

RNID-FPA Translational Grant 2022

Jointly funded by RNID and Fondation Pour l'Audition

Call and guidelines

The RNID-FPA Translational Grant aims to support and accelerate the translation of research discoveries into potential new treatments to protect and regenerate hearing and /or silence tinnitus. It funds projects at both academic institutions and small/medium enterprises in any country.

For the fourth year, RNID and [Fondation Pour l'Audition](#) are partnering to co-fund Translational Grants.

Why is supporting the development of treatments for hearing loss and tinnitus important?

There are almost half a billion people in the world with disabling hearing loss and 1.1 billion young people (aged between 12-35 years old) are at risk of losing their hearing due to recreational noise ([WHO, 2018](#)). The evidence of the link between hearing loss and debilitating conditions like dementia is strengthening (Livingston, G et al (2017) [The Lancet](#)). In the UK, one in ten people has tinnitus. However, there are currently no registered treatments that protect and/or restore hearing or silence tinnitus.

We request translational research proposals that will advance the development of small molecule, gene- or cell-based therapeutics for the treatment of hearing disorders, including tinnitus.

We seek to support:

- research with a strong commercial potential that is likely to attract follow-on funding at the conclusion of the grant.
- studies that will facilitate and enable the progression of promising basic research towards testing in clinical trials.

Applications can include:

- Studies which will enable lead optimisation and/or candidate selection.
- Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics (PKPD) studies.
- Safety/toxicology studies.
- Drug repositioning/repurposing (applications must contain preliminary data supporting the proposed approach)
- Validation of therapeutic targets for the treatment of hearing loss or tinnitus (applications must contain preliminary data supporting the proposed approach).
- Studies to strengthen confidence that a target or therapeutic approach will be applicable to human hearing loss or tinnitus.
- Identification/validation of methods or outcomes that could be used for one or more of the following*:
 - Patient selection/stratification for clinical trials
 - Robust measurement of treatment responses in clinical trials.

* Please note that these studies must support the development of a specific therapeutic. General research into outcome measures not aligned to a specific therapeutic should be submitted to other grant schemes offered by RNID (e.g. [Discovery Research Grant Scheme](#)) and [Fondation Pour l' Audition](#).

Applications **will NOT** be accepted in the following areas:

- Basic research into the causes and underpinning biology of hearing loss and tinnitus
- The development of devices or software
- The optimization of current clinical protocols
- Health service studies

Summary of grant

- **Duration:** Up to three years
- **Eligibility:** Applicants may be from **any country** and may be from **academic institutions** and **small/medium enterprises (SMEs)**
- **Value** *: Up to £100,000 per year.
- **Deadlines**
 - **Expression of Interest:** 8th April 2022 (5 pm GMT)
 - **Full application (by invitation only):** 10th June 2022 (5 pm GMT)
 - **Funding decisions:** December 2022

* Please note that as a charity, it is our policy not to fund any indirect costs or the salaries of permanent employees.

Application and selection procedure

The RNID-FPA Translational Grant scheme follows a three-stage process:

1. **Expression of Interest** - All applicants must submit an Expression of Interest (open entry). The purpose of the Expression of Interest is to obtain enough information on the proposed project to enable us to understand how well the proposal aligns with the criteria of the Translational Grant scheme. Applicants with proposals meeting the criteria of the scheme will be invited to submit a full application.
2. **Full Application** - Applications that successfully pass the Expression of Interest stage will be invited to submit a Full Application.
3. **External peer-review** – All full applications will be sent for external peer review by several experts in the field, who will rate the scientific value, feasibility and translational potential of the project. Applicants will have the opportunity to provide a response to the reviewers' feedback. Full applications, expert reviews and applicant responses will be considered by the Translational Grant Panel and evaluated on their scientific approach, as well as commercial and/or translational potential. Projects will then be ranked competitively and funding awarded to the top-rated projects.

The RNID-FPA Translational Grant Panel consists of:

- Dr Louise Jones – UKRI/Medical Research Council
- Dr Anna Kenyon – Lived Experience
- Dr Michael Kyriakides - Syncona Investment Management Ltd
- Dr Klaus Mendla - Auditus Business Consulting
- Mr Peter Monksfield - University Hospitals Birmingham
- Dr Trevor Perrior - Drug Discovery Consultant
- Prof Marcelo Rivolta – Sheffield University
- Selected members of the Fondation pour l'Audition Scientific Committee

(Subject to review; additional/other panel members may be recruited)

Confidentiality

In order to protect the confidentiality of the information shared with us by the applicants everyone involved in the review or evaluation process of any Translational Grant application is asked to abide by our [code of conduct](#) and to sign a Reviewer Agreement with confidentiality clauses.