Strategic Priority Fund
UKRI-NIHR call ‘Tackling multimorbidity at scale’
Advancing research into multimorbidity
Multimorbidity in the UK population: understanding disease clustering 2018 call

**Funds:** £3m

**Awards:** up to £600k and 36 months in duration

**Funded:**

- Methodology for cluster detection and analysis
- Depression and physical multimorbidity accrual, longitudinal
- Mechanisms and consequences of depression-related multimorbidity
- Multimorbidity burden – ML approach to discover clusters with poor outcomes
- Clusters, trajectories and risks in British South Asians
Lessons learnt from the pump-priming call

• Importance of making sure that the multimorbidity focus is clear. Some projects were either too focused on one primary condition or were more in the co-morbidity space

• Operationalising multimorbidity – defining and measuring multimorbidity is difficult, but projects need to be clear about the approach they are taking

• Considering and outlining the pathway to patient impact – but in a realistic way

• Avoid duplicating efforts of other groups

• Methodological issues: statistical design, power, difficulty capturing longitudinal aspects, data source-specific clustering and use of appropriate data sources, linkage and sufficient scale
Strategic Priorities Fund call
Tackling multimorbidity at scale: Understanding disease clusters, determinants & biological pathways

What is available
• £20m
• Funded jointly by the UKRI through SPF and DHSC through NIHR

Objectives
• To support national multimorbidity research at scale through a portfolio of several Research Collaborative
• Attract new teams and individuals
• Make relevant datasets available to the wider research community
Call expectations

• Team science
• Holistic approach
• Complex multimorbidity
• Beyond purely observational or association studies when looking at underlying mechanisms and pathways
• Pathway to patient benefit/impact should be considered
• Real world application of evidence needs to account for wider factors and health inequalities
• Data made available
Two-stream staged competition

- Launch: 11 November 2019
- Closing date stage 1: 11 February 2020
- Funding decision on Consolidator grants and Research Collaborative award outlines: March 2020 (TBC)
- Funding decision on the 1st wave of Research Collaborative awards: Summer 2020 (TBC)
- Funding decision on the 2nd wave of Research Collaborative awards: Early 2021 (TBC)

Timeline:

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- a) Research Collaborative outline → Research Collaborative full application
- b) Consolidator grant (up to £100k for 6 months) → Research Collaborative full application
Call FAQ document updated

Tackling multimorbidity at scale: Understanding disease clusters, determinants & biological pathways

Questions and Answers

1. Call Remit and General Questions

1.1 Are chronic infections or diseases with infectious triggers within the scope of the call?

Yes, we welcome a broad spectrum of applications including research looking into multimorbidity which may include chronic infections or conditions triggered by infectious agents. These are within the scope of this call.

1.2 Does the work supported through this call have to be conducted in a UK population or can the research pertain to an overseas population be considered?

While we ask the PI to be based in the UK, the initiative is not restricted to the UK resources. It may be appropriate to involve International participants in collaborations where they could add significant value to the proposal e.g. unique expertise or infrastructure required to achieve the objectives of the study. The work done in other populations – based both in low- and middle-income settings and in high-income countries - will be eligible as long as it benefits better understanding of multimorbidity,
MRC delivery plan 2019: priorities
Wider engagement work

- Cross-funder working group: multimorbidity resource ([https://acmedsci.ac.uk/policy/policy-projects/multimorbidity-helpful-resources](https://acmedsci.ac.uk/policy/policy-projects/multimorbidity-helpful-resources))
- Funders research *framework* working document developed in collaboration with wider medical charities
For queries please contact:
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