

Leukaemia UK John Goldman Fellowships 2024 Guidelines

Overview

John Goldman (1938-2013) was a renowned haematologist, a pioneer in the treatment of leukaemia and the founding Chairman of the charity Leuka. John's influence was worldwide, and he mentored scores of scientists and clinicians during his distinguished career. His joy in scientific discovery served as an inspiration to future generations of researchers.

At Leukaemia UK we recognise John Goldman's ethos that innovators need the chance to take risks without fear of jeopardising their careers. We have therefore created a funding programme aimed at those with a passion for science and a desire to translate scientific advances into clinical practice.

There are two main hurdles in a scientist or clinician scientist's career: securing funding for a novel research idea and the transition from being a post-doctoral researcher to becoming a completely independent investigator. The John Goldman Fellowship programme was developed to address these two career stumbling blocks by making funding available to fill the gap. The awards can provide 'pump priming' funds to achieve preliminary results that could act as springboard to an independent research career.

Scope

The proposed research must have relevance to leukaemia and/or related diseases. Translational projects are particularly encouraged. Fellowships are designed to enable talented research scientists/clinician-scientists to test a novel hypothesis and get their research and careers off the ground in a supportive, well-funded environment, so that they can pursue their work creatively.

Successful applicants must be able to demonstrate:

- An innovative idea
- Scientific excellence
- The potential for success

Eligibility

Relevant, high quality and feasible applications are invited from research scientists and clinician-scientists from across the UK. There is no age limit, although the awards are designed to provide an opportunity for talented early career scientists to develop as independent investigators.

Awards are open to researchers (who may or may not be medically qualified) who can demonstrate genuine potential to become the leading scientists of the future. Applicants should have a good publication record, but it does not need to be exceptional at this stage.

The John Goldman Fellowships are aimed at three main categories of applicant:

- Principal Investigators (PI) within two years of first permanent appointment.
- Post-doctoral researchers in the process of gaining PI status. Full explanation of path to full PI status should be provided. Normally expected to have completed one post-doctoral position but be within six years of having obtained a PhD, although exceptions will be considered if clearly justified.
- Clinician scientists with no more than six years post-PhD experience, although exceptions will be considered.

Applications

Applicants are ideally scientists/clinicians at the early stages of developing their independent research career. Applicants requiring personal support may be prioritised over those seeking funding for support staff. Priority may be given to applicants that do not have substantial existing funding.

Examples of applications that may be considered include:

- Providing an exceptional individual with personal support to enhance their work on a pioneering project within their own research institution.
- Providing an exceptional individual with an opportunity to further their knowledge and expertise through a secondment to another Centre of Excellence, either in the UK or abroad, to demonstrably enhance their research on their return. Please note: any proposed secondment abroad must only be a minor part of the project.
- Enabling an exceptional individual to employ a post-doctoral researcher or research assistant to support them on a pioneering project.

Please note: A maximum number of 20 applications will be considered for the fellowships; early application is therefore recommended. The application process will close when the maximum number has been reached. The 'running total' of applications received to date can be found on the John Goldman Fellowship page of Leukaemia UK's website.

Application process

All fellowship applications will be subjected to Leukaemia UK's rigorous and transparent peer review process, full details of which can be found in the Research Strategy section of the Leukaemia UK website. 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 - any deviation from the guidelines must be explained.
- Applications must be properly completed and signed - page and word limits must be strictly followed.

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

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

Shortlisting for interview: A decision meeting will be held in early May 2024. Applicants will be notified by mid-May 2024 if they have been called for interview.

- Interviews will be held in Central London in **early June 2024**.
- The format will be a 40-minute interview that will include a 10-minute presentation by the applicant.

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

Grants

Grants are for up to £150k maximum, to span a minimum duration of 18 months and maximum duration of two years. Potential to utilise the grant to leverage additional or matched funding will be viewed favourably but is not essential. The grant may be used for salary and direct costs of the project, but it will not support indirect costs such as institutional overheads.

The initial application should provide indicative financial information as to how the award will be utilised, corroborated by the relevant finance department. Shortlisted applicants may be asked to provide a more detailed financial breakdown, in line with the terms and conditions of the fellowship grant.

Closing date

The closing date for receipt of applications is **12 noon on 31 January 2024**. The awards should be announced in **Autumn 2024**.

Fellowships awarded

A Leukaemia UK John Goldman Fellowship is a distinguished award conferred by a panel of leading scientific experts. We hope that the Fellows will become part of a global alumnus of protégés – spreading John Goldman’s ethos of encouraging and harnessing scientific talent.

Olive Boles Innovation Award

This award will be conferred every year to one fellowship awardee. This accolade will be awarded in combination with a fellowship and in recognition of an innovative higher-risk idea that could contribute significantly to our understanding of leukaemia. Every year, one awardee will be selected as part of the normal peer review process and awarded the combined Leukaemia UK John Goldman Fellowship and Olive Boles Innovation Award.

Working with the Charity

Fellows will be expected to act as ambassadors for Leukaemia UK and the John Goldman Fellowship programme.

Charity details

Leukaemia UK
26 Great Queen Street
London
WC2B 5BL

Registered charity no. 1154856