

Grant Application Information

Thank you for your interest in Mesothelioma UK funding

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1. Introduction

The UK has the highest incidence of mesothelioma in the world with around 2,700 people diagnosed each year. Mesothelioma is a cancer related to exposure to asbestos and predominantly affects the lining of the lungs.

Although we are seeing some improvements in treatments and the care of patients diagnosed with mesothelioma much more can be achieved. **There is an unacceptable variation in access to specialist treatment, care, and clinical trials.**

Mesothelioma UK is an established, well respected charity growing year on year. We are central to the UK and global mesothelioma community providing specialist resource specifically for the asbestos-related cancer mesothelioma.

The charity is dedicated to providing specialist mesothelioma information, support and education to improve the care, treatment and outcomes for all UK patients diagnosed with mesothelioma and their carers.

Mesothelioma UK is committed to supporting research in all aspects of care and treatments related to mesothelioma.

Our mission is to fund world-class research which is scientific and relevant to mesothelioma. Our aim is to increase the amount of income available to support research and audit dedicated to make a significant impact on mesothelioma treatment and care, outcomes and patient experiences.

Key Research Objectives

1. Mesothelioma UK will seek to increase the money available for audit and research each year and pledges to spend a third of its annual income on audit and research.
2. For Mesothelioma UK to be recognised as a credible and significant funder of mesothelioma audit and research.
3. To fund audit and research that is relevant and in tune with scientific and generic cancer research progress, service development and patient and carer need.
4. Mesothelioma UK will ensure all audit and research funded is disseminated rigorously to ensure practice, patients and healthcare providers remain informed and receive maximum benefit from any evidence generate.

This information will help you understand the kind of projects that Mesothelioma UK funds, the peer review process and grant management procedures. Terms and Conditions are available to download from our website or you can contact Mesothelioma UK to request a copy. Completion of an application means full acceptance of these terms and conditions.

2. Awards

Awards are provided for grants to universities, medical schools/and research institutes within the UK and Northern Ireland. If a contract researcher wants to apply for funding on their own merit they will be considered if they have a proven track record and are willing to work alongside a UK or Northern Ireland university or research institute.

Grants will be made in support of the research project including salaries, minor equipment and consumables costs. Mesothelioma UK will not directly employ staff.

Funding awarded may be from Mesothelioma UK or fully/co-funded by a partner charity. Mesothelioma UK will lead on the application and grant awarding process upholding the core principles of peer review.

3. Submission Information and Research Themes

Please refer to [Mesothelioma UK website](#) for grant application submission deadlines and research themes.

4. Assessment & Peer Review Process

Mesothelioma UK will only undertake the funding of research that has been peer reviewed, through its Research & Audit Scientific Committee (RASC) process.

The RASC and External Reviewers will assess each application in the following areas:

- Potential impact
- Innovative research question
- Quality of methods
- Achievability in the timeline

Applications for funding should be based on actual expenditure and all figures should be entered in GBP (£ Sterling). Invoices will be paid in GBP (£ Sterling).

Mesothelioma UK reviews grant applications in stages. Peer review is only applicable once an application has progressed to stage 1.

Initial applications, assessed by Mesothelioma UK, are based on eligibility, strategic fit and completeness of the application.

Those applications deemed unsuitable for Mesothelioma UK support after the initial assessment will not be sent out for external review and will therefore not be considered for funding. You will be notified of this decision. You will receive anonymised feedback.

Stage 1 All outline applications will be assessed by the RASC as follows: -

- A pdf of each outline application will be sent out to the RASC who will review and score.
- The applications will then be ranked.
- The RASC will then meet to discuss each application ranked from highest to lowest and will decide (based on the rankings) which applications they want to put through to Stage 2.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be advised, and successful applicants will be asked to submit a full application

Stage 2 Each full application received will be assigned to 3 reviewers as follows:

- Under £27,000: 1 lay reviewer, 1 clinical reviewer from the RASC (lead reviewer) and either 1 further clinical reviewer from the RASC or an external reviewer. (Whether to include an external reviewer for grants under £27,000 is at the discretion of the RASC.)
- Over £27,000: 1 lay reviewer, 1 clinical reviewer from RASC (lead reviewer) and 1 external reviewer.

5. Governance

Those that the RASC deem suitable to be funded are then recommended to the Board of Trustees who make the final decision as to whether or not the charity should fund the project.

