Health and Care Research Wales

Clinical Research Time Award 2017

Overview of scheme
1.1 Purpose

The aim of the Clinical Research Time Award is to help NHS employees to achieve their aspirations to become either one or both of the following:

- a Principal Investigator (PI) - leading high-quality research at a local level; or
- a Chief Investigator (CI) - developing and leading high-quality research study at a national or international level.

1.2 Introduction to call

The 2017 Health and Care Research Wales Clinical Research Time Award aims to support research capacity building in NHS Wales by offering any member of NHS staff or NHS contracted staff the opportunity to apply for protected time to engage in research activity and to develop their research skills.

Applications are invited from individuals with a track record of interest and involvement in research who would like to achieve the status of Principal Investigator (PI), act as PI for an increasing number of studies, or become a Chief Investigator, within the next 3 years.

Applicants must:

- meet all eligibility criteria set out in Section 1.4;
- demonstrate the quality of the research activities in which they intend to engage;
- demonstrate a link with a high quality research group such as:
  - a Health and Care Research Wales Centre or Unit;
  - a Centre or Unit funded by a high-quality non-Welsh Government funder such as the Medical Research Council or the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR);
  - a research group that has a proven track record of grant capture from high-quality funders such as the research councils or significant third sector research funders (such as the Wellcome Trust or Cancer Research UK);
- demonstrate clinical need in their proposed area/s of activity and the potential impact and benefit for patients, carers and NHS service users in Wales;
- be in a position to dedicate up to 0.2 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) (1 day) per week to their research activities.

Applicants can apply for protected clinical research time of either 0.1 or 0.2 WTE (1 or 2 sessions a week) for a maximum of 3 years. There is an expectation that successful applicants will, over the course of the award, seek out opportunities to apply for onward research funding to sustain and develop their research activity beyond the award period.
Clinical Research Time Award funding enables NHS organisations to meet the costs of backfilling the clinical time of successful applicants.

This award does not qualify for automatic adoption to the Health and Care Research Wales clinical research portfolio. This is not a research funding scheme. However, applicants may apply for the award and then consider whether any specific funded project on which they wish to work meets portfolio adoption criteria.

Please note:
- This is a one-stage application process and applicants may only submit one application.
- Applicants who have previously been successful in applying to the Clinical Research Time or Clinical Research Assistant Competition are not eligible to apply for further support due to this being a capacity building scheme.
- Applicants who have been unsuccessful in previous Clinical Research Time Award calls are welcome to re-apply.

1.3 What we will fund

We will fund:

- time that allows you to gain experience of participating in, managing or delivering research projects;
- time to allow you to network effectively with research colleagues;
- time to allow you to engage in research development activity, including hypothesis formation, research question prioritisation and bid development work;
- training and development costs associated with the development of research skills;
- travel and subsistence costs incurred by the activities above.

This list is intended to be indicative rather than definitive. Please note we will not pay research costs associated with funded projects. Research costs should be covered by the project funder and not supplemented or replaced by resources from this scheme.

1.4 Eligibility criteria

Applicants must satisfy the following criteria:

- Applicants must be a member of NHS staff or staff contracted to the NHS (doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, allied health professions, clinical scientists, and others) in the NHS in Wales, in either primary care, secondary care, community care or public health.
- Applicants must be in a position to commence activities on or within 3 months of 1st April 2018.
• Applicants must have support of the relevant R&D and Clinical Directors of their employer NHS organisation.
• Applicants must have a named Academic Supervisor(s) affiliated to a high-quality research group.

1.5 Process and timetable

The application window will open **Monday 04 September 2017** with a deadline for submission of **5:00pm on Monday 16 October 2017**. Applications received after the deadline will not be assessed.

Please note: you must inform Health and Care Research Wales of any related applications for funding which, if successful, would affect your availability or need for your Clinical Research Time Award.

Applications will first be assessed for their eligibility by Health and Care Research Wales officials in line with the eligibility criteria.

Applications deemed eligible will then be assessed by a Panel of NHS R&D Directors, Academics, and senior Health and Care Research Wales officials.

The Panel will be chaired by the Director of Health and Care Research Wales and will make funding recommendations to Health and Care Research Wales.

Health and Care Research Wales will make the final funding decision, taking into account available resources. These decisions are final and are not open to appeal.
Final decisions will be announced in December and award letters and contracts issued in January. Unsuccessful applicants will be entitled to request feedback, which will be provided as a courtesy. Please note that Health and Care Research Wales will not be able to enter into any discussions regarding the feedback provided.

1.6 Selection Process

The Panel will assess each application on the following criteria:

- the quality of the individual;
- the quality of the proposed research activities;
- NHS and patient/public need in the areas of specified activity;
- the quality of the research environment and academic collaborators;
- the potential and trajectory of the applicant as a researcher;
- the quality of the academic supervisor;
- the clarity and purpose of post-award plans;
- the support of the relevant R&D Director and host NHS organisation.

The Panel will make recommendations to Health and Care Research Wales on the overall quality of the applications, ranking them in order of quality.

To apply please complete the Clinical Research Time Award application form available from our website: healthandcareresearch.gov.wales.

You should also read and pay close attention to the Clinical Research Time Award ‘Guidance notes for completing the application form’ document, which will also be available on our website.

Contact us

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact us at: Email: healthandcareresearchgrants@wales.gsi.gov.uk

We look forward to receiving your application.