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## **2022 Joint Funding call by the IKA (in collaboration with INS)**

### **Eligibility:**

1. The research must take place in the Republic of Ireland
2. The Principal Investigator must be an active **member of the INS community**, as evidenced by **submission of an abstract to an INS meeting** within the previous 72 months.
3. The Principal Investigator must
  - a. Hold a post that covers the duration of the award in a recognised Research Institution as an independent investigator, **or**
  - b. be a contract researcher recognised by the Research Institution as an independent investigator who will have a dedicated office and research space for the duration of award, for which he/she will be fully responsible, **or**
  - c. be an individual who will be recognised by the Research Institution upon receipt of the HRCI/HRB award as a contract researcher as defined above. The Principal Investigator does not necessarily need to be employed by the Research Institution at the time of the application submission.
4. The Principal Investigator must also demonstrate that they have the skills, knowledge and supports necessary to direct the proposed research and to be actively engaged in carrying the research through to completion. Generally, this means that the PI will:
  - a. Show appropriate evidence of expertise matched to the nature and context of the project;
  - b. Show evidence of achievement as an independent researcher in their chosen research field by:

- i. Demonstrating a record of research output, with at least three publications of original research in peer reviewed journals. Where appropriate, they should also provide evidence of other outputs such as published book chapters, reports to government and/or any other relevant outputs that have resulted in a significant impact in their field.
    - ii. Demonstrating record of independence by showing that they have secured **at least one peer-reviewed research grant for a research project/s**, as either the lead applicant or a co-applicant. Funding received for travel to seminars/conferences and/or small personal bursaries will not be considered in this regard.
  - c. Show evidence that they possess the capability and authority to mentor, manage and supervise less experienced researchers and to manage relationships with co-applicants, collaborators, and the host institution.
5. Only one application per Principal Investigator to this scheme will be considered.
6. The applicant should familiarise themselves with the HRB “Instructions to applicants” document and ensure that they meet any additional eligibility criteria enclosed therein.

#### **Assessment of Expressions of Interest.**

1. Proposals will be ranked using criteria listed in the above categories
2. The IKA will provide Public-Patient Involvement (PPI) nominating 3 representatives on the assessment committee. The committee will be coordinated by the IKA secretariat.
3. The assessment committee will include 2 members of the INS, to include at least one member of the Research Committee, who will act as the Chair.
4. The committee will also include an independent member from a region that is not eligible to apply for the call.
5. Committee members must demonstrate that they have no conflict of interest with any of the applications. If such a conflict exists, the member will recuse themselves from assessment of that application.

6. Decisions on whether to invite a full submission from the applicant should be **unanimous**.

### **Invitation for submission of full application and international peer review**

1. Those applicants submitting eligible proposals (see priorities above) will then be invited to submit a full proposal using the relevant HRB documents, with links provided on the IKA website.
2. These applications will be submitted to, and collated by, the IKA secretariat with IKA Director Lisa Mellon leading on this.
3. They will be checked for eligibility against the published HRB criteria.
4. Eligible applications will be submitted for international peer review. This will be managed according to the process defined in the HRB document "Instructions to Charities". In particular, the following items must be adhered to:
  - a. At least three international peer reviewers are required for each application.
  - b. For the purpose of this call an international reviewer is an active researcher (not e.g. a charity administrator) based **outside of the Republic of Ireland**. The potential reviewer should not:
    - i. Have co-published with any member of the applicant team in the past 5 years.
    - ii. Currently or recently been working in the same organisation/department as any member of the applicant team.
    - iii. Be industry employees or have any apparent links with the pharmaceutical industry or commercial organisation.
5. Priority will be given to projects with a strong patient involvement at governance level.
6. The IKA will be included in and be an active participant in the research design process
7. Of note, obtaining peer reviews within the allotted time frame (expression of interest 14<sup>th</sup> October, full application 19<sup>th</sup> November, to allow right to reply to reviewer's comments in mid-January and timely submission of proposals to HRB) is **very challenging**.
  - a. As a general guide, 5 reviewers will need to be invited to obtain one review (at least 15 reviewers invited per application).

- b. The IKA/INS research committee will be asked to provide names and contact details of potential reviewers.
- c. Reviewer lists are also available from the HRB.
- d. The peer review process will be managed by the IKA secretariat with guidance from the INS research committee.
- e. Compliance with conflict-of-interest policy is essential. See <https://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-schemes/before-you-apply/all-grant-policies/disclosure-of-conflict-of-interest-for-external-reviewers-and-panel-members/>
- f. See also <https://hrci.ie/joint-funding-scheme/faq/> and <https://hrci.ie/joint-funding-open-calls/> for updates which will happen throughout this process.
- g. Grant drawdown will be subject to compliance with specific terms and conditions set out by the HRB and IKA.

#### **Submission to HRB Deadline date**

1. The joint IKA/INS committee will meet in the week of the 25<sup>th</sup> of October to decide on which applications to submit to HRB, with conflicted members recusing themselves.
2. As a general guide, applicants with an overall score of 6 or below will not be submitted to HRB. Discretion may be applied in the case of a strong right to reply statement.
3. Applications are submitted to HRB using the submission website GEMS.
4. More than one application may be submitted for HRB review. The decision about which grants to fund will rest upon the ranking applied in the HRB review meeting. In the event of their being insufficient funds to fund all approved proposals, the top ranked applications will be funded, with the remainder being deemed “fundable, but insufficient funds”.

#### **What is a ‘plus one’ project?**

In the event of a charity receiving more highly rated applications than they can afford to fund, it may submit one additional application more than it can afford to the HRB (e.g., you have 3 applications with a high score, but you only have funding for 2). In this scenario should all submitted applications be recommended for funding at Joint Selection Panel stage, the lowest ranking application, as judged by the Joint Selection Panel, will not be funded.

Applicants should note updates to this call will be issued via the HRCI website and should prepare their application in conjunction with the guidelines on the HRCI website as well as the IKA guidance document. See <https://hrci.ie/joint-funding-how/>

## Appendix One

### Objective 18 IKA Strategy on Patient Research- extract from main strategy

#### Why is this important?

Research can lead to improved treatments and can also lead to better understanding of the patient experience and needs.

We understand the need to continuously push the boundaries of our scientific understanding of kidney disease and other morbidities which affect renal health. We will support and contribute to the understanding of this with a particular focus on a variety of research disciplines. These will help to illustrate and contribute to the improved general health and wellbeing of kidney patients.

We aim to achieve this objective by:

- Identifying research academic partner(s) to carry out patient centred research using a participatory action focus approach. This approach involves working with the people in the system as co-participants in the inquiry with a view to transforming that system from within as a principal focus of the research process itself.
- The IKA will be included in and be an active participant in the research design process.
- Research tenders, contracts, and memorandums of understanding will be approved in advance of the research funding/process commencing and will be in adherence with charity corporate governance standards.
- The Research Report and recommendations will, prior to publication, be finalised in partnership with the IKA, launched, and then published.
- Research topics funded by the IKA will be based on academic/social field's best practice, be peer reviewed where appropriate, and only be on 'a not for profit' basis.

What are the intended outcomes?

- A number of research projects in respect of improved outcomes for kidney patients to be led and supported by the Association.
- The Association to have a genuine impact on the national and global understanding of kidney disease treatment and to make a measurable difference both to the health service in Ireland and patients' experiences

See also

Tool Kit for Public Patient Involvement from Health research Charities Institute

[https://bit.ly/PPItoolkit\\_doc](https://bit.ly/PPItoolkit_doc)