MRC Global Health Funding

Dr David Pan – Challenge Manager for Global Health
OWSD Palestine Chapter Event - 11th June 2020

Agenda

1 MRC and UKRI

2 MRC Global Health Funding

3 GECO Health Research Call

4 Questions
MRC and UKRI brand

Visual identity – where we were
We work with the government to invest over £7 billion a year in research and innovation by partnering with academia and industry to make the impossible, possible. Through the UK’s nine leading academic and industrial funding councils, we create knowledge with impact.
Questions?

MRC Funding
The MRC’s mission is to:
• encourage and support research to improve human health
• produce skilled researchers
• advance and disseminate knowledge and technology to improve the quality of life and economic competitiveness of the UK
• promote dialogue with the public about medical research
MRC Delivery Plan 2019: Priorities

Four foundations
- Investing in people
- Discovery science
- New technologies and infrastructure
- Fostering collaboration

Health Focus Themes
- Prevention and early detection
- Precision medicine
- Multimorbidity
- Advanced therapies
- Mental health
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Global health

Partnerships for health and economic impact
- Work with health departments, NHS and charities to ensure UK achieves full potential
- Support pipeline of academic translation and innovative public-private partnerships
- Influence international research agenda and provide leadership in international partnerships

MRC Global Health Research

Some key points
- Over £100m per year on global health research
- A major focus is infections, but we are increasing our global health scope to include NCDs, cancer, mental health. Cross-cutting issues such as adolescent health, maternal health
- Includes basic discovery science, through to health systems research.
- Increasingly working multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral e.g. GCRF links with AHRC, cross council AMR
- Many of our programmes are run in partnership with other funders – UK and international
**MRC Funding Structure**

AGHRB supports research that will be of direct and primary benefit to the health of vulnerable populations living in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs).

**Applied Global Health Research Board (AGHRB)**

**Remit**

- Applied global health research, e.g., later phase development and testing of intervention strategies, implementation and scale-up research, health economics, research into policy
- Cross-sector research combining expertise (e.g., urban planning, implementation research, NCDs) to meet a global health challenge
- Examples areas in which applied research may be conducted include:
  - Primary, secondary and tertiary prevention
  - Detection and diagnostics
  - mHealth
  - Treatment, including surgery
  - Pain management and palliative care
- Global health research incorporating substantial capacity building activity
- Board opportunities - global maternal and neonatal health, early childhood development, adolescent health, implementation science
Eligibility

• Applications are particularly encouraged from LMIC Principal Investigators (PI's), as well as UK PI's working in equitable partnerships with LMIC investigators

Funding Available

• Resources requested should be commensurate with the objectives of the proposal
• All sizes of applications, including large applications over £1m - and small to medium scale applications will be accepted
• Value for money will be taken into account by the Board when assessing proposals

Submission Process

• 2–stage; outline and (by invitation only) full

AGHRB – Outline Assessment Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>April deadline</th>
<th>October deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outline submission</td>
<td>21 April 2020</td>
<td>6 Oct 2020</td>
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<td>JeS form, 5-page case for support, CVs,</td>
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<td>publications</td>
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<td>Review by Board and College Members</td>
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<td>Outline Decision Meeting</td>
<td>14-16 July 2020</td>
<td>19-21 Jan 2021</td>
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<td>Final decisions on proposal to invite to</td>
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<td>submit a full application</td>
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Joint Electronic Submission System  [https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/](https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/)
AGHRB – Full Assessment process

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<tr>
<th><strong>Full proposals submitted</strong></th>
<th>April deadline</th>
<th>October deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>JeS form, 8-page case for support (12 for trials), CVs, publications, LoS, JoR, ODA compliance statement</td>
<td>6 Oct 2020</td>
<td>7 April 2021</td>
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<th><strong>International peer review</strong></th>
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<td>End Nov 2020</td>
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<th><strong>PI Response to peer review</strong></th>
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<td>19-21 Jan 2021</td>
<td>14-15 Jul 2021</td>
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<th><strong>Board meeting</strong></th>
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<td>Final decision on which proposals to fund</td>
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AGHRB Outline Assessment Criteria

**Scientific Quality**
- Importance of research questions; LMIC needs, prospects for scientific progress, robust/appropriate methods, strength of team, ethics and governance

**Potential Impact**
- Health/economic/societal impact, stakeholder engagement, scale-up etc

**Equity of Partnership**
- UK PIs – intellectual input of LMIC partners, split of funds

**Value for money**
- Commensurate with proposed activities and likely impact of the project

**Capacity building is a key criterion at full stage**
AGHRB Invited Full Assessment Criteria

**Capacity building**
- Have capacity assets, gaps and needs been fully explored across the research project including all relevant stakeholders?
- Have appropriate capacity building activities been embedded within the research proposal?

