



## Translational Research Grants

### Call and guidelines – 2023 scheme

Our Translational Research Grants aims to support and accelerate the development 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.

#### 1. Background

##### 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.

#### 2. Call for Proposals

**We request translational research proposals that 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](#))

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

- Basic research into the causes and underpinning biology of hearing loss and tinnitus – this is funded through our [Discovery Research Grant scheme](#)
- 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 (SME)
- Value\*:** Up to £300K in total, funding will not exceed £100,000 in any one year.

\* 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 Translational Grant scheme follows a two-stage application process (deadlines are shown at the end):

1. **Expression of Interest** - All applicants are required to 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. These expressions of interest will be assessed by RNID charity staff and select members of the Translational Grant review panel<sup>1</sup>, who will determine which applications to move forward to the full application stage.
2. **Full Application** - Applications that successfully pass the Expression of Interest stage will be invited to submit a Full Application. All full applications will be subject to external peer review by several experts in the field, who will rate the scientific approach and translational/commercial potential of the project. Applicants will be given the opportunity to respond to external peer review feedback. Full applications, reviews and applicant responses will then be assessed by the Translational Grant Panel, who will make recommendations for funding.

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<sup>1</sup> The Translational Grant review panel is comprised of Dr Adam Babbs (URKI/Medical Research Council), Dr Anna Kenyon (lived experience), Dr Michael Kyriakides (Syncona Investment Management Ltd), Dr Klaus Mendla (Auditus Business Consulting), Dr Trevor Perrior (drug discovery consultant), and additional panel members to be recruited.



### Additional notes for applicants

- **Submitting an application:** Preliminary and full applications must be submitted through our online grants management system, [Flexi-Grant](#), before the deadline. There is further guidance on Flexi-Grant about how to complete your application.

**Please note that your application will have to be approved by an authorised representative from your institution before you can submit it – ensure you allow enough time for this before the deadline.**

All preliminary applications must be received on or before Friday 31 March 2023.

- **Resubmissions:** we accept resubmissions of related, previously unfunded projects through this scheme. The resubmission must be updated to take into account any feedback given (or to provide any additional data).

### 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.

### For further details:

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### Deadlines

Expressions of interest: 31 March 2023  
Full applications: 16 June 2023  
Final decision: December 2023