford Fellowship Programme in Diabetes and Metabolism</a>	End of March 2020
<a href="#">The University Challenge Seed Fund</a>	Rolling deadline
Selected External Funding Opportunities	Deadline*
<a href="#">ERC Consolidator Grant</a>	Internal Research Services deadline 21 January 2020
<a href="#">CRUK Career Development Fellowship</a>	5 February 2020
<a href="#">Bloodwise Project Grant</a>	13 February 2020
<a href="#">EFSD/Lilly Young Investigator Research Award</a>	17 February 2020
<a href="#">MRC UK-Japan Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research Initiative</a>	20 February 2020 (intention to submit deadline: 20 January 2020)
<a href="#">Breast Cancer Now Project Grant</a>	3 March 2020
<a href="#">Diabetes UK RD Lawrence Fellowship</a>	Preliminary application opens April 2020
<a href="#">NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) – Product Development Award</a>	22 April 2020
<a href="#">Society for Endocrinology Early Career Grant</a>	6 May 2020
<p>Please see the <a href="#">RDM Funding Database</a> for more fellowship and funding opportunities.</p> <p>*Your local admin team and Research Services deadlines (where applicable) will be well in advance of the above deadlines – please check with them.</p>	

Funding events/workshops/training	Date
<a href="#">Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Training event</a>	21 February 2020
<a href="#">2020 RDM Annual Symposium</a>	23 March 2020
<a href="#">2020 RDM Researcher Careers Day</a>	23 April 2020
<b>More news from funders and the University <a href="#">here</a>.</b>	

## RDM Research Strategy and Funding team

Please contact us at [funding@rdm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:funding@rdm.ox.ac.uk) or individually about:

	Position	Contact me for...
<a href="#">Dr Ruth McCaffrey</a>	Research Strategy Coordinator	One-on-one meetings, career development, letters of support from the Head of Department, Research Excellence Framework (REF)
<a href="#">Dr Serena Briant</a>	Research Facilitator and Programme Manager for the Novo Nordisk-Oxford Fellowship Programme	One-on-one meetings, fellowship applications, letters of support from the Head of Department, Novo Nordisk-Oxford Fellowship Programme ( <a href="mailto:nn.fellowships@rdm.ox.ac.uk">nn.fellowships@rdm.ox.ac.uk</a> )
<a href="#">Dr Kathleen Dolan</a>	Assistant Research Facilitator and Operations Manager for the Novo Nordisk-Oxford Fellowship Programme	One-on-one meetings, internal funding opportunities/IRAMS, Career Development Committee, Novo Nordisk – Oxford Fellowship Programme ( <a href="mailto:nn.fellowships@rdm.ox.ac.uk">nn.fellowships@rdm.ox.ac.uk</a> )

More information about support we can provide and review processes for fellowship applications/interviews and internal funding opportunities on the [RDM website](#).

## Online system for internal grant applications (IRAMS)

The University and Medical Sciences Division (MSD) use the [Internal Research Award Management System \(IRAMS\)](#) for

internal grant applications (e.g. MSIF, ISSF, JFF, MLSTF) and University co-ordinated bids. **All applicants must have an [ORCID ID](#) when applying through IRAMS** (apply for one [here](#)).

When you submit your application, it is sent to the [RDM Research Strategy and Funding Team](#). **All applications made via IRAMS will have an earlier RDM deadline** to allow us 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. Once submitted, 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 IDs (you can find this in Outlook listed under 'Alias', when you look up the Outlook properties of the contact).



## Internal Funding Opportunities

For internal funding opportunities or [IRAMS](#), please contact [Kathleen Dolan](#) or [funding@rdm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:funding@rdm.ox.ac.uk). RDM internal deadlines will be ***strictly adhered*** to and we are happy to check applications before deadlines.

### John Fell Fund (JFF)

**Aim:** To foster creativity and a proactive approach to research opportunities in all subject areas, in particular interdisciplinary fields.



