

SWB Research fellowship and project principles

Applications are invited from SWB employees to apply for research funding for an initial period of one year (with review and possible extension to 2 years maximum). This could be in the form of PAs, research fellows, WTE funding and must be linked to a specific project. This funding must be for posts and not equipment. Minor consumables will be considered. R&D have secured a total of £400,000 to fund these posts and research projects. Whilst applications are not capped, it is envisaged that more than one project is funded through this scheme. It is expected that these projects will align to the Trust R&D strategy and goals and work collaboratively with an Academic Partner. Where the Academic partnership is with Aston university, lead applicants will also be considered for an honorary post through this scheme.

1. Background

There is a national drive to increase the UK contribution to life sciences and to make research a core NHS activity (as detailed in the UK R&D Roadmap 2021). There is strong evidence, at a national level that research benefits patients, provides growth in the UK economy and creates an environment that motivates, attracts and retains the best clinical staff. To help facilitate a culture of research and to deliver on the trust research Strategy, we have secured funding for substantively employed staff at SWB to apply for specific research funded time to develop their research ideas, and apply for regional, national, and international competitive research funding.

2. NHS Research Fellowships and Projects

This funding will be used to support research active/interested staff who would like to increase their research activities from participation in NIHR portfolio studies to developing their own research and securing external funding. Currently few staff have funded 'research time' within their job plans/descriptions. With current NHS service pressures and demands of modern research it is apparent that the majority of staff do not have the time to do more than contribute to research studies or collaborate with studies generated elsewhere. Whilst all staff should contribute to NIHR activity as part of their contracted role which is in line with Department of Health and Trust strategies of making research a core NHS activity, there are some who would like to develop their research ideas further but are thwarted by clinical pressures. To help promote an NHS research culture and support colleagues who have the inclination and ability to make a larger contribution R&D have secured funding for a round of fellowships. This will support specific posts, or part posts linked to specific projects to develop and deliver research. A collaborative approach across departments/directorates is encouraged. Each application to the scheme will require a named lead who will take overall responsibility for delivery. Funding for all types of posts will be considered i.e research fellows, PAs, AfC wte. Applications should demonstrate clear benefit to local population served as well as demonstrate the ability for the project to be scaled up. It is expected that if successful the project/post holder will submit applications for further

external competitive research funding. Projects and roles should be clearly aligned with the Trust R&D Strategy.

Details

- a) Written applications are invited from substantive employees of SWB who wish to be considered
- b) Appointment will be competitive and follow interview
- c) Appointments will be for a maximum of 2 years. 12 month minimum with extension for a further 12 months upon satisfactory review of progress. Renewal at this point will be based on:
 - a. Publications in peer reviewed journals
 - b. Grant applications
 - c. NIHR trial participation and accrual
 - d. Collaboration with partners
- d) There will be 6 monthly review meetings and an annual appraisal with the R&D Senior leadership team to determine progress, including named academic collaborators.
- e) If application is for a sessional commitment this must be agreed by the clinical director, immediate line manager and R&D director. These will be superannuable.
- f) It is expected that a similar number of sessions/time will be relinquished. The Clinical director and line manager will be expected to support the application prior to submission and identify how the service gap will be filled.
- g) Appointment is more likely to be of those with a recent proven track record in research, for example those in NIHR portfolio studies, and those in departments that already demonstrate a strong culture of research and team working.
- h) It is expected that the application will be discussed and aligned with local academic partners to ensure and promote collaboration.

3. The next Steps

This is an exciting opportunity for suitable candidates to make a real difference in research. The instigation of NHS Research fellowships will strengthen the trusts position as an active leader in NHS clinical research, creating an environment which will attract leading staff committed to ensuring our patients and local population are provided with the highest standard of care.

Please see attached application form. This will need to be returned to Kelly Hard by 04/11/2022. Interviews/pitches will be held w/c 12/12/2022. Derek Connolly, Ayman Ewies or Kelly Hard are very happy to have informal discussions with interested candidates and can be contacted through email.

4. Timelines

- a. Call open 03/10/2022
- b. Submissions closure 04/11/2022
- c. Review of applications
- d. Applicants notified of outcome/invitation for interview 18/11/2022
- e. Interviews and presentation w/c 12/12/2022

- f. Applicants notified of outcome 19/12/2022
- g. Negotiation of start dates completed 31/01/2023

SWB NHS fellowships

Applicant Details

Name	
Post	
Department	
Date of appointment to SWB	
Contact number	
Email	

Publications in peer reviewed journals (previous 5 years)

Research grants applied for (include title, lead/co-applicant, funding body, amount, year of application)

Grants awarded (include award title, lead/co-applicant, funding body, amount, start date).

Current Research interests

Statement of why you are applying for the Fellowship (to include aims of the fellowship) 750 words max.

Outline of how this project/proposal aligns with the Trust R&D strategy. (750 words max)

How will this proposal further develop academic partnerships and collaborations across the trust, region and nationally (750 words max)

How would this proposal benefit our local communities (750 words max)

Number of PAs/wte/posts requested.

Any other costs requested e.g. training, travel, consumables

Statement of Support from Head of Department/Clinical Director

“I confirm that I support _____ application for a SWB NHS fellowship and can confirm the release of the applicant from their clinical duties for the sessions stated above”.

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Applicant signature

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Application forms should be returned to Kelly Hard via email Kellyhard@nhs.net by 04/11/2022. Any queries please contact Kelly Hard (kellyhard@nhs.net) or Derek Connolly (derek.connolly1@nhs.net) or Ayman Ewies (ayman.ewies@nhs.net)

