



## TRAINEE GRANT FUNDING SCHEME IN MORPHO-MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY

### GUIDANCE NOTES

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

##### The Applicants

This is a scheme aimed to create long-lasting scientific partnerships between (a) **trainee pathologists** and (b) **pathology consultants or clinical scientists** in the molecular pathology and genomics arenas. Therefore, it requires 2 partners:

- a) a tissue pathologist in training in the UK
- b) a Pathology Consultant or a Clinical Scientist currently working in one of the diagnostic services in Pathology, Laboratory Medicine or Genomics across the UK with some involvement in the provision of molecular pathology diagnostic service

##### The Study

The funding scheme will support the delivery of a research **project with a strong morpho-molecular aspect to it**. This can be a project with a strong link with molecular diagnostic information; however, it cannot be a simple validation of a molecular diagnostic test, there must be a clear research question/hypothesis associated with it.

##### The Purpose

It is designed to increase a) the genomic interpretative skills of trainee pathologists; b) the trainee's ability to understand practical molecular principles of disease (e.g. genomic interpretation) and develop morpho-molecular designs to applied research; c) the level of collaboration and scientific partnership between molecular diagnostic experts broadly in the pathology/laboratory medicine/genomics arena and pathology trainees.

##### The Award

Awards will be for a maximum of £50,000 and three years, and could cover any aspect of the proposed project, i.e. part of the applicants' salary or consumables.

Applications will be judged by a peer review process which will focus on a) the personal qualities and motivation of the candidate; b) the relevance and quality of the academic programme and its links with molecular diagnostics; c) the originality and quality of the proposed research project; d) the strength of the supervision arrangements; e) the strategic impact of the proposed trainee-molecular diagnostic expert collaboration; f) the diagnostic infrastructure; g) the benefits to the individual and to the Pathological Society. This peer review process will involve independent members of the molecular diagnostic community.

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The scheme is open to all trainees in pathology/histopathology in Great Britain and Ireland. Applicants must hold appropriate basic registerable medical, veterinary or dental qualifications and be a member of a defined pathology training programme (usually this will mean possession of a National Training Number). Applicants should demonstrate that they have the potential to contribute to morpho-molecular pathology and genomic diagnostics in their future career development.

The scheme is open to all Molecular diagnostic experts (Pathology Consultant or Clinical Scientist) currently working in one of the diagnostic services in Pathology, Laboratory Medicine or Genomics across the UK with some involvement in the provision of molecular diagnostic service

Applications for funding to other grant-awarding bodies does not in itself prejudice the application for this scheme; however, any other potential sources must be clearly identified in the application.

The application form should be completed with reference to this guidance to applicants. Applications which do not comply with the guidance will not be accepted.

## **Application**

### **Personal Details**

Please complete ensuring that the addresses given is the one where mail and e-mail is most likely to reach you. (SECTION 1)

### **Details of Present Appointment / Employer's Agreement**

If the project involves part-time or full-time dedication by the trainee, supported in part by this scheme, this will normally need to be negotiated between the candidate and employer or pathology Training Programme. (SECTION 9)

### **Curriculum Vitae / Biographical Sketch**

This section should briefly list academic and professional qualifications and employment history of both applicants. Any gaps in education/employment should be explained. (SECTION 18)

### **Proposal (SECTION 14)**

This is a molecular tissue diagnostics proposal. The proposal should include clinical, molecular and technical background of the test; test validation strategy and design. *Please do not exceed two pages using 11 point Arial; references, figures and tables may be included as an appendix, 3 pages long maximum)*

The proposed project should be methodologically sound and achievable within the duration of the scheme. Attention will be given to the suitability of the host department for the prosecution of the proposal.

As this is technically a diagnostic validation study that will aim for a high-quality diagnostic publication, applicants have the responsibility to seek and obtain the required ethical approval in their institutions of origin. This can happen after the funding has been granted.

### **Supervision**

It is expected that the Pathology Consultant or Clinical Scientist will be the lead supervisor; it is the responsibility of the applicants to identify an appropriate lead supervisor: generally this should be an individual with pathology academic expertise and knowledge of molecular diagnostic R&D.

All application forms must be counter-signed by the nominated supervisor, indicating acceptance of the role and obligations.

### **Liabilities & Commercial Benefits of the Fellowship**

The host institution will be expected to cover all insurance for any liabilities of the work relating to this project, such that no claim could be made against either the Pathological Society or the Jean Shanks Foundation. The Pathological Society and the Jean Shanks Foundation will not have claims on the potential IP or royalties generated by this project.

### **Finance**

In general, applicant will decide if the scheme is used solely for part-time salary support (presuming that bench costs if necessary are provided elsewhere), for bench costs only (which may include bioinformatics-related costs if the proposed project was in-silico), or a mixture of both.

#### **A. Salary Costs**

Awards will be for a minimum of one and a maximum of three years. The application should detail anticipated portion of the gross salary (ie before deductions), including annual increments within the salary band, but making no assumptions for inflationary increases. In addition, appropriate superannuation and NI contribution costs will be paid and the above elements should be listed separately on the form as set out. Full Economic Costing is not payable on these awards.

Retrospective application (where the individual has already commenced his/her study) or partial applications (where part funding has been found from other sources) will not be considered.

#### **B. NHS Support Costs**

Since costs are likely to be created for the NHS, approval must be sought where necessary from R&D Lead Officers.

#### **Measure of Success**

It is expected that the design of the diagnostic validation plan to be undertaken by this grant funding will be original and ambitious enough to result in a high-quality, peer-reviewed publication in one of the lead diagnostic pathology journals, or broader-scope journals with a similar measure of impact.

#### **Timelines**

Applications should be uploaded to the Pathological Society's grant applications website. The deadline for applications is **strictly 12 noon on 1 October**. Applications received after that time on that date will not be considered, so please obtain the relevant signatures in good time.