John Fell OUP Research Fund

**Funding available to support:** (a) pump priming; (b) early career researchers; (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 post-doc researchers who are genuinely on an independent career track (planning to submit external fellowship applications) are now eligible to be the PI on JFF applications with support from the Head of Department. *Letters of support will be provided following the RDM internal deadline and review panel meeting – please do not request a letter of support directly from the Head of Department.*

**Further information on the JFF.** Please contact [funding@rdm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:funding@rdm.ox.ac.uk) if you have any questions about categories to apply for and appropriate levels of funding to request. For prospective Category F applications or cross-divisional bids, you must notify the [RDM Research Strategy and Funding team](#) well in advance as these applications need extensive discussion with the Medical Sciences Divisional office.

**RDM internal deadline:** 6 January 2020 (noon).

**How to apply:** [IRAMS](#). If you would like to apply, please inform your local administrator and the [RDM Research Strategy and Funding Team](#) in advance. A panel 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 us.

**Future RDM internal deadline:** early April 2020 – exact date TBC.

## Medical Sciences Internal Fund (MSIF)

**Aim:** To support researchers who are employees of departments within the Medical Sciences Division through different funding streams.

### Funding available to support:

- 1) **Pump priming** - enables investigators to obtain pilot data to support larger scale applications for external research funding in the future (<£10k). **Post-docs 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: a) be externally funded and bridging to another external grant; b) not be bridging from start-up packages regardless of funding source; c) not be bridging to non-medical research (e.g. BBSRC or Leverhulme funding).

*The division strongly encourages match funding of a minimum of 50% of the total cost of the bridging salary period.*

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. However, urgent applications for bridging funding will be considered on a case by case basis, as the need arises.

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.

[Further information on the MSIF.](#)

**RDM internal deadline: 8 January 2020 (noon).**

**How to apply:** [IRAMS](#). If you would like to apply, please inform your local administrator and the [RDM Research Strategy and Funding Team](#) in advance. A panel 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 us.

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

**Future RDM internal deadline:** early April 2020 – exact date TBC.

## Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF)

The **Wellcome ISSF block grant will end on 30 September 2022**; all projects must therefore end and be fully spent by this date. No extensions beyond 30 Sep 2022 will be permitted.

### 1) Individual Career Support

**Aim:** Pump priming funding is available to support researchers, who currently hold little or no Wellcome funding, to make a subsequent competitive application to Wellcome or another external funder.

#### **Funding available to support:**

- 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 Fellowships, Investigator or seed awards.
- b) **Early Career Clinical Academics** – funding is intended to support clinical lecturers in career development (e.g. 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 (e.g. 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.
- d) **Discipline Hopping** – funding is available to independent researchers who currently work outside of the Wellcome's remit so that they can apply their expertise to the Wellcome's goals.

**Eligibility:** Must fit into one of the categories above. DPhil students, post-docs and clinical research fellows are not eligible to apply. Senior post-doc researchers who are genuinely on an independent career track (planning to submit external fellowship applications) are now eligible to be the PI on ISSF applications. Only projects in the [Wellcome research areas](#) can be supported.

**Amount:** Small awards (<£10k) and main awards (<75k). Only direct costs will be covered.

Small awards can be applied for all year round, and main awards only in April and October rounds.

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

### 2) Interdepartmental Strategic Initiatives:

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

**Funding available to support:**

- a) **Equipment, research assets or staff within shared facilities** where there is evidence of strategic need.
- b) **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 will not be supported.

**Amount:** Small awards (<£10k) and main awards (<£150k). Only direct costs will be covered.

Small awards can be applied for all year round, and main awards only in April and October rounds.

**Eligibility:** Must be employed by the University. DPhil students, post-docs and clinical research fellows are not eligible to apply. Senior post-doc researchers who are genuinely on an independent career track (planning to submit external fellowship applications) are now eligible to be the PI on ISSF applications. Only projects in the [Wellcome research areas](#) can be supported.

[Further information on Interdepartmental Strategic Initiatives.](#)

**RDM internal deadline: 8 January 2020 (noon).**

**How to apply:** [IRAMS](#). If you would like to apply, please inform your local administrator and the [RDM Research Strategy and Funding Team](#) in advance. A panel 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 us.

