



## **Foundation for Liver Research Small Grant Scheme**

### **Supporting Translational Research in Liver Disease and related Health Impacts**

#### **Background**

The Foundation for Liver Research is a charity, registered in England and Wales (RCN1134579). It was set up in 1974 initially with a remit to support the pioneering work of Professor Roger Williams who established the world leading Institute of Liver Studies at King's College Hospital. The Foundation has funded many ground-breaking areas of work that have led to advances in diagnosis and treatment of patients with liver disease.

The Foundation is launching a new small grants scheme in memory of Professor Roger Williams CBE (1931-2020) and his visionary approach to translational research in liver disease. Throughout his long career, Professor Williams supported innovative thinking and new methodologies and this scheme is aimed at early career researchers who will be the future leaders in the field of liver disease.

#### **First Call for Applications: closing date 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

We are inviting applications from researchers based in the UK – particularly early career researchers – to this new grant scheme. Priority will be given to proposals that target the key clinical priorities of liver disease and to new and developing areas of research investigating the interaction between the liver and other organs. Projects which apply innovative technological approaches and the potential for clinical benefit to patients with liver disease will be considered.

#### **Level of funding**

The Foundation will consider either two awards annually of £20,000 or a single award of £40,000.

#### **Duration of funding**

The award/s will be given annually with an individual project lifetime of 12-24 months.

#### **Applicant eligibility**

Applicants should normally have a MD, PhD or equivalent professional qualification and be based at a UK university or independent research organisation. We encourage applications from researchers up to seven years (FTE) post-PhD.

*Note: this grants scheme is not open to substantive or honorary members of staff of the Roger Williams Institute of Hepatology. The Foundation funds core costs and infrastructure of the Institute of Hepatology and with this grant scheme wishes to support the wider UK hepatology research community.*

### **What will be funded**

The grant scheme is designed to support innovative research ideas and will fund the following types of project:

- Pilot and scoping studies (including multidisciplinary approaches)
- Preliminary data collection
- Proof-of-concept studies

Projects designed to provide pilot data for inclusion as part of a larger grant proposal elsewhere, are particularly encouraged.

Grants may be used to cover the following:

- Salary and laboratory consumables
- Publications costs
- Limited support costs for trial or study participants may be considered (please include any details of co-funders or commercial partners).

### **We will not fund**

Extensions or additions to existing projects, projects which are not relevant to our organisational objectives, course fees, indirect/estates costs, equipment costs (in excess of £3,000) or capital projects.

### **Application process**

Pre-submission enquiries are encouraged and should be directed to Dr Shilpa Chokshi, Acting Director & Chief Scientific Officer of The Roger Williams Institute of Hepatology ([s.chokshi@researchinliver.org.uk](mailto:s.chokshi@researchinliver.org.uk)). Please be aware in preparing your submission that the application review panel will include non-medical/scientific persons and include a 'lay' explanation of technical sections/data where appropriate.

**Proposals are invited for submission by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 using the application form provided: [FLR-Small-Grant-Outline-Application-Form.docx](#)**

The application should also include a two-page CV (for each applicant) and a list of relevant and recent publications (maximum one page of A4).

Applications should be submitted to Natalie Day, Chief Executive, Foundation for Liver Research: [n.day@researchinliver.org.uk](mailto:n.day@researchinliver.org.uk) by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

Proposals will be assessed by the FLR Small Grants Scheme Research Review Committee against the following criteria:

- Potential for clinical benefit to patients with liver disease
- Potential for the proposed research to inform further studies
- Feasibility of proposed project and its likely outcomes
- Track record of applicant(s)
- Value for money
- Relevance to the objectives of the Foundation for Liver Research

Applicants whose outlines are shortlisted by the Committee for further consideration may be contacted for further details. Additional opinions may be sought from external peer reviewers.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Feedback will be provided for all unsuccessful candidates.

### **Successful applications**

Successful applications will be funded from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. The award/s will be given annually but individual projects may run for between 12-24 months. Payments will be made to the grant recipient's host institution quarterly in arrears. Invoices must be accompanied by a detailed breakdown of expenditure.

At the time of the award, we will agree outputs for the project with the grant recipient (eg peer reviewed journal articles). Successful applicants will be required to provide a brief progress report for the IoH/FLR Annual Report and/or a 6 month summary of progress, as well as a final project report within six weeks of the end of the project. These reports should include a summary of progress, outcomes and planned outputs, and future plans. It is hoped that grants will lead to peer-reviewed publications or larger research proposals to other funders.

It is expected that funding by the Foundation for Liver Research will be acknowledged in all published materials and mandatory text for acknowledging the funder will be provided to successful applicants.

Website of the Foundation for Liver Research and the Roger Williams Institute of Hepatology:

[www.liver-research.org.uk](http://www.liver-research.org.uk)

Foundation for Liver Research, RCN 1134579