

'Global Challenges Research Fund: Networks in Vector Borne Disease Research'

Call Guidance

Completing the Expression of Interest

Je-S proforma

Applications which include multiple institutions must be submitted on a single Je-S proforma. Applications submitted on multiple forms will not be accepted.

Applicants must complete the following sections of the Je-S proforma

- Organisation where the Grant would be held
- Project Title
- Start date and duration – successful Networks must start no later than **1 July 2017 and be for a maximum of 36 months**
- Applicants
- Resources required for the project

It is not necessary to complete the other sections of the proforma. Additional information included on the proforma will not be used to assess the Expression of Interest.

Expressions of Interest must include the following attachments:

Case for Support

The Case for Support (up to 4 pages) should include the following information:

- Track record of the Principal Investigator (PI) and if applicable the Co-Investigator (CoI).
- The focus of the proposed Network. Briefly articulate the key VBD challenge on which the network will focus and describe how the network will specifically address this challenge.
- What is the proposed Network management structure? How will the Network operate? What will be the roles of the Network Director, Co-Director and Management Board?
- How will the pump-priming funds be managed in particular what is the proposed governance structure? How will the pump-priming funds be used (including approximate type, scale and number), how they will be developed and assessed and how will the progress and outcomes be monitored.
- How will the Network build an interdisciplinary community? Who will comprise the membership of the network? What will be the spread of disciplines, expertise, capabilities and infrastructure in the Network? How will the Network engage with members and stakeholders in developing countries? How will the Network engage members with a range of disciplines and experience? What activities/events will the Network organize? How will new members be able to join the Network?
- What are the expected outcomes and outputs of the Network?
- How will the proposed Network add value above and beyond existing activities?

Statement of Official Development Assistance (ODA) relevance

Applications must include a statement of ODA relevance (max 1 page). In the statement, applicants should describe how the proposed Network/pump-priming research meets the ODA requirements of this call, under the following headings:

- To which country or countries is your proposal applicable?
- What is the problem or capacity need identified?
- How will developing countries be involved in the Network?
- How will your proposed Network/pump-priming research benefit the country or countries (in the long or short term)? What is the likely pathway to impact?

100% FEC exceptions spreadsheet

- Costs requested at 100% FEC, see below, should be detailed in the 100% FEC exceptions spreadsheet.

Curricula Vitae

The PI and, if applicable, the CoI should provide their CVs which must be no more than 2 pages per person.

Network management

Detailed plans for the governance structure, including the development, assessment and monitoring of pump-priming funding is an essential component of the Expression of Interest and full proposal and will form part of the assessment.

It is anticipated that each Network will have a Management Board. The membership of the Management Board does not need to be detailed in the Expression of Interest but applicants should provide details of the types of expertise that will be required on the Management Board. Details of the Management Board's membership will be required in the full proposal. The members of the Network Management Board should **NOT** be listed on the Je-S proforma and no salary costs should be requested for members of the Management Board.

Network membership

Each Network should have members from the relevant academic, business and stakeholder communities in particular those from countries on the OECD's DAC list. Networks should be interdisciplinary and comprise a diversity of expertise and experience. Networks should include participation at all levels including, where appropriate, postdoctoral and postgraduate researchers as well as more senior members. Applicants should consider the wider impacts of work undertaken by the Network and include representatives from the environmental, economic and social sciences where appropriate.

Successful Networks are intended to be 'open' in that participation by other interested members will be encouraged throughout the life of the Network in order to develop the community as it matures. How new members can join the Network should be described in the Expression of Interest.

It is not necessary to identify potential Network members in order to submit an Expression of Interest. However, in the full proposal applicants will be expected to identify the first ten Network members and provide letters of support from these members, these can include the members of the proposed Network Management Board. The Network members should **NOT** be listed on the Je-S proforma nor should any salary be requested for Network members.

Eligible costs

Salaries and support costs

The Director of the Network should be the named PI on the proposal and under full economic costing (FEC) may request funds to cover their salary costs for the time spent developing and directing the Network. Requests can also be made for **ONE** Co-Director who will be named as the Col to assist the Network's Director in this role. Costs can be requested for an appropriately skilled Network Manager (full or part-time) to be responsible for activities such as the day-to-day Network management, event coordination, and website development for the Network. Costs can also be requested for additional administrative support to assist the Network Manager, if required. It is recommended these costs are agreed with your Research Office before submitting the Expression of Interest. As a community support role, the salary of the Network Manager can be requested at 100% FEC. **No general estates and indirect costs should be claimed in association with Network Manager's role.**

The time spent on directing and managing the Network should be reasonable and is not expected to form the majority of costs of the proposal. The salary costs of Network members should **NOT** be included in the proposal.