**Future RDM internal deadline:** early April 2020 – exact date TBC.

## Oxford BHF CRE: Training, Infrastructure, Pump Priming Grants

**Aim:** To support cardiovascular researchers through different funding streams.

**Funding is available to support:**

- 1) **Pump priming** – to generate preliminary data and strengthen future external funding proposals.
- 2) **Enabling Technologies** – to establish or further develop specialist multi-user facilities. Priority will be given to building and developing research facilities that benefit more than one BHF CRE research group. The BHF CRE will consider applications to underwrite or part-fund key personnel (bridging funding) and/or facilities with a long-term goal to cover costs from re-charging to grants and/or full economic costing of grants.
- 3) **Career Development** – to support a range of activities, including the development of skills-training programmes for cardiovascular research, the Oxford BHF CRE Transition Research Fellowship programme (to prepare applicants to compete effectively for an external award), undergraduate vacation student awards, and the collaboration travel awards described below.



- 4) **Travel awards for building national and international collaborations** – to support travel to start or develop research collaborations, to visit recognised research centres to study new techniques, or to assist collaborators to spend time with an Oxford BHF CRE group.
- 5) **Conference travel (graduate students/postdocs)** – awards are limited to a maximum of £500.
- 6) **Theme meetings (relevant to the BHF CRE research themes)**

[Further information on Oxford BHF CRE Awards.](#) Please contact [Philippa Major](#) for the funding application guidelines and to discuss your application.

**Deadline:** Rolling or 13 January 2020 (noon) for consideration at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Future deadline: 6 April 2020 (noon) for consideration at the April Steering Committee meeting.

## EPSRC Impact Acceleration Award



**Aim:** Support activities that will help accelerate the impact from past, current or future research that falls within the [EPSRC remit](#).

### Funding available to support:

- 1) **Partnerships:** grants to accelerate impact through increased engagement of Oxford researchers with end-users of the research in non-academic organisations.  
Partnership projects are typically six to twelve months long and around £30k-£75k in value.
- 2) **Technology fund / Impact fund:** supports
  - (i) *Technology Development Grants* to develop new technologies to the point where they are suitable for follow on support from other sources (e.g. Oxford University Innovation (OUI) translational funding) or for commercial exploitation (e.g. capital investment for spinning out, licensing deals etc.), and
  - (ii) *Impact Delivery Grants* to transfer knowledge, whose take-up will provide benefits to users but will not necessarily generate a financial return to the University (e.g. applications for NHS and other public bodies, NGOs, etc.).Impact/Technology Fund Grants are typically six to twelve months in duration and around £75-100k in value.
- 3) **EPSRC IAA Doctoral Impact Scheme:** supports new DPhil graduates to maximise the impact of their research beyond academia through engagement with non-academic partners in industry, healthcare, governmental agencies, local and regional government and other external organisations. It is expected that requested costs for Doctoral Impact projects will not exceed £30k.

DPhil students are eligible to apply for the scheme if:

- they have passed their Confirmation of Status examination
  - they are within two terms of submission of their thesis
- 4) **Impact workshops:** grants to support the coordination and delivery of impact-focussed meetings and workshops. This call has a rolling deadline and applications are accepted until 30 November 2020 or all of the available funding has been allocated. Funding available of up to £5k/application.

[Further information of the EPSRC Impact Acceleration Award.](#)

**Deadline:** 13 January 2020 (noon).

**How to apply:** [IRAMS](#). IAA staff are happy to review and provide feedback on draft applications prior to final submission. Please submit your request in advance of the application deadline to [epsrciaa@mpls.ox.ac.uk](mailto:epsrciaa@mpls.ox.ac.uk).

## Lab282 Awards



**Lab282 was launched in 2016 and is a partnership between the University of Oxford, Oxford University Innovation, Oxford Sciences Innovation and Evotec.**

**Aim:** Lab282 provides funding and expertise towards drug discovery work and researchers interested in translating their novel findings towards a clinical application with the potential for a new University spin-out. Awards will not support late stage preclinical or clinical projects and is not intended to provide funding for academics' salaries.

**Amount:** Up to £500k with funding split between the PI's lab and the industrial partner Evotec (split depending on the project's scientific requirements).