**Gender Equity**

**ODA Compliance**

**Data Management**

**Role of Industrial Partners**

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**AGHRB Grant Schemes Available**

1) **Research Grants**
- The majority of proposals MRC funds are research grants
- Suitable for focused research projects of up to five years
- Includes a series of closely related and often contingent objectives
- Usually between £400-800k but can exceed this

2) **Programme Grants**
- Larger and renewable funding, normally for five year periods
- Coordinated and coherent group of related projects answering an inter-related set of questions
- Additional assessment criteria – programme, added value, track record
AGHRB Grant Schemes Available

3) Partnership Grants
• Supports novel partnerships between diverse groups of researchers
• Funding provided to establish new, high-value collaborative activities/capabilities:
  o Networking and establishment of consortia
  o Infrastructure support, e.g., staff, systems, equipment, seminars, workshops
  o New research platforms, e.g., data, software, biobanking
  o Training, career development, capacity building
  o Small scale, high-risk pump-priming projects
• Not for supporting large scale research
• Normally only PI and one or two co-investigators will be named on the proposal
• Additional criteria – strategic importance, relative location, appropriateness, sustainability, management arrangements

Notes
• https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/browse/mrc-applied-global-health-research/applied-global-health-research-board/

• We recommend that you contact the office prior to applying to determine fit to remit.
• Please forward a one-page summary of the aims and research plans/methodology of your project to International@mrc.ukri.org where a member of the team will be able to assess whether your application will be suitable for the board.
Global Effort on COVID-19 (GECO) Health Research Call

Research proposals addressing COVID-19 in LMICs

- The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and MRC
- Focused on understanding the pandemic and mitigating its health impacts in LMIC contexts
- The call is based on the WHO Global Research Roadmap and prioritises:
  - Epidemiology
  - Clinical management
  - Infection control
  - Health system responses.
- As well as direct impacts of COVID-19, projects investigating indirect consequences of the pandemic through other health issues such as (but not limited to): mental health, domestic violence, will be considered.

Eligibility

- LMIC PIs, as well as PIs based in the UK working in equitable partnerships with LMIC investigators.
- LMIC Higher Education Institutions and not-for-profit research institutions.
  - Primary headquarters of the submitting organisation must be in one of the LMIC countries where the research will take place.
  - The institution must be legally registered in an LMIC and the Principal Investigator must be employed by the institution that is hosting the research.
- PIs may not be from a commercial organisation or government ministry.

Funding

- Proposals should normally be up to £1m per award (should be commensurate with activities).
# GECO Health Research Call

## Key Dates

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<tr>
<th>Round</th>
<th>Closing date</th>
<th>Panel meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Round 1</td>
<td>12:00 BST*, 22\textsuperscript{nd} June 2020</td>
<td>July 2020 (tbc)</td>
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<td>Round 2</td>
<td>12:00 BST, 10\textsuperscript{th} August 2020</td>
<td>September 2020 (tbc)</td>
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<td>Round 3</td>
<td>12:00 BST, 28\textsuperscript{th} September 2020</td>
<td>October 2020 (tbc)</td>
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*BST British Summer Time

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# Key Links
Open calls

**MRC**
- Applied Global Health Research Board
  [https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/browse/mrc-applied-global-health-research/applied-global-health-research-board/](https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/browse/mrc-applied-global-health-research/applied-global-health-research-board/)
- All MRC funding
  [https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/browse/](https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/browse/)

**COVID-19 in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)**
- DHSC/UKRI Global effort on COVID-19 (GECO) health research call
- UKRI GCRF/Newton Fund Agile Response call to address COVID-19
  [https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/ukri-open-call-for-research-and-innovation-ideas-to-address-covid-19/](https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/ukri-open-call-for-research-and-innovation-ideas-to-address-covid-19/) (only LMIC Pis that have previously led UKRI grants)

Questions?
Thank you

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