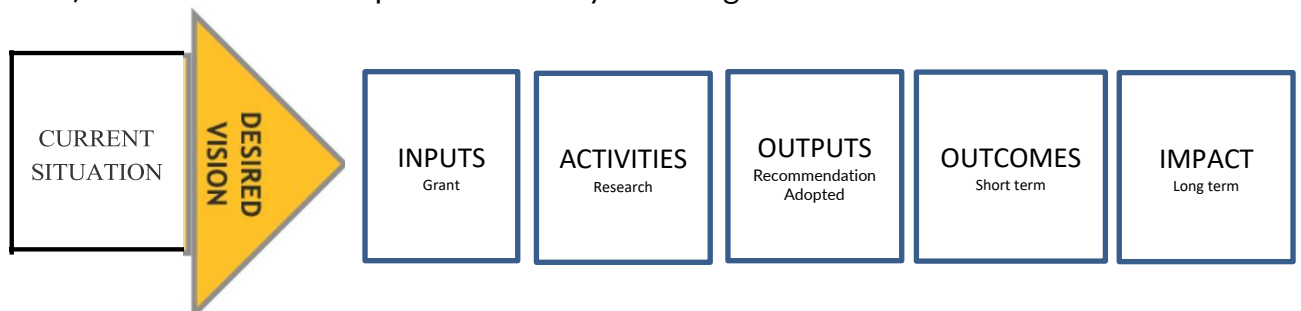
Please note that the charity will not enter into any discussion regarding this process and that the decision taken by the Board of Trustees is final.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome in writing.

6. Monitoring, Engagement & Impact

All researchers funded by Mesothelioma UK will agree to:

- Adhere to the monitoring framework (Appendix 1)
- Consider the concept of the Theory of Change



- Provide an outline of plans for engagement, communication and dissemination of research. This should include potential impacts for academic and non-

academic users. Examples of the information required are shown in the table below: -

AUDIENCE	TOOLS AND CHANNELS
Scientific community Clinical and public health community	Project leaflet, video and infographics Website and social media Scientific publications and presentations (<i>Mesothelioma UK maintains a library of all publications resulting from research funded by them. Electronic copies of abstracts and all published papers (acknowledging the support of Mesothelioma UK) must be sent to research@mesothelioma.uk.com. We reserve the right to request this information for up to 2 years following completion of the project</i>) Webinars, courses
Mesothelioma UK	CNS' training events Webinars Website, social media and infographics Meso Matters Magazine
Policy makers Local, National, Regional and International bodies	Project leaflet, video and infographics Website and social media Events Policy briefs
General Public	Website, social media and infographics Scientific education
Journalists	Website, social media and infographics Press releases

d) Provide an impact summary detailing the potential impact of the work and the steps taken to achieve this. Consider the wider definition of impact and how as a charity Mesothelioma UK measure it. Consider what the project will do to: -

- Generate new and novel ideas
- Translate research into new ideas and services
- Create evidence that could influence policy and stakeholders
- Develop the human capacity to do research
- Stimulate further research via new funding partnerships

e) Consider the pathway which would need to be taken to ensure that the research benefits patients. Describe the additional steps and resources which would be needed

Please make reference to the following:

- Innovation in therapeutic discovery and development
- Addressing an unmet need in cancer healthcare, or offer a new solution to a problem
- Translation of fundamental discoveries into improvements in mesothelioma outcomes

- Translate basic science discoveries quickly and effectively into practice e.g., product, technology or intervention
- Developing a product, technology or intervention which can be moved towards application in a patient setting

7. Publication, Conferences and Associated Travel

The recipient may include in its application form up to a maximum of £1,500 towards publication in a peer reviewed journal and travel to conferences within the budget as the recipient sees fit.

8. Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC)

Mesothelioma UK are proud to be members of the [Association of Medical Research Charities](#) (AMRC), which helps to ensure that we fund the best research. The AMRC has assessed our research funding processes and regularly carries out a full audit. Training and networking through the AMRC also helps to maximise the impact of our research and fosters collaborations that deliver benefits to patients sooner.

9. AMRC Open Research Platform

The AMRC offer a rapid & transparent [publishing platform](#) for author-led publication and open peer review of research funded by AMRC member charities.

10. National Institute of Health Research (NIHR)

Mesothelioma UK is a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) non-commercial Partner. This means the studies that we fund may be eligible to access the NIHR study Support Service which is provided by the NIHR Clinical Research Network.

