

COMPETITION BRIEF

Seedcorn Competition 2021

NIHR Brain Injury MedTech Co-operative

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Summary

The National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Brain Injury MedTech Co-operative is delighted to launch the Seedcorn Competition 2021. The NIHR Brain Injury MedTech Co-operative is funded by the NIHR Clinical Research Infrastructure under the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) scheme for NIHR Medtech and In vitro diagnostic Co-operatives (MICs).

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/partners-and-industry/industry/access-to-expertise/medtech.htm>

Applications are invited for funding of up to £10,000 to support early development of novel technology-based solutions applicable to the brain injury pathway, from prevention through to long term rehabilitation, that include Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE).

Scope

As part of the award process, the NIHR stipulates that there should be an element of collaboration with the MIC in supported projects. This should be either or both, generic advice on the innovation pathway leading to NHS adoption or, scientific advice specific to the project by an individual clinician and/or basic scientist.

Applications will be expected to describe how a) they will meet and expand on unmet clinical need and b) if successful how the hurdle of NHS adoption will be approached.

Eligibility

Novel proposals are invited that are led by academic institutions, NHS Trusts, Third Sector organisations and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME's). Collaborations and partnerships across sectors are encouraged. Preference will be given to collaborative projects that have a near term clinical impact or the potential to secure further substantial funding after proof of principle has been established.

Application Form

- In order to obtain the application form please send an expression of interest (EOI) to info@brainmic.org and include the following details for the lead applicant:
 - ⇒ Full Name
 - ⇒ Role
 - ⇒ Organisation
 - ⇒ Title & Field of Study
- Please adhere to the page restrictions and font type (no smaller than 10pt Arial or Lato).
- Electronic confirmation signature from principal applicant is required.

Ethics and Governance Framework

All projects must be delivered in accordance with the following where appropriate:

1. *UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research (NHS Health Research Authority)*

<https://www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/policies-standards-legislation/uk-policy-framework-health-social-care-research/>

2. *The Concordat to support Research Integrity*

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2019/the-concordat-to-support-research-integrity.pdf#search=research%20integrity%20pdf>

3. *Governance Arrangements for Research Ethics Committees (GAfREC)*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-research-ethics-committees-governance-arrangements>

Data

Subject to the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) legislation, the NIHR reserves the right to have access to and use the data compiled during the course of the research and will respect existing guidance on confidentiality of any data it receives.

Confidentiality

Where applicable, a non-disclosure agreement and/or a collaboration agreement will be discussed and agreed with the principal applicant upon project kick-off.

Terms

Any successful applicants will need to accept the terms set out the award letter. This will include a summary of key contract terms that will flow down from the NIHR.

Intellectual Property

The NIHR have provided a helpful FAQ's document which details the central policy regarding IP:

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/researchers/manage-your-funding/manage-your-project/intellectual-property.htm>

Publication

All projects are to adhere to the NIHR policy: 'Announcements of NIHR funded or supported research'. It is a requirement of NIHR funding in general that the principal applicant must notify the NIHR Brain Injury MIC at least 14 days prior to any public announcements including presentations at conferences or publication of any project-related papers, this obligation continues after the end of the research period. A standard NIHR-MIC acknowledgement should be included in all affiliated publications.

Competition Timelines

Competition Opens (Registration)	22 November 2021 at 1pm
Deadline for Applications	24 January 2022 at 1pm
Notification of Decision	14 March 2022
Project Kick-off	28 March 2022

** Please allow enough time for submission*

All applications will be notified by email as to whether they have been unsuccessful or have progressed through the shortlisting stage no later than 18 February 2022.

Competition Process

The initial registration/expression of interest should be sent electronically to info@brainmic.org. Once registered, applicants will receive an application form.

Final submission should be sent electronically to info@brainmic.org, in line with the requirements set out in this document.

Following submission, any shortlisted applications will undergo peer review through an independent expert panel. Decisions and feedback from the evaluation panel will be sent to principal applicants anonymously. The award letter will set out our project requirements and will be circulated on 14 March 2022.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Life Sciences Industrial Strategy:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/650447/LifeSciencesIndustrialStrategy_acc2.pdf

NIHR Briefing on MedTech and In vitro diagnostic Co-operative's (MICs):

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/newly-funded-nihr-medtech-and-in-vitro-diagnostic-co-operatives-announced/12286>

NHS Long Term Plan

<https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk>

Neurological Alliance - The long term plan for the NHS: Getting it right for neurology patients

<https://www.neural.org.uk/assets/pdfs/2018-08-long-term-plan-for-nhs.pdf>

NIHR Brain Injury MIC's Unmet Needs Directory

<http://www.brainmic.nihr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/UNMET-NEED-DIRECTORY-Brochure.pdf>

More Information: Please contact the MIC core team at info@brainmic.org