

# Affordable Approaches to Cancer

## Seed Funding Remit and Eligibility Guidelines

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

These guidelines are designed to help you understand what we are looking for in a seed funding application to the affordable approaches to cancer initiative.

The grants process for this initiative will be managed by our implementation partner, the DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance (hereinafter India Alliance), based in India, with support from Cancer Research UK (CRUK). If you are unsure if your proposal is within remit, please contact us at [cancerchallenges@indiaalliance.org](mailto:cancerchallenges@indiaalliance.org)

**Further information for applying to the Affordable Approaches to Cancer initiative, including costing policies and application guidelines, will be provided when the seed funding call opens on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019.**

## 2. ABOUT

CRUK and Government of India's Department of Biotechnology (DBT) have partnered to launch a £10M, 5-year research initiative focused on finding affordable approaches to cancer.

The Affordable Approaches to Cancer research initiative aims to stimulate a focused bilateral, multidisciplinary research effort to address important challenges in affordability in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. It is intended to drive collaboration and support innovative and readily translational research. By bringing together the complementary research strengths of India and the UK, the initiative will accelerate progress in research that will impact cancer outcomes on a global scale.

## 3. PHASES

Phase 1: Identifying research challenges

- The initiative's Advisory Panel, along with input from leading Indian and UK experts, came together in March 2019 to identify and articulate seven key research challenges, under the broad theme of affordable approaches to cancer

Phase 2: Seed funding awards

- Applicants will be required to submit a seed funding application which will be reviewed by our Advisory Panel. Seed funding of up to £30K (approx. Rs 26 lakhs) will be granted to the successful research teams to enable travel between India and the UK to develop an understanding of research contexts
- This funding is designed to allow Indian and UK researchers to establish bilateral research partnerships to address one of the seven research challenges, leading to the preparation of submitting a full application

### Phase 3: Programme awards

- Following the 6 months of seed funding, teams will be required to submit a full application for a programme award. After submission the teams will be interviewed by our Advisory Panel who will make the final funding recommendations
- The successful teams will be awarded funding to support large scale studies of up to £1.5M (approx. Rs 13.1 crores) over 4 years. The studies will have the potential to deliver translatable research outputs and make significant progress against the core set of cancer research challenges

## 4. SCIENTIFIC REMIT

Research proposals must address one of our seven key research challenges. When submitting a research proposal please keep in mind that all proposals must:

- Build on the complementary research strengths in both India and the UK, building research alliances between the two countries
- Focus on hard-to-treat cancers where there is the potential to have an impact in India, the UK and globally
- Clearly address the key theme of ‘affordable approaches to cancer’
- Aim to produce outputs that are readily translatable to patients e.g. a proposal focussing solely on basic biological research would fall outside the remit of this scheme (though may be eligible for other CRUK or DBT funding schemes)
- Be innovative and involve multidisciplinary work e.g. we encourage proposals that utilise affordable technology alongside biomedical research
- Be feasible within the constraints of the funding and time available:
  - Seed funding: up to £30,000 for up to 6 months
  - Programme Award funding: up to £1.5M for up to 4 years

## 5. WHO CAN BE IN AN APPLICANT TEAM

The initiative is intended to fund joint research teams from India and the UK, bringing together people to create the best teams capable of delivering the proposal presented.

We would anticipate that an applicant team would typically be made up of:

- Joint Lead Applicants
- A number of Co-Investigators

- A number of Collaborators

Table 1  
Team Members: Roles and Responsibilities

<p>LEAD APPLICANTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There must be joint lead applicants, one from India and one from the UK.</li> <li>• The Lead Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they can lead the proposal and team effectively, be engaged throughout the duration of the award, as well as meet their other research commitments.</li> <li>• They must ensure that all team members comply with the Terms and Conditions of the award.</li> <li>• They will be the primary contacts for the administration of the award.</li> </ul>
<p>CO-INVESTIGATOR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-Investigators are individuals that are making a major scientific contribution to the proposal and may be in receipt of a significant portion of funding from the award budget.</li> <li>• Each Co-Investigator will be responsible for the scientific and technical direction of their work stream/contribution to the award, and as such any financial and contractual obligations that fall under their remit.</li> </ul>
<p>COLLABORATOR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborators are individuals who are working within or across the proposed study, and who are critical to, but not leading, any part of the Programme Award.</li> <li>• Collaborators bring specialist expertise and are not in receipt of significant funding from the award budget.</li> <li>• Collaborators will be responsible for delivering on their agreed commitment to the proposal.</li> </ul>

## 6. ELIGIBILITY

### 6.1 Lead Applicants

Each proposal must contain **one lead Indian applicant and one lead UK applicant**.