**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.

Interested academics should first talk to both the Lab282 Expert in Residence ([thomas.hanke@lab282.org](mailto:thomas.hanke@lab282.org)) and a member of the Licensing and Ventures Group in Oxford University Innovation ([richard.reschen@innovation.ox.ac.uk](mailto:richard.reschen@innovation.ox.ac.uk)).

[Further Information on Lab282 awards.](#)

**Deadline:** Apply at any time, but applications are reviewed quarterly. Next quarterly review is 15 January 2020.

## Novo Nordisk Pump Priming Awards

**Aim:** To facilitate collaborations between University of Oxford and [Novo Nordisk Research Centre Oxford](#) (NNRCO) researchers.



**Research area:** Cardiometabolic biology and diseases. Priority will be given to NNRCO's areas of interest such as human genetics; human cellular disease models; functional genomics; multi-omics; high content imaging; phenotypic screens; and computational biology. Applications should describe the translational potential of projects, such as the use of human-relevant tissues and assays, and how results will help elucidate cardiometabolic disease mechanisms and targets.

**Funding available to support:** Consumables, expenses, analysis costs, animal costs, other services, travel and personnel costs at the University, but not of a new hire.

**Amount:** Up to £35k for two awards.

**Duration of funding:** Up to 12 months.

**Eligibility:** Lead applicant must have a funded position at the University for the duration of their proposed project. All applications must include both researchers from Oxford University and Novo Nordisk Research Centre Oxford.

[Further information on Novo Nordisk-Oxford Pump Priming Awards.](#) It is **essential** that applications are coordinated with an NNRCO member of staff prior to written application. Please contact [Dr Siobhan Dennis](#) if you have any queries or wish to reach out to Novo Nordisk members to align and discuss project proposals.

**Deadline:** 31 January 2020 (noon)

**How to apply:** [IRAMS](#).

## Returning Carers' Fund

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

**Funding 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 a) are currently on leave for a minimum of six months; b) have returned from a break of at least six months within the last two years; or c) have returned from two breaks each of at least six months within the last five years. A break may comprise of two or more discontinuous periods of leave totalling at least six months, provided that they relate to a single life event (e.g. as part of a shared parental leave arrangement).

[Further information on the Returning Carers' Fund.](#)

**RDM internal deadline: 12 February 2020 (noon).**

**How to apply:** If you are planning to apply, please contact the [RDM Research Strategy and Funding team](#) in advance. Email [applications](#) to [athena-swan@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:athena-swan@medsci.ox.ac.uk).

**Future RDM internal deadline: 19 May 2020.**

## Novo Nordisk – Oxford Fellowship Programme in Diabetes and Metabolism



**Research area:** Type 2 diabetes and its co-morbidities.

**Aim:** The Novo Nordisk – Oxford Fellowship Programme aims to support the development of a new generation of exceptional researchers in diabetes and metabolism, who will become future leaders in the field. The programme also aims to further develop scientific excellence within diabetes and cardiometabolic diseases and ultimately improve the lives of patients.

**Career Stage:** Early.

**Funding available to support:** Fellow's salary, consumables and generous travel allowance.

**Duration of funding:** 3 years.

There are two types of fellowship:

### 1) Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (4 posts)

**Eligibility:** A PhD/DPhil, or near to completion in a medical/biological subject. Be no more than 3 years post PhD/DPhil at the start of the fellowship (Autumn 2020).

### 2) Clinical Research Training Fellowship (1 post)

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.

[Further information on the Novo Nordisk-Oxford Fellowship Programme](#), including full eligibility criteria. Enquiries can be directed to [nn.fellowships@rdm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nn.fellowships@rdm.ox.ac.uk).

**Deadline:** Projects to be advertised at the end of February. Deadline date TBC – likely to be end of March 2020.

Future deadline: Annual call.

## The University Challenge Seed Fund

**Aim:** To assist University researchers transform good research into good business; to bring research discoveries to a point where their commercial usefulness can be demonstrated; and support the first steps taken to ensure their utility. The primary focus is the exploitation of science and engineering research outcomes.



