**Research & Innovation Catalyst**

**Research Pump Priming Award – up to £7,500**

**Research Skills Development Award – up to £1,500**

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY 28th JANUARY 2022**

**GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS**

EKHUFT Research and Innovation and Clinical Trials Unit are calling on EKHUFT researchers to put forward proposals for 2 new funding streams to support small-scale projects leading to high-quality, ambitious, innovative and collaborative research. We particularly welcome applications which give consideration to collaborating with external healthcare or academic partners.

**Research Pump Priming Award – up to £7,500**

This award is will support small-scale research and innovation projects, and develop new collaborations that will generate novel clinical research ideas. By supporting early stage projects, we hope to increase home-grown research capacity and to facilitate the collection of pilot data to allow a high-quality competitive grant application to a research funding body. The funding of up to £7,500 should allow a twelve-month programme of research activity to 'pump prime' individuals, collaborations or ideas. This **m**ay include (but not limited to) one of the following activities:

* *Pilot or feasibility data collection*

Awards applying to collect preliminary study data, must have a clearly defined research question; an evidence-based rationale and knowledge gap that the work will fill; clear anticipated benefit and impact on improving care for patients; scientifically robust methods and analysis; and a plan for the future direction of the work, including potential funding streams.

* *Develop collaborative opportunities*

Awards applying to develop collaborations, must demonstrate that the collaboration is a new collaboration and not an extension of an existing collaboration; there is a clear rationale on why the collaboration is needed and will lead to new clinical research proposals; appropriate methods to support development of the collaboration; and a plan to take forward the ideas generated by the collaboration to external grant funding to pursue a research project, including potential funding streams.

**Research Skills Development Award – up to £1,500**

This award will support individuals who are working towards developing their own research skills and projects with the aim of influencing changes in practice and benefits for patients. By supporting individuals at an early stage of

idea development, we hope to increase the support available for researchers to commit to developing and establishing their own research ideas or career. The funding of up to £1,500 should allow a six-month programme of skills development in research which includes one of the following activities:

* *Support the development of a research project or application for funding or further research training*

Awards applying to develop skills to take forward a research idea, must clearly identify the skills needed, when and how they will be obtained; and how might building these skills benefit the applicant’s career and organisation.

Awards applying to develop skills in research with the intention of applying for national research opportunities, must specify what award the applicant will be applying to and how the activities proposed will help achieve the submission.

* *Build skills in evidence synthesis with the intention of informing your local service delivery*

Awards applying to conduct an evidence synthesis, must clearly describe the approach, research question, methodology and dissemination plans, ideally using a PICO format to structure the approach.

* *Internship*

Work with an existing PI or research team to enhance skills in conducting and delivering a study at a local level. Awards must clearly identify a study and or research team that will align with the applicants’ research skills development and likely to aid recruitment to the identified study

**How to submit your application?**

If you would like to apply for one of these funding awards, please complete the application form, outlining your proposal in 300 words. Selected applications will then be invited to ‘pitch’ their proposal to the Catalyst panel. The ‘pitch’ will take a similar format to BBC TV’s ‘Dragon’s Den’ and will be of **up to 15 minutes duration followed by 15 minutes for the Panel to ask questions**. Decisions to fund will be made on the night once all pitches have been made.

Applicants must be an EKHUFT staff member seeking support to develop a health-related research project, and must not be in receipt of any external funding for a research project as project lead.

**THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION TO BOTH FUNDING STREAMS IS FRIDAY 28TH JANUARY 2022.**

Please submit applications by email to Jill Baker [jillian.baker@nhs.net](mailto:jillian.baker@nhs.net).

If you have any questions on project ideas, the application process and collaborations, please contact Jane Povey [jane.povey2@nhs.net](mailto:jane.povey2@nhs.net).

**All applicants are advised to make themselves available from 5.30 pm on Thursday 10th February 2022. We will give shortlisted applicants at least one weeks’ notice to prepare their pitch**.

**EKHUFT R&I Catalyst Application Form**

This form should be completed, signed, scanned and returned, by email to Jill Baker [jillian.baker@nhs.net](mailto:jillian.baker@nhs.net) **no later** than 17:00pm Friday 28th January 2022.

**Which award are you applying for?**

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| Research Pump Priming Award |  |
| Research Skills Development Award |  |

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| **Your name:** |
| **Your ward/department, site and EKHUFT division:** |
| **Your email address:** |
| **Your contact mobile number (mandatory):** |
| **The title of your pitch:** |
| **A brief description of your pitch: 300 words** |
| **How will the money received be spent?** (outline briefly the proposed expenditure plans) |
| **Declaration**  In signing this application, I confirm that I am employed by East Kent Hospital University Foundation Trust. I also confirm that, if successful, I will abide by all relevant Trust policies and procedures in particular those pertaining to conduct of research in accordance with ICH GCP and DH Research Governance Framework and the Trust’s Innovation/IPR policy, and that the work entailed in this award will begin within 3 months of notification of a successful award.  Signed:  Name:  Date: |