**SPCR FR3 Collaborative funding round**

***Purpose of call.***

The SPCR has made £200,000 available to each of the 9 member departments to support the development of new collaborative research programmes in key strategic areas, in line with the applications for the renewed School. The aim of the funding is to help develop or strengthen new or existing collaborations, with the goal of leading to ongoing **programmes** of research. These collaborations can be within the SPCR or outside the SPCR. Collaborations with the wider primary care community, for example with physiotherapy, nursing or pharmacy, are particularly welcome.

The generic bid documents can be found

***Eligibility.***

All academic, research and teaching staff employed by NDPCHS are eligible to apply for this funding. As the goal of this funding is to develop ongoing programmes of research and promote success in future grant applications, we will be looking for evidence of commitment to building on the immediate application and driving forward a planned programme of research. Thus, although participation by Early and Mid Career Researchers (EMCRs) is welcomed, we expect applications to be led, or jointly led by established PIs with a track record of gaining substantive funding.

***Criteria***

The assessment criteria for this call will be:

* 1. That the proposed work forms part of a strategically important programme of work, which fits with the research priorities of the NDPCHS.
  2. Relevance to primary care and the SPCR (<https://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/SPCR-2021-2026>).
  3. Research Quality

Clarity of Aims, Research questions and Objectives

* + 1. Methodological rigour.
  1. Development of collaborations. This can be a strengthening of existing collaborations, or development of entirely new ones. The collaborations may be within the SPCR or across the wider primary care community. The important feature is that these collaborations are necessary for the strategic development of the proposed research programme, and that demonstrating successful working relationships will promote the likelihood of success in future applications for competitive funding. At least one other SPCR member is required.
  2. That there is a clear trajectory to future competitive grant funding applications, with plausible reasons for considering that funding the proposed work will materially improve the chance of success in such future applications, and a commitment by the team to take this programme of work forward.
  3. PPI.
  4. Value for Money.

**Projects which pump prime further substantive applications with a strong collaboration are encouraged.**

***Assessment process.***

All applications, including those where Oxford staff are co-investigators on an application led by another SPCR department, will be reviewed and scored against the criteria by at least two senior NDPCHS academics. Final ranking decisions will be made at a panel meeting to be held on 19 October, with the panel made up of SPCR leads, plus HoD, plus PPI. Funding will be provided to the top-ranked proposals until the funding envelope has been fully allocated, or until no further applications are deemed fundable. Where a project is co-funded by other SPCR departments, the final decision on whether the project will go ahead will be dependent on the outcomes of all contributing departments.

***Funding collaborations.***

There are two different mechanisms for funding collaborators on the FR3 applications, depending on whether the proposed collaboration is with another SPCR member or external to the School.

*Collaborations with other SPCR departments*. Where a collaborator is a member of another SPCR department, that department will be expected to cover the costs incurred by that department, out of their own £200,000 allocation. As each department will have their own decision-making process, and may reach different decisions about which projects to fund, Oxford applicants are advised to negotiate carefully with SPCR collaborators and ensure they understand the process that the collaborator department is following. Oxford applicants should be clear with their collaborators that the final decision on which projects are funded will be made by the NDPCHS Panel.

Where Oxford is the lead on a project, it would be sensible to include in the application the mitigation measures if a collaborator department decides not to fund a project which Oxford agrees to fund. Where an Oxford applicant is a Co-I on an application led from another SPCR department, they should discuss with the lead applicant what the impact of Oxford deciding not to fund that project would be on the overall application, and what the Oxford applicant would do under those circumstances (withdraw from the project, continue unfunded, other).

*Collaborations outside the SPCR.*  The cost of collaborations with people or departments who are not part of the SPCR will be covered from the Oxford allocation of £200,000 but cannot include more 5% FTE of an individual’s time.

***Funding Envelope £200k approx. £150k for lead projects and £50k to support Oxford input into collaborations***

Oxford expects to fund 2 or 3 applications as lead (ie £50-75k Oxford input per project)

Plus a number of applications with Oxford as collaborator (ie £10-15k Oxford input for Oxford costs)

As usual, no one research group will be awarded more than one project or more than 1/3 of the total pot.

**All Applications must use the FR3 form and be submitted by 5pm on 8th October 2021**

***Timelines.***

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| Launch | 01 August 2021 |
| Submit to Oxford internal panel | 8 October 2021 |
| Applications allocated to Oxford panellists | 11 October 2021 |
| Oxford panellists review and score applications | 11 October – 17 October |
| Oxford Panel meets and ranks applications | Week of 18 October |
| Applicants informed of outcome, including panel comments for action prior to submission to SPCR | TBC |
| Final submission of Oxford supported applications to SPCR | 31 October 2021 |
| SPCR Board/Funding Panel meeting to confirm decisions | TBA |
| Awards may start from | 01 January 2022 |
| Awards must end by | 31 December 2025 |
| Project duration | Up to 36 months |