**Funding available to support:** Access to managerial skills; securing or enhancing intellectual property; supporting additional R&D; funding construction of prototype; widening proven applications; preparing business plan; covering legal costs; covering costs of external expertise e.g. regulatory advice.

**Amount:** £2.5k to £250k.

[Further information on The University Challenge Seed Fund.](#)

**Deadline:** Rolling.

**How to apply:** Contact either the Technology Transfer Manager at Oxford University Innovation with whom you are already working with; or the Head of New Venture Support and Funding at Oxford University Innovation ([adam.workman@innovation.ox.ac.uk](mailto:adam.workman@innovation.ox.ac.uk)) to be put in touch with the appropriate Technology Transfer Manager.

## Selected External Funding Opportunities

For all fellowship applications, please contact [Serena Briant](#) well in advance of applying, so help and support can be provided.

### ERC Consolidator Grant

**Aim:** To support individual researchers that are starting or consolidating their own independent research team or programme, and who can demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal.



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

**Research area:** The ERC encourages proposals of a multi- or interdisciplinary nature that address new and emerging fields of research or introduce unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions.

**Funding available to support:** 100% of the total eligible direct costs of the research plus a contribution of 25% of the total eligible costs towards indirect costs.

**Amount:** Up to €2m (and an additional €1 million can be made available to cover eligible “start-up” costs for researchers moving from a third country to the EU or an associated country and/or the purchase of major equipment and/or access to large facilities and/or other major experimental and field work costs).

**Duration of funding:** Up to five years.

**Eligibility:** Researchers of any nationality with 7-12 years of experience since completion of PhD. Competitive applicants must have already shown research independence and evidence of maturity, for example by having produced several important publications as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor.

[Further information on ERC Consolidator Grants.](#)

**Internal Research Services deadline: 21 January 2020.**

### CRUK Career Development Fellowship

**Aim:** To support new group leaders who do not have a salaried independent position to establish their own independent research group.



**Funding available to support:** Salaries (for the applicant and up to two posts including a postdoc, a technician and/or a non-clinical PhD student); running expenses; equipment (up to £25k); and relocation costs (up to £1k) for applicants wishing to take up their fellowship at a new host institution.

**Amount:** Up to £30k.

**Duration of funding:** Six years or part-time equivalent.

[Further information on CRUK Career Development Fellowships.](#)

**Deadline:** 5 February 2020.

## Bloodwise Project Grant

**Aim:** To address the key questions in the field of blood cancer.

**Research area:** The remit includes any area of basic biological research relating to cancer, biomarker research and development, and preclinical studies that generate biological data to underpin therapeutic and diagnostic development.

Laboratory-based research proposals that are intended to maximise the value and outcome of a clinical trial, which were previously considered as Trial-Associated Research Projects, are also now considered as project grants. Please note that applications for biobank funding will not be considered through this funding scheme.

**Funding available to support:** Salary for staff including post-docs, research assistants and technicians (not PhD students or clinical staff). Non-tenured researchers can apply for a project grant and include their salaries for the duration of the project, provided a tenured member of staff at an eligible institution is named as a co-applicant.

Consumables, animal costs and equipment can also be requested.

**Amount:** Up to £250k.

**Duration of funding:** Between 6 and 36 months.

[Further information about Bloodwise Project Grants.](#)

**Deadline:** 13 February 2020.



## EFSD/Lilly Young Investigator Research Award

**Aim:** To encourage innovative research in the fields of diabetes and its complications, and to promote excellence in medical education.

**Amount:** Up to €50k.

**Eligibility:** Applications may be made by any paid-up member of EASD having received their highest degree (PhD, MD, DMD, DVM, or equivalent) no more than five (basic scientist) or seven years (clinician) before 1 January 2020. Applicants should have demonstrated their ability in the field of diabetes research.



[Further information on EFSD/Lilly Young Investigator Research Awards.](#)

**Deadline:** 17 February 2020.

## MRC UK-Japan Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research Initiative



**Aim:** Co-ordinated by the MRC and the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED), this initiative will provide:

- Support for world-leading collaborative research teams focused on building upon fundamental insights and initial early-stage discoveries, to advance regenerative approaches towards clinical use in the future and to utilise stem cells as medical research tools.
- Enhance existing partnerships and develop new partnerships between the UK and Japan in the area of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research.
- Strengthen the strategic relationship between the UK and Japan.