If your study will be of benefit to patients and the NHS, (this includes relevant research in public health and social care) we expect you to apply, where appropriate, for NIHR Clinical Research Network support, and subsequent inclusion in the NIHR Clinical Research Network Portfolio of studies. This will allow you to fully benefit from the support offered through the NIHR Study Support Service. To find out more, please visit www.nihr.ac.uk/study-support-service

If your study involves NHS sites in England you will need to apply for Health Research Authority Approval. For guidance on submitting an application please visit: www.hra.nhs.uk.

11. Restrictions

Mesothelioma UK will not accept:

- applications for consumables or running costs only
- applications that do not comply with international regulations
- applications from a Commercial Entity

- applications from Outside the UK and Northern Ireland
- research that is not mesothelioma cancer specific
- does not fit with research criteria
- research has already been completed in this area
- has little or no potential impact on patients diagnosed with mesothelioma or their families
- the proposal project does not have the ability to change opinion or practice
- is not felt to be innovative/creative
- does not represent 'Value for Money'
- proposals which consist solely of evaluations of existing health services
- the stated impacts/outcomes do not occur within the period of the project funding
- applications that do not follow the [World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki](#) and the [Guidelines for Good Clinical Practice](#)

12. Applications for Projects taking place within the NHS

The RASC will consider applications for research that will take place within the NHS. Should the research become part of a National Cancer Research Network (NCRN) clinical trial Mesothelioma UK will fund the research but will not act as a sponsor.

13. Equipment Grants

The RASC will not normally consider applications for equipment only. Under exceptional circumstances funding for large pieces of equipment may be considered within a project grant application where there is overwhelming evidence that Mesothelioma UK funding was required, the project could not proceed without it being in place, and that the equipment would be solely used for mesothelioma cancer research.

Full justification for the equipment request is required and must be included in the research proposal.

14. Grant Extensions

If a researcher, employed through a Mesothelioma UK funded grant leaves their role, we will agree to put the grant into abeyance for a period of up to 12 months. If the position is not filled within this time funding may be withdrawn, and a request made for the grant to be resubmitted in a competitive grant round.

In other exceptional circumstances a request for a grant extension will be considered.

A letter will be sent to the grant holder, and the finance and research and development departments, requesting an update on the grant at three monthly intervals. Failure to respond to these letters will also risk withdrawal of funding.

15. Publicity

It is important for the charity to raise its profile where appropriate; Mesothelioma UK supports and encourages the researcher to promote their Mesothelioma UK funded work with the media but strictly in consultation with the charity's Communications department.

Mesothelioma UK Communications department will contact the researcher when appropriate to help respond to relevant media enquiries and PR initiatives about the charity's work.

Mesothelioma UK communication department will draft a press release regarding the award, to national and local media. Further press releases regarding the award will be issued, as appropriate. Any media work undertaken by Mesothelioma UK, regarding the award, will be carried out with the full involvement of the grant holder.

Mesothelioma UK will invite grant holders and researchers to attend a variety of charity meetings and receptions in order to present Mesothelioma UK funded work. All reasonable travel expenses will be paid.

Mesothelioma UK may undertake to visit grant holders during the course of the grant, to which the charity may invite the local MP, Mesothelioma UK staff, trustees, RASC, fundraisers, spokespeople and supporters.

16. Patient Involvement in Research

Patient involvement is important to Mesothelioma UK. All applications should demonstrate active engagement of Patient & Public Involvement (PPI) principles and processes in all stages of the research from planning through to dissemination.

17. Submitting your Application Form

Applications should be saved with a file name in the same format, for example, Date/Project/Name.

Please email a copy of the application form in MS Word format along with any supporting documents to research@mesothelioma.uk.com

18. Data Protection

If you apply for research funding, we will collect store and use information necessary to process your application.

For further information please see our [privacy policy](#).

Appendix 1

Monitoring, Engagement & Impact Framework

Monitoring

Each grant recipient will be expected to complete progress reports during their research grant project as follows:

2/3 Year Project

6-month report to confirm that the project has commenced and is on track and if not, reasons why

Annual report to confirm whether there have been any major changes to the project, a summary of the project progress, budget changes and any dissemination of results

End of project report to be submitted on completion of the project detailing the study findings, dissemination of publications and potential impact of the project

1 Year Project

6-month report to confirm that the project has commenced and is on track and if not, reasons why

End of project report to be submitted on completion of the project detailing the study findings, dissemination of publications and potential impact of the project

6 Month Project

End of project report to be submitted on completion of the project detailing the study findings, dissemination of publications and potential impact of the project