- To be eligible to apply as a lead applicant, the host institution must be based in the UK or India. If an academic applicant is currently based outside of the UK or India, they must secure confirmation from a UK or Indian based host institution that they will be hosted if funded
- Post-doctoral researchers, group leaders, clinicians, Professors and representatives from non-academic or commercial organisations are all eligible to apply as the lead applicant
  - Lead applicants from commercial organisations may receive a proportion of the award where they can demonstrate the value they will add, and why the commercial organisation is not able to fund the research themselves. However, requests for funding of commercial organisations will be considered on a case-by-case basis
  - We will not be able to accept applications led by undergraduate, postgraduate or PhD students

### 6.2 Host Institutions

To be eligible for an award the host institution of each lead applicant and co-investigator must:

- Be a university, a research institution or hospital; or a company of good standing and appropriately accredited or registered in the country in which it is based
- Have formal written procedures in place for allegations of research misconduct, at least minimally meeting the general principles laid out in:
  - [Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#) for UK institutions
  - [Department of Biotechnology Statement](#) on the handling of allegations of research misconduct for Indian institutions
- Have formal written procedures for obtaining any necessary or appropriate ethics approval for the research funded by the grant
- Not be in receipt of research funding from the tobacco industry or have any links to the tobacco industry (see further guidance here [Cancer Research UK Code of Practice on Tobacco Industry Funding to Universities](#))

- In the event of proposed use of animals, have the standards of laboratory animal welfare that either meet or exceed UK standards. In this regard, the relevant team member should:
  - Show that they will satisfy the standards set out in the [NC3Rs guidelines. Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research](#) AND;
  - Provide documentary evidence of a system of regulatory control of laboratory animal welfare that meets or exceeds the standards enforced by UK Home Office and the Government of India's Ministry of Social Welfare.
- Be solvent at the time of application and provide audited financial information to the India Alliance on request

### 6.3 Research approval

The India Alliance expects all work involving human participants, human tissue or biological samples to be undertaken in accordance with the highest ethical standards.

- India Alliance-funded grant holders are responsible for ensuring they are aware of the issues surrounding the use of human subjects/samples in research, comply with relevant legislation and have obtained all necessary approvals.
- Host institutions must have ethical committees in place for protection of human participants and to allow for the assessment and analysis of such research. Furthermore, they must have procedures in place in case a serious allegation is reported.
- If the proposed study involves a clinical trial:
  - It must comply with the ethical guidelines on use of human participants from [Indian Council of Medical Research \(ICMR\)](#) AND;
  - must have approval from the grant holders Host Institutions ethical committee and the UK [Health Research Authority](#).
- If the proposed study uses human tissue or biological samples it must follow the [Medical Research Council](#) and [Biobank](#) guidelines
- India Alliance will not be liable in any manner for the grant holder's non-compliance with any relevant legislations or rules during or in relation to the clinical trial. All trials must be registered before the research is started, in line with the Declaration of Helsinki 2013.

### 6.3 Supporting roles

Co-investigators, collaborators and named research staff must be based at a UK or Indian Institution. Proposed co-investigators who are not based at a UK or Indian Institution would need to be justified to the India Alliance.

## 7. COST GUIDANCE FOR SEED FUNDING

This section contains cost guidance specific to the initiative. You should read this section along with the India Alliance general cost guidance when completing your seed funding application.

### 7.1 Purpose

- The recipient institutions may only use the seed funding towards reasonable costs the team incurs in: a) travelling to, attending and participating in workshops (where possible, in person) to develop the team's proposal; (b) preparing, drafting and submitting the team's full application for funding; and (c) travelling to, and attending in person, its interview with the initiative's Advisory Panel
- The joint lead applicant's institutions shall receive the seed funding on behalf of the team and shall allocate the seed funding among the team in a fair and reasonable manner and in full consultation with the other team members
- In allocating seed funding, the recipient institution shall consider, among other things, the profile of each team member (and provide greater support to non-profit organisations than for-profit organisations), and the geographical location of each team member and venue of the workshops, and interview, described above
- Seed funding must be used in accordance with the India Alliance costing policy.

### 7.2 General

- The amount of seed funding stated in the Grant Award Letter is inclusive of all taxes, charges and costs of any nature (including, among others, transfer and currency conversion charges), which, if applicable, shall be borne by the recipient institution
- The recipient institution shall obtain and keep invoices and detailed written records of the cost and expenses to which seed funding is applied (including those incurred by the other team members)
- At the India Alliance's request, the recipient institution shall (a) provide a statement that itemises the costs and expenses the seed funding has been applied towards and the underlying invoices and records; and (b) within fourteen days after they request, reimburse any seed funding unspent at the end of the grant period described in the Grant Award Letter

- CRUK and DBT may publish information relating to the Affordable Approaches to Cancer initiative on its website, in reports and in marketing materials. That information may include, among other things, the names of the team members and individuals applying for funding, and summaries of proposals and applications for funding
- The recipient institution may not seek, and shall procure no other team member seeks, funding from any person other than CRUK/DBT in respect of the proposal described in the team's seed funding or the full application until CRUK/DBT has announced who it will fund under the award
- India Alliance may amend these terms, and terminate the agreement formed by them, on written notice to the recipient institution. Within fourteen days after the termination notice, the recipient institution shall reimburse the seed funding less permitted costs that, at the date of the notice are committed and cannot be cancelled (unless the recipient institution is in breach of these terms at any time, in which case the recipient institution shall reimburse the full seed funding with no deductions).
- These terms are governed by English / Indian law and all matters relating to them shall be settled exclusively by English / Indian Courts.