**Areas of research:** Projects that underpin the development of regenerative medicine therapeutic strategies, including developing scientific knowledge, tools and technologies with the overall goal of progressing regenerative medicine therapies further along the development pipeline. Applications are particularly welcome for projects focusing on:

- Human cell engineering, gene editing and cellular reprogramming approaches where a clear future therapeutic goal has been identified.
- Investigations into modulation of the human tissue niche, or improving understanding of the niche; this may include, for example, establishing mechanisms for differentiation in transplanted stem cells or understanding immunological barriers.
- Improving efficacy of engraftment and regeneration of transplanted cells.
- Developing tools, technologies and methods to enable translational regenerative medicine research including, but not limited to, *in vivo* cell imaging approaches or high throughput screening techniques.
- Creating novel *in vitro* models utilising stem cells, which could be used for robust predictive safety testing or as drug screening models.

**Amount:** Approximately £7m will be made available for this initiative. The funding agencies intend to use these available funds to support approximately 8 collaborative projects, subject to quality.

**Duration of funding:** On the UK side, projects must start on 1 October 2020. Projects must be three years in duration and have completed by 30 September 2023. On the Japanese side, projects must start by 15 September 2020 and complete in March 2023. The Japanese component of the projects will therefore be shorter than three years.

**Eligibility:** The funders encourage the participation of early career researchers within the collaborative research teams in order to stimulate a future generation of UK-Japanese collaborations in this important area.

[Further information on the MRC UK-Japan Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research Initiative.](#)

**Deadline for compulsory Intention to Submit (to be submitted to MRC only):** 20 January 2020

**Deadline for applicants to submit proposal (in both countries):** 20 February 2020

## Breast Cancer Now Project Grant



**Aim:** To support scientific excellence and innovative research into breast cancer.

**Funding available to support:** Staff salary, research expenses and essential equipment.

**Amount:** Up to £230k (including £1.9k for conference costs).

**Eligibility:** Applicants should have conducted independent research in the field of breast cancer or be an experienced researcher in a related field, and wish to build on their history and reputation in the breast cancer area, deepening their knowledge and experience. Post-docs can apply if their contract covers the duration of the project grant.

[Further information on Breast Cancer Now Project Grants.](#)

**Deadline:** 3 March 2020.

## Diabetes UK RD Lawrence Fellowship



**Aim:** Career development fellowship to enable post-docs to establish their independence in diabetes research.

**Funding available to support:** Salary for the applicant; the salary for a technician or postgraduate research assistant; consumables; materials; equipment; animal costs; costs associated with travel and registration for conferences.

**Amount:** Up to £525k.

**Duration of funding:** Between 4 and 5 years.

**Eligibility:** Applicants usually have three to six years' postdoctoral experience from the date of their doctoral degree examination (PhD viva). Allowance will be given to applicants whose career has been subject to a late start or interruption for family or personal reasons.

[Further information on Diabetes UK RD Lawrence Fellowships.](#)

**Deadline:** Preliminary applications open in April each year, with a full application deadline of 31 October.

## NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) – Product Development Award



**Aim:** To support innovations at any stage of the translational research and development pathway, including the clinical development of laboratory-validated technologies or interventions.

**Funding available to support:**

- Research and development of medical devices, active implantable devices and *in vitro* diagnostic devices as defined by the relevant EU directives, across all areas of existing or emerging healthcare needs.
- Product or technology development required to enable a technology for clinical use, which may include manufacturing, intellectual property protection, freedom to operate and market analysis or business case development.
- Research and development of techniques or technologies from a different industry sector that could have a potential impact if applied in a healthcare setting.
- Feasibility studies, if a technology from a sector other than health is being developed.
- Studies to provide data relating to safety and effectiveness of a device, including first-in-man and pivotal studies.
- Health economic analyses and clinical utility studies looking at a device's real-life implementation and use.
- Research to support CE mark applications and other regulatory requirements, including any associated safety trials.
- Activities associated with the adoption of new technology.
- Training associated with the implementation of new technology.

