



Remarkable research
for healthy ageing

THE DUNHILL MEDICAL TRUST

RESEARCH GRANTS COMMITTEE: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS AND EXPERT PANELLISTS

The Dunhill Medical Trust not only funds some of the very best of the UK's academic and clinical research into understanding the mechanisms of ageing and treating age-related diseases and frailty; it also supports community-based organisations which are working to enhance the lives of those who need extra support in later life.

The [Board of Trustees](#) has established two Committees to assist it in its grant-giving activities: one specialising in assessing and awarding academic and clinical research funding, the other specialising in making grant awards to community-based organisations.

In 2020 we launched our new [strategic framework](#) which sees us taking a thematic approach to our future funding, as well as finding ways to help academic and clinical researchers to work in partnership with community organisations to make the much-needed systemic change to health and social care services for our ageing population.

Following the completion of the terms of office of some existing Committee members, the Trustees now wish to make a number of new appointments – both to the Research Grants Committee and to the wider panel of experts advising it.

The main purpose of the Committee and its panels is to review grant applications submitted under a range of strategically directed funding schemes and make awards within its authority delegated by the Board of Trustees and in line with the research funding strategy and current grant-making policy. The Committee also advises the Board of Trustees on the strategic development of grant programmes and policy matters relating to grant-making. The Trust is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities and operates a rigorous system of open advertisement of funding opportunities and peer review for all research grant applications.

Committee member opportunities

Purpose: in addition to assessing and making awards, will help to shape and deliver our plans, assess and award grants, within the parameters of the delegated authority of the Board of Trustees, and monitor their progress.

Term of appointment: appointments are for three years, renewable once, by mutual agreement.

Time commitment: Attendance at up to 4 committee meetings per year, at which members may be asked to lead the discussion on 3-4 research applications per meeting and will have the benefit of peer review scoring and comments.

- Prior to each meeting scoring applications using the Trust’s online application portal.
- Provision of occasional advice by telephone and/or email on applications received between Committee meetings.

Applicants must have both permission and support from their host institution before applying.

Expert panellist opportunities

Purpose: Panellists may be co-opted to the Committee on an occasional basis to assist it to assess and make decisions on applications received in response to specific themed calls for proposals and where the disciplinary expertise is not represented by a sufficient number of Committee members.

Current priority areas: Our current priority areas of disciplinary interest are:

- In support of our **“suitable living environments and communities for an ageing population”** theme. In particular:
 - Development and/or evaluation of assistive technology developments for supporting independent living and well-being and/or supporting housing communities;
 - Inclusive care provision for diverse groups of older people; equality measures in organisations;
 - Good quality care in residential settings;
 - Housing and community development policy – particularly equity in public policy and policy evaluation;
 - Cognitive ageing, approaches to health and wellbeing in cognitive ageing;
 - Lifestyle detriments and evaluation of lifestyle interventions;
 - Social care and housing. The link between suitable housing and healthier outcomes in later life;
 - Understanding and improving services intended for older people living with long-term conditions, with a focus on community integration;
 - Age-friendly urban and community design and development.
- In support of our **“ageing immune system”** theme:
 - In particular:
 - “inflammaging”
 - immuno-senescence
 - mechanistic causes of age-related changes in the immune response
 - the impact of age-related change on infection and vaccination
 - strategies to overcome age-related changes in immunity

Term of appointment: expert panellist appointments will be for the current plan period (until March 2026).

Time commitment: Attendance at a maximum of two committee or panel meetings in any one year (dependent on disciplinary expertise) and likely to be a maximum of 4 meetings in total over the plan

period, at which advisors will be asked to lead the discussion on 3-4 applications per meeting and will have the benefit of peer review scoring and comments.

- Prior to each meeting scoring applications using the Trust's online application portal.
- Provision of occasional advice by telephone and/or email on applications received between committee meetings.

For both positions:

Applicants must have both permission and support from their host institution before applying. We positively encourage early career researchers to apply as career development is an important strategic theme of our work. We are committed to promoting diverse and inclusive communities so encourage and welcome applications from under-represented groups.

Both roles are unpaid, although out of pocket expenses incurred will be reimbursed, which include reasonable travel expenses and any additional expenses incurred such as childcare or other caring responsibilities to facilitate attendance at meetings etc.

The Committee is currently meeting virtually, although the office base is in central London and we hope to return to in-person meetings when able.

Do please download the relevant person specification and read more about some of our current work on our website - in particular our [strategic framework for 2020-25](#).

How to apply:

Please email a no more than two page covering letter stating clearly which of the roles you are applying for and setting out how you meet the requirements of **both the role and person specifications**, together with your CV, to Susan Kay, Chief Executive susan.kay@dunhillmedical.org.uk.

If you would like to arrange an informal conversation with Susan Kay, please do so by emailing admin@dunhillmedical.org.uk

Our closing date for applications is 2 July, 2021 at noon.