

## 1 Why have a research funding strategy?

The main objectives of DMT's research funding strategy are to:

- Continue to enhance the special contribution that DMT can make to the field of medical research, particularly research related to ageing and older people;
- Encourage high quality research applications within the stated DMT's vision and purpose;
- Ensure that DMT supported research continues to qualify for the HEFCE Charity Research Support Fund (CRSF), NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) support and NHS support costs as set out in AcoRD guidance<sup>[1]</sup>.

[1] Attributing the costs of health and social care research (AcoRD). Department of Health, April 2013

## 2 The historical context

The will trust (from which The Dunhill Medical Trust originated) was left by Herbert Dunhill in 1950 for the furtherance of medical knowledge and research, in the light of the founder's own experience of the effects of tuberculosis.

Since its formal establishment with the Charity Commission as The Dunhill Medical Trust in 1986, DMT has supported a wide range of medical research in various universities and hospitals throughout the UK.

In 1999, the Trustees agreed that, in the light of the demographic changes towards an increasingly ageing population, the main priority for support should be research and other activities and developments related to older people and ageing. This focus has increasingly informed decision-making on grants over the last fifteen years, with the establishment of a formal research funding strategy in September 2007 (confirmed at subsequent strategic reviews).

## 3 DMT's specific areas of interest

DMT's specific areas of interest are:

- Research that is concerned with care of older people, including rehabilitation and palliative care;
- the causes and treatments of disease, disability and frailty related to ageing;
- Initiatives aimed at evaluating and improving patient care or public health;
- Pilot studies which could establish whether major studies are justified.

## 4 What types of research will DMT support?

DMT is keen to support high quality research and research-related projects and programmes on a smaller scale than can be managed by the major funders (e.g. Research Councils, Wellcome Trust). Priority will be given to:

- clinical and applied research;
- health services research;

### PLEASE NOTE

the publication of this Research Funding Strategy is intended to help applicants assess whether their research proposal is likely to be of interest to DMT.

It should be read in conjunction with the Dunhill Medical Trust's Guidelines for Research Grants

[RESEARCH GRANTS: guidelines for applicants. pdf](#)

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- public health research;
- research carried out on a multidisciplinary basis;
- pilot and proof-of-concept studies that can provide sufficient evidence for larger studies which can attract support from major funding bodies;
- activities that will expand the research capacity in the above areas.

DMT will also consider applications related to the more qualitative end of the research spectrum (e.g. research related to modifiable risk factors for well-being and health: environmental factors, diet, stress, exercise, social participation, recreation etc.).

Applicants will be expected to provide a clear demonstration of what the research is expected to achieve within a reasonable time frame, in terms of patient benefit/improving the health and well-being of older people.

## 5 Where will DMT allocate grants?

DMT has no specific geographical link and will consider supporting applications anywhere within the UK. Although the Trust aims to ensure equitable access to grants across the UK, applications will be considered on merit alone. Research grants may be allocated to any recognised university department, teaching hospital or other recognised research centre within the UK with the appropriate capacity, research record and governance arrangements to ensure that the research will be able to be carried out in an appropriate manner. Non-research grants may be awarded to appropriate charities/not-for-profit organisations which can demonstrate significant effort to achieve funds through a variety of routes, strong financial management and a well worked out business plan.

## 6 How will DMT support research?

DMT will seek to achieve its aims through providing:

- Research project grants for amounts within the range £25k to £300k and programme grants for amounts within the range £300k to £1m to cover salaries, consumables, small dedicated pieces of equipment and other eligible costs<sup>[1]</sup>, but will not pay the Full Economic Costs (fECs) of research or research sponsorship costs.
- Research project grants will usually be awarded for a maximum of 3 years; research programme grants will usually be awarded for a maximum of 5 years.
- Research-related building and/or equipment grants within the range £100k to £1m (but not exceeding 50% of the total cost) for innovative developments in the designated research areas<sup>[2]</sup>.
- Research Fellowships and Research Training Fellowships aimed at expanding research capacity in the designated priority areas (including, where appropriate, schemes funded jointly with partner organisations (e.g. Royal Colleges).
- Exceptionally, endowments for innovative academic posts within the priority areas.

### Note:

- Research will be supported directly with the academic or NHS institution in which the research is being carried out, rather than through a third party (e.g. a fundraising charity supporting research).
- DMT will not support research in respect of medical areas such as heart disease and cancer which are already supported by large dedicated charities.
- Where appropriate, DMT will be happy to work in partnership with other not-for-profit organisations (e.g. Royal Colleges) to maximise the effectiveness of its funding

[1] See [RESEARCH GRANTS: guidelines for applicants.pdf](#)

[2] See [RESEARCH-RELATED GRANTS: guidelines for applicants.pdf](#)

## 7 Who will DMT support?

DMT will support research carried out by:

- clinicians from all health professions (including allied health professionals) with the relevant qualifications and experience to undertake the research;
- academics/scientists working in health-related fields (including epidemiologists, social scientists, health economists etc.) with the relevant qualifications and experience to undertake the research;
- clinicians and scientists in training and/or registered to study for a higher qualification and who are supervised by an appropriately qualified clinicians/scientists.

All applicants for research grants must be able to demonstrate that they are based in a strong research environment with a suitable skill mix in the research team.

## 8 Processes/systems underpinning DMT's research programme

DMT operates a rigorous application procedure for assessing research applications. This includes a peer review system with:

- a Grants & Research Committee, including external advisers with specific expertise in DMT's areas of interest.
- reference to appropriate external referees (both national and international) to provide expert opinion on all individual research and research-related applications.

The Trust also requires for all DMT funded research:

- a formally approved and explicitly stated research sponsor to be identified;
- evidence (where appropriate) that ethical approval has been obtained in respect of the project/programme to be supported;
- evidence (where appropriate) that NHS R&D approval(s) has been obtained from all NHS sites involved in the project/programme to be supported.

DMT aims to make information for potential applicants as widely available as possible and all grant-making documents and guidelines can be easily downloaded from DMT's website. We will also publicise our research funding strategy to help applicants assess whether their research proposal is likely to be of interest to us.