**Amount:** No upper funding limit, but costs must be fully justified.

**Duration of funding:** Up to three years.

**Eligibility:** Research proposals must include applicants from two organisation types: an NHS Trust, higher education institution or small-to-medium-sized enterprise (SME).

[Further information on NIHR Invention for Innovation \(i4i\) – Product Development Awards.](#)

**Deadline:** 22 April 2020.

## Society of Endocrinology Early Career Grant



**Aim:** For resources to gain preliminary data before applying for other external funding; to finalise a project; or short term salary funding.

**Amount:** Up to £10k.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be Society members. They should normally be post-docs within 10 years of postgraduate study or, in exceptional cases, final year of PhD/DPhil students. The project should be distinct from that done during a PhD/DPhil.

[Further information about Society of Endocrinology Early Career Grants.](#)

**Deadline:** 6 May 2020.

Please see the [RDM Funding Database](#), which lists other fellowship/funding opportunities and deadlines.

#### Reminders

- If your application requires a **letter of support from the Head of Department**, Professor Hugh Watkins, you must contact [Ruth McCaffrey](#) or [Serena Briant](#) *at least two weeks in advance of the deadline* to request the letter.
- 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 [Serena Briant](#) as early as possible.

## Funding News and Events

### Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Training event - 21 February 2020

Getting the perspective of both patients and the public when considering and designing your cancer research project is now key to achieving approval and funding, but do you know how and when to involve lay people in your research project?

Join Cancer Research UK for a free event at the BDI on the Old Road Campus on **Friday 21st February 2020 (10 am - 1.30 pm)**. The event will give guidance on how involving patients and the public in research can have a positive impact, help to improve research design, relevance of research and likelihood of approval.

Full details of the event and how to register [here](#). Please note registration is on a first come first served base as there are limited spaces available due to the venue.

### RDM Annual Symposium – 23 March 2020

The RDM Annual Symposium brings together research and initiatives from across the department. Hosted at the Maths Institute, the symposium is a full day of talks and poster sessions followed by a drinks reception. Details of the keynote speaker, programme, poster abstract submission and registration to be shared in January 2020.

Please contact [Kathleen Dolan](#) if you have soon-to-be published work you'd like to present or queries about the event.

### RDM Researcher Career Day – 23 April 2020

Organised by the [RDM Researcher Association](#), the RDM Researcher Career Day is a whole day filled with talks and interactive workshops exploring different academic and non-academic career paths/sectors. The event will take place at Somerville College on 23 April 2020 – registration details to be shared in the New Year.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Career Day or the Researcher Association, please contact [researcherassociation@rdm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:researcherassociation@rdm.ox.ac.uk).

### New end date for Wellcome ISSF block grant - 30 September 2022

Since 2016, £1m per year has been awarded to the University of Oxford by Wellcome for a five-year period. The aim of the funding is to support strategically important activity across the University in biomedical and clinical sciences, public health, social sciences and the medical humanities. The Medical Sciences division have successfully secured a no cost extension on the [Wellcome](#)

[Institutional Strategic Support Fund \(ISSF\)](#) block grant which will now end on **30 September 2022**. All projects must therefore end and be fully spent by this date; no extensions beyond 30 Sep 2022 will be permitted.

More information on the ISSF [here](#).

### Change to Oxford's policy for Research Councils UK Open Access block grant

The University's policy for the RCUK block grant changed on 2nd December 2019 and broadly means that they will only pay Article Processing Charges (APC) for fully open access journals. This aims to ensure continued freedom for Research Council funded authors to publish in the journal of their choice while staying within the constraints of the 2019-20 grant. Authors of articles in fully OA journals (journals listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals [doaj.org](http://doaj.org)) can apply for APC costs; please check with the Bodleian's APC team first that funds are available before committing to payment ([apc@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:apc@bodleian.ox.ac.uk)).

The University is no longer able to pay APCs for most 'hybrid' (subscription-based) journals; instead authors should use the 'green' route to open access, by choosing the standard publication licence and depositing the accepted manuscript into ORA.

