**The Wellcome Trust- University of Liverpool Institutional Translational Partnership (ITPA)**

**Early Career Researcher Dragon’s Den Translational Award**

**Purpose**

HLS will run two initiatives to develop translational research interest and capability in early career researchers, via:

* An intensive training event on **the fundamentals of translational work**. Training will be provided by UoL in-house expertise, as well as industry, NHS and research funding bodies.
* Additionally, participants who have potentially translatable research which is already underway, will be able to **bid for pump priming funds of £15k** per project (up to £60k available for all projects). This is the **Early Career Researcher Dragon’s Den Translational Award.**

**Format**

Training in w/c 13 December:

* Intensive training over three days 13 to 15 December 2021. Each session will be roughly 1hr to 1.5hours per session, four sessions a day over three days, between 10am-3pm.
* Additionally, on the final day, there will be a separate introductory session to the **Early Career Researcher Dragon’s Den Translational Award** for applicants who have a translational research project that they are looking to take to the next stage.
* Sessions will be recorded with speakers’ permission. Accessing recordings is an alternative for those with clinical commitments.

Application time w/c 20 December to Wednesday 26 January:

* Pump priming applicants complete paper application.

Funding panel Thursday 3 February 2022:

* Shortlisted applicants will be invited to present their project and answer questions to the ‘Dragon’s Den’ style panel (virtual or in-person depending on availability).

**Award of pump priming**

* £60K of funding is available in total, with a maximum of £15k per award, plus up to £1k of consultancy time per award.
* Award duration is up to 12 months.
* Categories of spend:
  + consumables
  + access to facilities
  + travel
  + staff time
  + Access to a consultant (up to £1k). Award holders can identify their own consultants or ask to be paired with someone.
  + *Purchase of equipment will not be allowed*

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| **The Wellcome Trust- University of Liverpool Institutional Translational Partnership (ITPA)**  **Early Career Researcher Dragon’s Den Translational Award** |
| The Awards will provide up to £15k per project, for a duration of up to one year. |
| **Objective**  The Awards provide Early Career Researchers with pump priming funding for **translational research.** It is intended to provide an opportunity for ECRs (a clinical or non-clinical investigator) to develop new or ongoing areas of research that will progress rapidly towards improved clinical outcomes with line of sight to substantive translational funding. Applications from collaborative multi-disciplinary partnerships are strongly encouraged. |
| **Application process**  Applicants to register their interest with Rosie Corbin [r.corbin@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:r.corbin@liverpool.ac.uk) by **Wednesday 8** **December 2021** and state the research area of the project.  Applicants should attend the introductory session on “**ECR Dragon’s Den Translational Award”, Wednesday 15 December 2021 2.40-3.00pm.**  Applicants will be assigned a mentor according to expertise. Either: from academics/ consultants Peter Gallagher or Eliot Forster.  Projects should be costed via the applicant’s Institute Finance Team. All applications must have approval from relevant Heads of Institute/School~~.~~  The two page application form to be submitted by **Wednesday 26 January 2022**. The application covers: unmet clinical need, proposed solution, research proposal, future translation/ funding plans, what data expect to be able to obtain.  Panel shortlists on Friday 28 January, applicants informed by c.o.p.  **Afternoon of Thursday 3 January 2022** shortlisted applicants to do a virtual or in- person pitch. Duration: a five-minute presentation and 10 minutes for panel questions. Total of 15 minutes per applicant.  Four panel members from:   * Industry Peter Gallagher/ Eliot Forster/ Edwina Wright * Academics APVC Claire Eyers/ APVC Tom Walley * TBC: NHS clinicians, as the potential target audience/ academic that reflects the research area. |
| **Criteria**  Please note the following when preparing your application:   1. **Translation Research:** Awards are aimed at translational projects to develop **pilot data** to support **more substantive grant applications**, and must **identify a specific funding call** they are targeting for follow-on work, or equivalent (e.g. patent application, industry partnership/collaboration). 2. The project should address a **health issue of significance** with priority given to applications that consider relevance to the Liverpool City region.   **Applicant: a Faculty of Health and Life Sciences (FHLS) clinical/ non-clinical investigator Early Career Researcher, defined as:**   * 1. Non-clinical:  up to ten years post-PhD completion.   Or   * 1. Clinical: no more than five years after consultant appointment for UoL staff.   *Please note that those with honorary positions are not eligible to lead an application. Collaborative teams can include non-HLS staff.*  **Application Limit:** Individuals can only lead a single award, but could be a co-applicant on distinct applications.  **Ethical Approval:** Ethical approval must be sought and acquired, where relevant, before funding will be released.  **Impact:** An impact report must be submitted within three months of the date of completion of the project. |
| **Eligible costs**  Eligible costs include **directly incurred** **salaries, consumables and access charges for specific facilities** i.e. BSU and CRF costs.  Please note that the funding is **not** intended to support:   * The purchase of equipment is not allowed under this scheme * Costs of PI time (FEC costs) for existing University/NHS staff * Administration costs * Staff between posts (i.e. as bridging funds) or PhD studentships * Continuation of normal research grants * Costs relating to protection of intellectual property |
| **Key assessment criteria:**   * Awards are aimed at projects seeking pump priming to develop pilot data to support more substantive grant applications. Awards will only be given to applicants who have clearly articulated the translational aspect of the application and who have identified a specific funding call they are targeting for follow-on work. * Does the project address a health issue of significance (priority given to applications that consider relevance to the Liverpool City region)? * Is there a clear strategy to progress towards a longer-term solution to an unmet clinical need? * Is the work plan clear and achievable and will implementation lead to the stated objectives being accomplished? * Are the costs justified and realistic? |
| **Assessment panel**  Applications will be evaluated by a panel of senior academics from the University of Liverpool along with Liverpool Health Partners (LHP) representation and externals from industry.  Each application will be read by all panel members and scored using the MRC Peer Reviewers Handbook Scoring Matrix, scored 1-6. All scored applications will then be ranked and shortlisted.  Shortlisted applicants will be invited to present their project and answer questions to the panel, ‘Dragon’s Den’ style. Presentations will last five minutes followed by 10 minutes of questions, 15 minutes total per applicant. |