

NIHR Imperial Biomedical Research Centre (BRC)

CALL FOR Digital Health Theme PILOT PROJECTS

Deadline: Midday, Friday 9th February 2024 by email to imperial.dcs@nhs.net

The NIHR Imperial BRC Digital Health Theme has funding available to support small pilot projects, up to £50,000 that align to the Themes Core Objectives.

1. Scope and Criteria

Proposals will be assessed against the following key criteria:

- Will the proposed work help deliver clinical and biomedical research that meets the Digital Health Theme objectives?

Translational Data Analytics - will ensure that front-line healthcare staff have the information needed to provide high-quality and safe care at the point of clinical decision-making (Clinical Decision Support)

AI Testbed for Digital Health - for safe, effective and ethical adoption of AI-driven technologies in health and social care. It will enable the development of computational innovations in a real-world setting and evaluate the safety and effectiveness of AI innovations.

Real-World Evidence - will develop new approaches to increasing the efficiency of clinical trials, improve recruitment in under-represented population groups, evaluate real-world adoption of interventions, and inform complex healthcare delivery problems whilst supporting local/national evidence-based delivery of health and social care.

- Are the financial expenditure plans achievable within the time period?
- Does the proposal provide evidence for operational readiness (e.g. ethics, consents, samples, staff in place) so that expenditure can begin immediately?
- What outcomes will be delivered as a result of this funding?

Additional criteria that will be considered:

- Proposals should be scientifically sound and innovative.
- Proposals should be aligned to one or more of the Theme's objectives.
- Proposals should aim to deliver benefits to the NHS and its patients.
- Plans should be sufficiently realistic and detailed to deliver the proposed outputs.
- Are there any risks to delivery and how have these been mitigated?
- Track record and performance in acknowledging the BRC in prior publications.
- Cross-BRC Theme and cross-Department/Faculty engagement is encouraged.
- Will the work lead to leveraged funding.
- Lay language when answering questions 6,7 and 8 as these questions will be scored by theme Community Partners. Each question will be scored between 1-5.

2. Project Costings

- Proposals costs should be developed using WorkTribe. Depts should select internal Scheme and costings will need to have been agreed in outline by the relevant Department (an e-mail signifying this will suffice).
- The WorkTribe record should be attached to your application.
- Budgets need to be broken down into financial years (April-March)
- Applicants are reminded to consider and include any costs that may need to be incurred within ICHT to deliver proposals (particularly around the use of the iCARE Secure Data Environment).
- We ask applicants to be mindful of considering PPIE activity as part of their projects and therefore consider any associated costs, if applicable. See NIHR's payment guidance here: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/payment-guidance-for-researchers-and-professionals/27392>
- Projects will be funded for a maximum of 18 months starting no later than 1st April 2024
- Any salary costs requested should not duplicate resources already provided for by the BRC
- New posts are unlikely to be recruited in time to deliver significant value and therefore will not be supported.
- Eligible costs may include salary support and consumables. Animal costs and equipment costing more than £5K are ineligible.
- These awards will not support any estate costs, indirect costs or PI time.
- Projects must adhere to all BRC contractual terms and conditions.
- External collaboration and the use of external samples and datasets are permitted. However, all expenditure must be incurred within the Imperial BRC (College or ICHT).

3. Eligibility

Any clinical or academic member of staff with an employment contract with either Imperial College London or Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust may apply. In summary:

- College substantive employee who has a clinical affiliation with ICHT or any of the other NHS Associate Partners in our BRC application. Our named Partners are Chelsea & Westminster NHS Foundation Trust, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust, Liverpool Health Partners, West London NHS Trust and The University of Cumbria.
- Substantive employee of ICHT or any of the other NHS Associate Partners WITH an honorary research contract with the College. In this case they can apply for pilot project funding with a college-substantive employee as co-investigator (this enables us to manage the funds with a clear line of accountability through a P code with a partner budget for NHS Associate Partner). As project work is expected to take place within the NIHR Imperial BRC, a substantive employment association with Imperial College London is required in these cases.
- We wouldn't consider eligible anyone who is a substantive employee of ICHT or any of the other NHS Associate Partners WITHOUT an honorary research contract with the College.

Priority will be given to junior and mid-career applicants. All applicants must hold a contract of employment which extends to at least the end of the proposed project and all applicants must have secured departmental approval prior to submission.

4. Application Review

The deadline for submission of proposals is Date Midday, Friday 9th February 2024 to imperial.dcs@nhs.net. Proposals will be assessed by the Digital Health Theme Steering Committee. Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the criteria outlined above. Key dates are as follows:

10/01/2024	Call launch
09/02/2024	Deadline for submission of proposals
12/02/2024 - 01/03/24	Shortlisting and funding decisions meeting
08/03/24	Notification of successful proposals
01/04/24	Latest Project Start Date

5. Reporting & Monitoring Requirements

Successful awardees will be required to show evidence of expenditure beginning as indicated within the proposal plan. If progress and/or expenditure is deemed unsatisfactory, continuation of funding may be terminated and funds re-allocated.

A final report showing outputs and deliverables achieved with this funding will be expected within one month of project end date.

6. Acknowledgement of BRC Funding

All publications arising from BRC-funded work (either fully or in-part) must [acknowledge support](#) by the NIHR Imperial BRC. Failure to do so can result in funding being withdrawn.

7. Enquiries

General enquiries relating to the scope and objectives of this call should be directed to the Theme Leads Erik Mayer e.mayer@imperial.ac.uk and Paul Aylin p.aylin@imperial.ac.uk