Antimicrobial Target Discovery and Validation

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3rd October 2017
1. **What is the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)?**

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a new 5-year £1.5 billion resource funding stream, announced as part of the 2015 Spending Review, to ensure that UK research plays a key role in addressing global challenges and issues faced by developing countries. The GCRF demonstrates the UK government’s pledge to allocate 0.7% of Gross National Income to ODA. The remit of GCRF spans across multiple disciplines including social, biological, the environment and health. Therefore, the GCRF investment is of high relevance to all seven Research Councils, who are the primary partners to deliver the Fund. For more information, please see the RCUK GCRF webpage.

2. **What is Official Development Assistance (ODA)?**

ODA is an international definition owned by the OECD and is not only a RCUK or UK government term: The OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) defines Official Development Assistance (ODA) as “flows to countries and territories” which are on the DAC’s list of ODA recipients, provided by official agencies to promote the economic development and welfare of countries on the list. It is expected that funding streams eligible for allocation from the UK’s ODA budget should demonstrate how aims to contribute to aims to reduce poverty and increase sustainable development is required. ODA is highly relevant to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to which 17 goals have been described as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including zero hunger and good health and well-being.

3. **How do I meet the ODA criteria for the Call?**

Generic guidance cannot be provided; you will need to demonstrate that the primary purpose of your project is to improve the health and prosperity of the LMIC(s).


4. **Can my research also benefit the UK?**

Yes, we expect that the research will also benefit the UK, in terms of the wider impacts such as new scientific knowledge, publications and training etc, however, LMICs should be the primary beneficiaries.

5. **Who is eligible to apply?**

The Principal Investigator must be a researcher from an eligible UK Research Organisation. Co-Investigators on the application can include overseas Co-investigators from LMICs.

6. **Is my UK institution eligible?**

Eligible organisations fall into three categories:

- UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
- Research Council Institutes and Units
- Independent research organisations (IROs)

The normal MRC eligibility rules apply; please see the MRC guidance for applicants and the Research Councils UK website.

7. **Is there a limit to the number of applications I can submit?**

Individuals may be the Principal Investigator on only one application, but may act as a Co-Investigator on any number of applications. However, please note that the assessment will
consider the level of engagement of Principle Investigators and Co-Investigators with the research and their capacity to meet these requirements.

8. Can MRC units and institutes apply under this initiative?
MRC units and institutes are eligible to apply – please contact the Office for further guidance.

9. Can I submit research which has previously been submitted to an MRC Research Board or Panel and was not funded?
Applications previously declined by the MRC or another Research Council will not be considered by the MRC within 12 months (from the date of submission to the original Research Council, as either an outline, Expression of Interest or full application) unless substantially revised.

10. Are there any scientific areas that are outside the remit of this initiative?
The following are out of remit for this initiative:

- Full translational programmes developing or evaluating new antimicrobial interventions (see the MRC DPFS scheme)
- Research that is not directly applicable to the health of LMICs.
- Viral, fungal and parasitic resistance. The current focus of this call is on resistant bacteria of humans and animals but we acknowledge antimicrobial issues in other classes of pathogens are important.
- Applications solely limited to screening chemical libraries.

11. If my application doesn’t fit the call remit, what options do I have?
If your application does not fit the remit of this initiative, but is within the broader sphere of MRC interest, then you may apply via other normal funding mechanisms. Please see ‘Funding Opportunities’ for more information.

12. How much funding is available under this initiative?
Up to £4M is available under this initiative. It is expected that between 2 and 4 proposals will be supported with funding in the range of £1-2 million per award.

13. What is the expected duration of the grants under this initiative?
Depending on the nature of the research it is expected that most grants would be between 2-3 years.

14. What start date/when will funds be available from?
Grants are expected to start as early as possible and by 1 July 2018 at the latest.

15. Will the application attract full economic costs (FEC)?
The proposals should be costed on the basis of the full economic costs (FEC) necessary to deliver the research. If a grant is awarded, the MRC will typically fund 80 per cent of the FEC and the RO(s) must agree to find the balance of FEC from other resources. The MRC will fund 100% of costs incurred by overseas organisations, including salary costs and contribution towards indirect and estates costs where the research is being undertaken in a developing country (see Guidance for applicants 3.3 Overseas Costs)

16. When will the awards be announced?
Awards will be announced in March 2018 following the Panel meeting.
17. How do I apply?
EOIs must be submitted using the EOI form to DPFS&DCS@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk. All full applications must be submitted using the Research Councils’ Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System (https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/). Applicants should refer to the general guidance for applicants (on Je-S Help) and MRC standard terms and conditions.

18. Is there an Expression of Interest or Outline stage?
All applicants must submit an EOI application via email to DPFS&DCS@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk. Please refer to the initiative guidance for further information on submission of an EOI.

19. When is the deadline for submission of the EOIs?
The deadline for EOI applications is 4pm on Friday 3rd November 2017. Applicants must submit their proposals using the MRC-AMR TDV Expression of Interest form via email to DPFS&DCS@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk by 4pm on deadline date. Please bear in mind that all proposals have to be submitted via your Research Organisation’s Administrative department. Please ensure they have sufficient time to complete their parts of the proposal before the MRC deadline date.

20. What is the page limit for the case for support?
EOIs must be submitted using the EOI Form using Arial 11pt typeface.

21. Can I create my own case for support document as I would for a normal research grant?
No, only applications that use the EOI application form will be accepted.

22. Can I include annexes in my application?
Applicants may only include the attachments, as separate documents, outlined in the Guidance document.

23. What happens if my application is received after the deadline?
Any proposals received after the deadline will not be eligible for this call and will be declined.

24. How are proposals assessed?
EOIs will be assessed based on:
- Fit to AMR TDV remit
- Fit with the principles of overseas development assistance and delivery of short or long term health and wealth to LMICs
- Strength of scientific rationale
- Strategy and novelty of the research approach
- Quality and skills of the research teams
- Potential outputs and downstream development plans (following on from the grant)

If successful at EOI stage, applicants will submit full proposals which will be sent out for international peer review and assessed by an independent review panel convened by MRC. This panel will make the final funding decisions. Full proposals will be assessed on the standard criteria for an MRC research grant.
25. Will I need to complete a MICA form?
   MICA forms will not need to be completed for the EOI stage. If an industrial partner is collaborating on the grant applicants will need to submit a MICA and signed Heads of terms with the full application. Please refer to the additional guidance for submitting MICA proposals.

26. How will you let me know if my application has been successful?
   The Principal Investigator will be notified of the decision by email communication.

27. Will you publish a list of the awards that are made?
   Following the funding decisions a list of awards will be made available on Gateway to Research.

28. If my query is not answered by the FAQ's, or I have a scientific query regarding my application, who do I contact?
   For scientific queries please email DPFS&DCS@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk