

**NIHR Imperial Biomedical Research Centre (BRC),
Biomedical Engineering Theme and Wellcome Trust MedTechONE**

CALL FOR PILOT PROJECTS

Deadline: 23 June 2025, by email to b.kim@imperial.ac.uk

This funding call aims to identify and support promising, translational healthtech and medtech projects within [NIHR Imperial BRC Biomedical Engineering Theme](#) that have the potential to address unmet clinical needs, increase their Technology Readiness Level (TRL), improve patient outcomes, and progress towards clinical implementation and commercialisation.

Jointly funded by the NIHR (BRC Biomedical Engineering Theme) and the Wellcome Trust (MedTechONE), we are offering up to £25,000 per project over a six-month period starting in September 2025.

Applicants must have completed proof-of-concept validation and demonstrated initial feasibility and potential impact, corresponding approximately to TRL 3-5.

Successful projects will benefit from the extensive support infrastructure available within the Biomedical Engineering Theme and BRC, in collaboration with the MedTechONE, Imperial Commercialisation Team and the NIHR funded Healthtech Research Centre (HRC) team. This includes access to translational research navigation, structured project management via the MedTechONE Passport, guidance on Quality Management System (QMS), regulatory pathway mapping, health economics input, and Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPiE) assistance.

1. Scope and Criteria

Scope:

Technologies are in scope if they require regulation for implementation in healthcare. We take a broad view on technologies including general medical devices, *in vitro* diagnostics, active implantable devices, digital technologies and software. Given the limited budget and six-month timeframe, projects must propose realistic, measurable objectives and clearly defined progression milestones.

Criteria:

- Is there a clear and compelling clinical rationale for the proposed work, supported by a well-defined hypothesis and any existing data or evidence?
- Are the proposed objectives realistic and achievable within the available timeframe?
- What outcomes are expected to be delivered as a result of this funding?
- How will the proposal deliver clinical and research impact, and how does proposed work align with the BRC and MedTechONE objectives?
- Does the proposal provide evidence of operational readiness (e.g. ethics approval, consent, availability of samples, staff in place) to ensure immediate commencement of the work?
- Does the team demonstrate the necessary expertise and capability to deliver the proposal, based on their track record?
- Does the proposal clearly articulate the expected benefit to the NHS and its patients?
- Are potential risks to delivery identified, and have appropriate mitigation strategies been outlined?
- Cross-BRC Theme, Department and Faculty collaboration is encouraged.

2. Project Costings

- Projects will be funded up to £25,000 of direct costs for a maximum of 6 months, starting no earlier than 01 September 2025, must be completed by 31 March 2026.
- Proposals costs, whether staff or non-staff costs, should be developed using WorkTribe. These do not need to have been formally approved before submission, but they must be agreed upon in outline by the relevant Department (a confirmation via email will suffice).
- The WorkTribe record should be attached to your application.
- Eligible costs may include salary support and consumables. Animal costs and equipment costing more than £5,000 are ineligible for BRC projects. However, animal costs are permissible for cancer research projects and may be covered from the Wellcome Trust-funded portion of this call.
- Any salary costs requested should not duplicate resources already provided for by the BRC and MedTechONE teams.
- New posts are unlikely to be recruited in time to deliver significant value and therefore will not be supported.
- These awards will not support any estate costs, indirect costs or PI time. Only direct costs are eligible for funding.
- 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 Trusted Research Environment).
- Projects must adhere to all NIHR (BRC) and Wellcome Trust (MedTechONE) contractual terms and conditions.
- External collaboration and the use of external samples and datasets are permitted. However, all expenditure must be incurred within ICL or ICHT.
- No-cost extensions will not be permitted.

3. Eligibility

Any academic member of staff with an employment contract at either Imperial College London or Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust is eligible to apply. All applicants must hold a contract of employment that extends to at least the end of the proposed project and must have secured departmental approval prior to submission.

In addition to ICHT, applications are also eligible from Imperial College London substantive employees who are affiliated with either Chelsea & Westminster NHS Foundation Trust or The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust. However, as BRC and MedTechONE-funded project work must be conducted within the NIHR Imperial BRC, a substantive employment association with Imperial College London is required in these cases.

4. Application Review

The deadline for submission of proposals is Monday 23 June 2025 to b.kim@imperial.ac.uk. Proposals will be assessed by a panel of reviewers and our community partners. Final decisions will be made by the BRC Biomedical Engineering Management Committee and MedTechONE Executive Committee. Applications will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined above. Key dates are as follows:

23 June 2025

Deadline for submission of proposals

July 2025

Notification of successful proposals

1 September 2025

Project Start Date

5. NIHR Imperial BRC and Wellcome Trust MedTechONE 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 brief final report showing outputs and deliverables achieved with this funding will be expected within 1 month of project end date.

6. Acknowledgement of Funding

All publications arising from this pilot project funding (either fully or in-part) must [acknowledge support](#) by the NIHR Imperial BRC and the Wellcome Trust, where appropriate, 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 BRC Biomedical Engineering Team at b.kim@imperial.ac.uk.