More details [here](#).

### Depositing outputs to ORA unavailable - 20 to 27 January 2020

From 20 to 27 January, users of Symplectic Elements (SE) will be unable to deposit research outputs to the Oxford Research Archive (ORA) via SE. This temporary interruption is required in order to improve connectivity between SE and ORA. This will not affect users claiming outputs or creating new records of publications in SE: however, users will need to return to their SE account after 27 January 2020 to deposit files.

### Enrichment scheme at the Alan Turing Institute

The Enrichment scheme offers students currently enrolled on a doctoral programme at a UK university the opportunity to visit the Alan Turing Institute (ATI) for up to 12 months. Students continue their PhD in conjunction with their current supervisor, while enriching their research and making new collaborations during their time at ATI.

Enrichment places are offered for 6, 9, or 12 months with start dates in October 2020 and January 2021. While on placement students are expected to work out of the Turing offices in the British Library. To support relocation and travel costs the award provides either a stipend top-up and/or expenses allowance for eligible students. This year the Turing will be welcoming more students than ever before with up to 50 placements on offer.

More details [here](#).

## Internal OUI translational funding pots given significant boost

Oxford University Innovation (OUI) manages several funds that provide investment to accelerate translational research projects or investment into spinouts. A recent partnership with Oxford Sciences Innovation (OSI) will be providing an extra £5m of funding alongside £1.5m of existing [University Challenge Seed Fund \(UCSF\)](#) reserves to support projects over the next five years. Since 2014 OUI and Parkwalk Advisors have been working in collaboration to raise seed funding for spinout companies through the EIS structured [University of Oxford Innovation Fund \(UOIF\)](#). In September, UOIF raised over £2.6m for investment into Oxford spinout companies. This is the largest fund to date. Both of these schemes have open calls.

More details [here](#).

## New series of training: obtaining ethical & HRA approvals

Dates for 'Obtaining Ethical & HRA Approvals: Navigating your way through the system' are on the [Research Support website](#). Dates for training are available until the end of 2020. These sessions cover the processes of applying to an NHS research ethics committee (REC) and the Health Research Authority (HRA). Each session will be followed by a drop-in session, where representatives from the Oxford University Clinical Trials & Research Governance Team and the Oxford University Hospitals Foundation Trust Research & Development Team will be available to discuss any specific questions or provide further advice.

## Revised concordat to support research integrity

The revised concordat to support research integrity was published on 25 October 2019. The concordat provides principles and commitments to ensure that research produced by or in collaboration with universities, research institutes and others undertaking research is underpinned by the highest standards of rigour and integrity. It provides the standards expected of all stakeholders, identifying five commitments.

The concordat can be found [here](#).

## UKRI: Next steps in tackling bullying and harassment

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) outlines its next steps to address bullying and harassment across the sector in a [position statement](#). All recipients of UKRI funding will be expected to adhere to

Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) guidance. This means having preventative strategies in place as well as responding effectively to bullying and harassment where needed.

### **NIHR: Research Design Advisory Panel (RDAP)**

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funds the [Research Design Service \(RDS\)](#) to provide research design and methodological support to health and social care researchers across England to develop grant applications to the NIHR and other national peer reviewed funding programmes. Priority is given to researchers applying to NIHR funding streams.

Advice is confidential and free of charge. This is in addition to support provided by the [RDM Research Funding and Strategy Team](#).

### **Wellcome: Review of how funding decisions are made**

Wellcome is reviewing how they make funding decisions, interviewing people at all levels of the organisation, as well as engaging with expert advisers. The findings will help to inform Wellcome's funding decision-making strategy. Wellcome will share what they have learned in 2020.

More details [here](#).

### **NIH: revised standard term and conditions**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced the publication of the revised [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#), applicable to all NIH grants and cooperative agreements with budget periods beginning on or after 1 October 2019 and serves as a standard term and condition of award. The revision does not introduce any new material for the first time; rather it incorporates new and modified requirements, clarifies certain policies, and implements changes in statutes, regulations, and policies that have been implemented through appropriate legal and/or policy processes since the previous version of the NIH Grants Policy Statement dated October 2018.