****

|  |
| --- |
| **THE STONEYGATE CHILDREN’S BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH FUND** **APPLICATION GUIDANCE NOTES** |

The University of Nottingham’s Children’s Brain Tumour Research Centre (CBTRC) is at the forefront of the drive to increase understanding of childhood brain tumours to improve diagnosis and treatment. The Stoneygate Trust is generously supporting a competitive awards programme for scientific and clinical brain tumour research projects: The Stoneygate Children’s Brain Tumour Research Fund.

Launched in 2015, the Fund offers funding through two schemes aiming to develop the careers of talented researchers and encourage interdisciplinary research.

Projects should aim to deliver a significant advance in the study of children’s brain cancer. This could be in any research discipline. The Fund has a particular interest in supporting interdisciplinary work which takes an integrative approach towards understanding the causes, treatment and outcomes of childhood brain tumours.

We are now inviting applications for the 2019 funding call, with a submission deadline of **midnight on 22nd September 2019.**

Two award schemes have been established through the Fund:

1. **The Stoneygate Career Catalyst Awards**

Supports highly promising early and mid-career researchers to facilitate and aid the progression of their research career in order to improve the quality of the research undertaken in the study of children’s brain tumours. Further details are outlined below, and additional information is given in the relevant application form. We would strongly recommend that applicants discuss their ideas with senior members of CBTRC before submitting an application.

1. **The Stoneygate Proof of Concept Awards**

Supports highly promising feasibility studies to test novel and imaginative ideas with potential for significant clinical impact relating to the treatment of children’s brain tumours, providing the crucial early-stage funding which is often unavailable from external bodies. Further details are outlined below, and additional information is given in the relevant application form.

Applications for both schemes must include details of two expert peer reviewers, who must not be affiliated to the project or work at the University. Applicants should contact both of these referees prior to naming them on this form to ensure they are willing and available to provide a review during September – December 2019.

All submissions will also be peer-reviewed by an assessment panel comprising senior academics from the global community with appropriate knowledge of the subject area.

The Stoneygate Fund will support 100% of identified eligible direct costs (see table overleaf). All other FEC-related costs (indirect, estates, infrastructure etc) must be absorbed by the applicant’s School or by the relevant NHS Trust. Applications must be based on an accurate RIS costing.

Eligible project costs for both schemes (where applicable) are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Cost Type** | **Costs Supported by** **The Stoneygate Fund?** |
| Researcher salaries (although not named project applicants or individuals whose post is already funded\*) | **✓** |
| Project consumables  | **✓** |
| PhD student costs | **✓** |
| Research equipment | **✓** |
| Essential travel for research purposes  | **✓** |
| Reimbursements of existing salaries  | **×** |
| Replacing NHS expenditure | **×** |

**\*** *Applicants cannot request support towards their own salary costs and must have certainty of employment at the University from January 2020 until the end date of their proposed project.*

We would strongly recommend that applicants discuss their ideas with senior members of CBTRC before submitting an application (details below.) Please use the contact details below to arrange a time for a discussion.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name**  | **Research Interests**  | **Contact details**  |
| Professor Richard GrundyProfessor of Neuro-Oncology and Cancer Biology Director of the Children’s Brain Tumour Research Centre  | * Molecular biology of childhood brain tumours
* Epigenetics and novel targeted therapies
* Biomarkers
* Drug delivery to CNS tumours
* Personalised therapy and precision medicine
* Advanced MRI Studies
* Clinical Trials
 | richard.grundy@nottingham.ac.ukSecretary: laura.willoughby@nottingham.ac.uk |
| Professor David Walker Professor of Paediatric Oncology | * Accelerating diagnosis of childhood brain tumours and childhood cancer
* Children's cancer trials of novel therapies targeting the brain
* Impact of brain tumours on quality of survival linked to visual and cerebellar function
* Tumour bio-characterisation and developmental physiology
* Optimising care for teenagers and young adults being treated for cancer
 | david.walker@nottingham.ac.ukSecretary:sue.franklin@nottingham.ac.uk |
| Professor David BatesProfessor of Oncology  | * Angiogenesis
* Alternative splicing
* VEGF
* Lymphatics
* Vascular permeability
 | david.bates@nottingham.ac.ukSecretary:beverly.bramley@nottingham.ac.uk |

**1. The Stoneygate Career Catalyst Awards**

The Scheme is designed to aid professional progression, offering successful applicants a grant for up to four years to establish a solid foundation for a lifetime in brain tumour research or to consolidate the career of more experienced individuals aiming to develop their own teams and productivity.

Awards could support a PhD studentship and/or the appointment of post-doctoral staff, giving recipients the opportunity to enhance their track record of high-quality work and develop their careers – potentially through supervising their own small research team and securing other external grants.

A standard maximum of £320,000 is available for each project (with an expected limit of £80,000 a year.) Each project should be a maximum of four years’ duration. It is envisaged that some shorter projects may be supported, along with projects worth less than £320,000. In exceptional cases (where a particularly strong case is made in the application) an award slightly exceeding £320,000 may be made.

We anticipate one Career Catalyst award will be made in the 2019 round although this may vary according to the project(s) submitted for consideration.

Brief, lay written reports in relation to each Award will be required at six monthly intervals, with a final report at the end of the project.

An assessment day for the Career Catalyst Awards will be held in Nottingham on 29th January 2020. Shortlisted applicants must be available to deliver a presentation about their proposal on that day.

**2. The Stoneygate Proof of Concept Awards**

This Fund will support highly promising feasibility studies to test novel and imaginative ideas with potential for significant clinical impact relating to the treatment of children’s brain tumours, providing the crucial early-stage funding which is often unavailable from external bodies.

A standard maximum of £60,000 is available for each project, with each project expected to be a maximum of 12 months’ duration. It is envisaged that some shorter projects may be supported, along with projects worth less than £60,000. In exceptional cases (where a particularly strong case is made in the application) an award slightly exceeding £60,000 may be made.

We anticipate one Proof of Concept award will be made in the 2019 round, although this may vary according to the project(s) submitted for consideration.

A brief, lay written report in relation to each Award will be required at the mid-point of a project, with a final report at the end of the project.

**Please direct any initial queries regarding The Stoneygate Fund to Melissa Wadams, Research Development Manager, Children’s Brain Tumour Research Centre, E Floor, QMC on (0115) 82 30643 or email** **melissa.wadams@nottingham.ac.uk****.**