Network events

Costs for supporting and facilitating meetings and events can be requested at 100% FEC. These costs should be briefly justified in the Expression of Interest 'Case for support'. **No general estates and indirect costs should be claimed in association with Network events.**

Salaries and Network event costs will represent the 'core grant'. General estates and indirect costs are **NOT** eligible for inclusion in the 'core grant'.

Pump-priming funds

Pump-priming funds for allocation by the Network should also be requested; the amount should be indicated and briefly justified in the Expression of Interest 'Case for Support'. These funds can be used for a range of projects including: feasibility studies; proof of concept studies; generation of preliminary data; method development; tool/technology development; desk-based studies; and visits to learn new techniques. It is envisaged that these funds will help to support the development of new interdisciplinary partnerships and foster the development of new approaches between Network members.

Pump-priming projects should be used to address key issues in the area of the Network that are relevant to vector borne disease (VBD) which should strengthen the quality, collaborative (including industry involvement) and cross-disciplinary nature of future innovative and novel grant proposals. Expressions of Interest should briefly describe how the pump-priming projects will be assessed and selected for funding and how the projects' progress and outcomes will be monitored.

Pump-priming funds will be funded at 80% FEC by the funders and should be allocated at 80% FEC for each project by the Network's host institution. The institution where the research is to be undertaken will be responsible for the 20% shortfall. As these are research-based projects, they can include a component to cover estates and indirect costs for the relevant institution. It is anticipated that individual pump-priming awards will not exceed £100K, or last for longer than 12 months.

The pump-priming funds will be managed as a separate fund and will be paid annually in arrears to the Network's host institution based on actual spend. An audit trail is essential for the reimbursement. All pump-priming awards must be completed within the duration of the Network.

Monitoring progress of the Networks

The Networks will be funded through the Global Challenges Research Fund which is part of the UK Government's ODA commitment. The funded Networks will be expected to comply with all ODA reporting criteria including regular progress reports, details to be confirmed. In addition, each Network will be expected to provide the funders with regular updates on all activities and progress of pump-priming funding.

Expected outputs of the Networks

The main outputs are expected to include:

- **Improved community interactions** (academic, business and stakeholder) through communication and co-ordination across a number of major research areas relevant to VBD.
- **Improved linkages** with researchers and stakeholders in developing countries.
- **Build capability through wider cross-disciplinary integrative participation** (biological, medical, mathematical, chemical, physical, environmental, economic and social sciences) to address major research areas.
- **Deployment of community expertise** to construct high quality grant proposals for a range of opportunities both nationally and internationally, using a range of innovative interdisciplinary approaches.
- **Preliminary experiments to explore ideas and generate initial data to construct competitive grant proposals** through pump-priming funding, encouraging participation from different disciplines, collaboration with researchers from developing countries as well as engagement with industry.
- **Support personal development of Network members** through participation of individuals at all levels and providing all members with exposure to other disciplines and research communities.

Each Network will be expected to disseminate the outcomes of its activities widely and appropriately (eg through meetings, web pages, newsletters or published reports). Each Network's PI will also be expected to play a leading role with the funders in promoting opportunities in VBD, including presentations and dissemination of information at meetings such as grant holders' workshops.

Examples of how to deliver the objectives of this call

The funders do not wish to be prescriptive and applicants are encouraged to think creatively about how to deliver the objectives of the call. However, below are some examples:

- Provide an appropriate governance structure to manage and deploy the resources including the pump-priming funding.
- Include a broad range of disciplines necessary to address the challenges identified.
- Offer a series of structured activities that build bridges between disciplines and find creative ways to enable knowledge sharing and collaboration between academic researchers and end-users.
- Provide a forum for discussion and development of cross-disciplinary research projects involving pump-priming studies.
- Provide a forum for the development of major integrative grant proposals based on pump-priming studies.
- Provide regular updates on the development of the research areas, nationally and internationally, e.g., through newsletters.

- Support an annual meeting of the leading scientists from the UK and developing countries, open to the community providing an update on the latest research findings.
- Provide appropriate mechanisms to develop international linkages and collaborations with researchers in developing countries.
- Collect the outputs from the emerging pump-priming studies and collaborations, including tracing those through to full proposals and provide case studies where appropriate.
- Host and actively maintain an up-to-date, visually appealing, informative, website promoting UK research in the chosen research area and national/international funding opportunities.
- Establish a mechanism to recruit new members as the Network develops,
- Support and encourage the participation and development of related PDRAs and students.
- Participate in and/or organise outreach activities to engage non-specialised audiences in discussions related to the Network area.

Contact

Enquiries should be submitted to:

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