

# **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.

All researchers funded by Mesothelioma UK will agree:

- To a monitoring framework including interim reports
- To having results / outcomes available within the time frame of the project funding
- To acknowledge Mesothelioma UK on all publications
- To present results at Mesothelioma research events
- To engage with Mesothelioma UK on communication, of the research project and its findings

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).

## 3. Submission Information and Research Themes

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

## 4. 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.

The charity will require (on demand) a summary report of the outcomes of all conferences attended by the recipient, the principal investigator(s) and / or participant(s) for or in connection with the study.

#### **5. 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.

#### **6. 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.

#### **7. 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](http://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](http://www.hra.nhs.uk).

#### **8. 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

## **9. 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.

## **10. 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.

## **11. Grant Extensions**

If a researcher employed on a Mesothelioma UK funded grant leaves, 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 also 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.

## **12. Assessment and Peer Review Process**

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.

### 13. 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.

### 14. Reports and Publications

Mesothelioma UK maintains a library of all publications resulting for 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](mailto:research@mesothelioma.uk.com)

## **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](mailto:research@mesothelioma.uk.com)