

Leukaemia UK John Goldman Fellowship Follow-up Fund guidelines 2023

Overview

Leukaemia UK is a registered charity that invests in ground-breaking world class research into leukaemia and related diseases. We fund only innovative research of the highest scientific quality that promises to expand our understanding of leukaemia and other blood cancers, to discover and develop new treatments for the disease which ultimately aim to improve the outcomes for all those diagnosed.

Leukaemia UK funds the very best scientists and clinicians who share our commitment and dedication to bring about real change in the treatment and care for all those affected by leukaemia and related disorders.

In 2015, we developed our John Goldman Fellowship (JGF) programme aimed at early career scientists and clinicians. The fellowships were established to help overcome two recognised stumbling blocks in a researcher's career progression: securing funding for a novel research idea and the transition from a post-doctoral researcher to become a completely independent investigator.

We are now committed to going one step further and continuing our investment in those who have previously been awarded a John Goldman Fellowship, who we consider to be the UK's future research leaders in leukaemia and related disorders. We are delighted to offer JGF Follow-up Funding to enable our previous John Goldman Fellows to develop their research groups and further establish their careers.

Scope

The proposed research project must have relevance to leukaemia and/or related diseases. The proposed research need not be directly related to any research projects previously funded by Leukaemia UK but must demonstrate the potential for advancement in the fundamental understanding of leukaemia and/or related diseases or improvement in diagnosis and/or treatment. Translational projects are particularly encouraged.

Leukaemia UK's Follow-up Fund will fund only novel, clearly defined projects, and will not financially supplement existing research projects.

Successful applications must be able to demonstrate:

- An innovative research project idea
- Scientific excellence
- The potential for high scientific and/or clinical impact

Eligibility

Relevant, high quality and feasible applications are invited from previously funded Leukaemia UK John Goldman Fellows who meet **both** of the following criteria:

- The original Fellowship must be complete, or soon to complete. In addition, the completion date must be **no more than three years prior to the current application deadline**. I.e., completion on or after 30 June 2020 for the 2023 round of JGF Follow-up Funding
- The Fellow has **not** previously received JGF Follow-up Funding (though re-application by previously unsuccessful applicants is permitted)

The Follow-up Funding represents an extension of our support for career progression. We therefore consider a three-year gap between completion of the original John Goldman Fellowship and application for Follow-up Funding to be the maximum eligibility period. We offer Project Grant funding for applicants whose careers are more established. Fellows whose John Goldman Fellowship finished more than three years before the current application deadline or who have previously received JGF Follow-up Funding are encouraged to apply for our Project Grants.

Previously unsuccessful applicants for JGF Follow-up Funding **are eligible** to re-apply, provided that they also still meet the eligibility criteria listed above.

Applicants are expected to demonstrate the success of their fellowship funding, scientifically and for career progression. Compelling justification for how the Follow-up Funding will enable the applicant to further establish their independent careers must be provided. We would expect that applicants will have either completed or be nearing the final stages of their JGF funding. However, applications will be considered if progress can be demonstrated regardless of JGF funding stage.

The Follow-up Funding is intended to enable a fellow to develop or expand their research group and therefore applicants would not be expected to request funding for their own salary.

Existing/current funding secured from other funders will not be considered prejudicial to consideration for LUK Follow-up Funding. All applications will be considered on their scientific merit and the potential for the applicant's career establishment and progression.

Joint applications can be submitted, but the Lead applicant must be the previous John Goldman Fellow.

Lead applicant: The 'Principal Investigator' for the proposed research must be the previous John Goldman Fellowship awardee. The Lead applicant will have overall responsibility for the project and must be affiliated with a UK research centre, which will be deemed as the 'Host Institution' for contractual purposes.

Co-applicant: An investigator who will contribute to the research project but need not be affiliated with the 'Host Institution'.

Host Institution: A non-profit research centre of excellence within the UK that will provide the facilities for carrying out the proposed research project.

Grants

Grants are for up to £250k, to span a maximum of three years. The grant may be used for salary and direct costs of the project, but it will not support indirect costs such as institutional overheads. Funding should support one full-time post-doctoral scientist or clinician scientist, research assistant or research technician who can be either named on the application or recruited. Funding for PhD students is not permitted.

The application should provide indicative financial information as to how the award will be utilised, corroborated by the relevant finance department.

Applications

All applications will be subjected to Leukaemia UK's vigorous and transparent peer review process, full details can be found on the Research Policy section of the Leukaemia UK website.

Impact statement: This is an important part of the application and must be provided. The statement must clearly demonstrate the value of the proposed research project, who will benefit, and how the potential impacts of the research can be realised. Applications will be assessed on their potential for high scientific and/or clinical impact.

Application process

The application review process is summarised below:

Initial Assessment: Applications may be rejected following an initial assessment after which the applicant will be informed accordingly.

- Applicants must comply with the eligibility criteria.
- The proposed research project must be within the 'scope' previously described. Applications must be properly completed and signed, and page and word limits must be strictly followed.

Peer review: Applications that pass the initial assessment for eligibility will go for peer review by a minimum of seven expert reviewers as follows:

- Assessed and scored by at least five members of Leukaemia UK's Scientific and Medical Panel.
- Assessed and scored by at least two expert external reviewers.

Application feedback: Feedback may be available at the discretion of Leukaemia UK, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Closing date

The closing date for receipt of applications is **30 June 2023**. The awards should be announced in **December 2023**.

Working with the Charity

Project Grant holders will be expected to act as ambassadors for Leukaemia UK.

Charity details

Leukaemia UK
52 Portland Place
London
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Registered charity no. 1154856