MRC Confidence in Concept (CiC) University of Manchester Allocation 2017

Therapeutics guidance

Proposals for CiC funding for therapeutics should meet the following criteria:

- Project should be early stage translational research to generate pilot data that, if positive, would support submission of a proposal for external funding to a translational research scheme (e.g. MRC Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme (DPFS)
- Demonstrate a clear unmet medical need in a defined patient population
- Describe a clear hypothesis for how targeting the mechanism of interest with the therapeutic would be efficacious and improve patient treatment
- Projects can investigate 'druggability' of mechanisms/ target/ molecules
- Repositioning of compounds for new disease indications would be within scope of the call
- Proposals should consider whether the therapeutic approach is appropriate for the disease e.g. cost, route of administration, likely exposure to target tissue
- Describe a brief plan for how the studies could be progressed into clinical practice, including consideration of how potential target-related or therapy-related safety issues could be addressed

The funding will not support studies on:

- Investigative studies on disease mechanisms without a clear therapeutic approach
- Targets that have been tried and tested before (serial failures)
- Therapeutics that are not significantly differentiated from approaches currently in development

We specifically encourage the utilisation of the MRC-funded Single Cell Research Centre and the development of cell-based and personalised treatment strategies.

Cell heterogeneity is a huge barrier to the design of all therapies that require the targeting of rare cells. The Single Cell Research Centre provides the common platform to advance the technologies to identify and characterise therapeutic target cells, to progress rapidly to bespoke treatments for many of the most challenging diseases and degenerative conditions of man.

The Single Cell Research Centre provides an integrated pathway from clinical tissue to cell selection, functional 'omics and single cell imaging, linked directly into our bioinformatics and e-Health pipeline. It brings together the latest capabilities in single cell genomics, transcriptomics and proteomics, and in cutting-edge imaging of single cells in clinical samples. Data analysis is integrated with Manchester's Health e-Research Centre (HeRC) within the MRC-funded Farr Institute for Health Informatics Research.

Enquiries can be made to the relevant Senior Experimental Officer:

- Genomic Technologies: Dr Andy Hayes Andy.Hayes@manchester.ac.uk
- Microscopy: Dr Dave Spiller David.Spiller@manchester.ac.uk

- CyTOF and flow cytometry: Dr Gareth Howell Gareth.Howell@manchester.ac.uk

All applications should be budgeted accurately and fully in consultation with the Senior Experimental Officer.