**Faculty of Medicine Research Management Committee**

**Application for a MR Imaging Pump-priming Research Project Award**

**The scheme**

The aim of this scheme is to support University of Southampton Principal Investigators, to develop competitive external funding applications for magnetic resonance (MR) imaging studies, leading to an increase in grants awarded to the University of Southampton. The scheme is not intended for small stand-alone projects without a clear plan leading to larger more definitive studies. Applications without a clearly articulated external grant application outline, including specifics of grant-funding bodies and application deadline, are unlikely to be successful.

The scheme will make use of under-utilized MR research imaging slots on the 3T Skyra MR scanner. Every year, the University of Southampton purchases the use of a number of slots for use in the subsequent year, but a substantial proportion are not used. This scheme is intended to make better use of these slots, to help grow MR imaging research in Southampton.

Due to the strategic aims of this scheme, priority will be given to the following areas: Neuroscience, Oncology, Musculoskeletal Science, Psychology & Mental Health, Paediatrics, Health Sciences, Cardiology, Nutrition and Respiratory Medicine. Collaborations between disparate disciplines across campus, and between the University of Southampton and University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, are encouraged.

The awardee will be able to make use of up to 24 MR imaging slots, of one hour each, over a maximum time period of twelve months. Hence ideally ethical approval is in place at the time of application. The award will not cover any expenses incurred during imaging (e.g. contrast) or other aspects of the project. If the project requires such additional funds, the applicant will need to provide evidence that this funding is in place.

In its first iteration, only one award will be made, to assess the feasibility of the scheme. Further rounds of the scheme will depend on this assessment.

**Eligibility**

University of Southampton-based Principal Investigators, working within the Faculty of Medicine, and Schools of Psychology and Health Sciences (Faculty of Environmental and Life Sciences). Investigators in other Faculties, and investigators employed by the University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust are encouraged to apply, in collaboration with University of Southampton-based Principal Investigators from the above-mentioned academic groupings.

Applications are considered from the following groups of University of Southampton staff within Medicine, Psychology and Health Sciences: academic staff at lecturer, senior lecturer, associate professor and professorial levels; staff holding Postdoctoral Career Track Awards; staff holding externally funded research fellowships (excluding training fellowships).

**Pre-award conditions**

Applicants must complete the Research Imaging Management Group (RIMG) form (<http://bit.ly/RIMGform>) and submit it to RadiologyResearch@uhs.nhs.uk. This will trigger a discussion with MR physics regarding the technical aspects of the project (e.g. technical feasibility on the Skyra, protocol, duration). Please give RIMG sufficient time, at least one month, to assess your request. Applications to this scheme will only be accepted if they are accompanied by a completed RIMG form, signed off by RIMG.

Completed applications and attachments should be emailed to Matt Coleman, Faculty Research Manager (resmed@soton.ac.uk). Attachments required are:

1. the principal applicant’s three-page CV
2. an email or letter of support from your Head of School
3. fully completed and approved RIMG form
4. a one-page outline or abstract of the external funding proposal envisioned to arise from this pump-priming project.

**Post-award conditions**

When booking scan requests, priority will be given to scan requests from externally funded studies. For this and other reasons, booking scans will be subject to rules which may change during the course of the award.

The awardee may be approached by the Research Management Committee to provide feedback which will be used to assess the future potential of the scheme and inform its improvement.

The awardee will need to submit two end-of-project reports to the Research Management Committee: one within one month, and the other within one year, of the end date of the project.

**Review process**

Applications will be peer reviewed, internally and/or externally. Priority will be given to applications of strategic importance. The final decision will be made by Research Management Committee delegates.

**Timeline**

Since this is the first iteration of the scheme, the deadline may be extended. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application within two months of the application deadline.

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| **Details of Applicant(s)** |
| **Principal Applicant Name (last name, first name, title):** |  |  |  |
| **Academic Unit** |  |
| **Current Post:** |  | **Since:** |  |
|  | **E-mail:** |  | **Telephone:** |  |

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| **Co-applicant Name:** |  |  |  |
| **Academic Unit:** |  |
| **Current Post:** |  | **Since:** |  |
|  | **E-mail:** |  | **Telephone:** |  |

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| **Co-applicant Name:** |  |  |  |
| **Academic Unit:** |  |
| **Current Post:** |  | **Since:** |  |
|  | **E-mail:** |  | **Telephone:** |  |

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| **Details of Current Proposal** |
| **Title of Proposal:** |  |
| **Expected start date:** |  | **Completion date:** |  | **Number of months:** |  |

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| **Statement of Proposed Research** |

***Your statement, on the following two pages, should include a full scientific and strategic justification. It should not exceed 2 A4 pages using a Lucida Sans font no less than 10 point, 2 cm margins.***

***The following are mandatory sections; other sections may be included:***

***Background, hypothesis and aims***

***Objectives and/or plan of investigation, including MRI***

***Sample size justification of the pilot project***

***Ethical approval***

***Plan for consenting for, and managing, incidental findings***

***Details of post-acquisition image analysis***

***References***

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| **Statement of Proposed Research** |

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| **Strategy for further funding*****Please attach a one page outline or abstract of the external funding proposal envisioned to arise from this pump-priming project. In this section, please: (1) explain why this project is essential to apply for external grant funding, (2) provide a clear plan for how data from this research will pump-prime more substantive funding, including the names of sponsors and collaborators and schemes to be targeted, and when. Maximum: 250 words using a Lucida Sans font no less than 10 point.*** |
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| **Alignment with Research Council strategies.** ***Maximum: 100 words, ≥ 10 point.*** |
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| **Fit to University/Faculty strategic research aims. *Maximum: 100 words, ≥ 10 point.*** |
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| **Collaborative nature of the proposal. *Including names of people who will work on the project. Maximum: 100 words, ≥ 10 point.*** |
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| **MR imaging time and costs: *Please provide a full justification and breakdown of MR imaging time and costs.***  |
| **MR imaging time *(i.e. as calculated from MRI protocol timings and sample size). This award will consist of a maximum of 24 hours of MR imaging time “in kind” only. It is mandatory to attach a completed RIMG form to this application. Please specify in this subsection the number of MR imaging hours you are requesting, out of a maximum of 24.*** |
| **Any other costs*, whether linked to MR imaging (such as contrast or eGFR blood test) or other aspects of the project are not covered by this award. Hence please list, in this section, all monetary costs associated with this project and the Agresso subproject codes (or other financial sources) which will be used to cover these costs. Add more rows as needed. Please copy this page if more space is needed.******No other costs are involved: YES/ NO (strikethrough as required)*** |
| **Item** | **Quantity** | **Cost** | **Funding source** |
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| **Previous awards (Please copy this page if necessary to give details of all current internal and external awards including start-up awards made at appointment)** |
| **Title of project** |  |
| **Nature of the award:** *(e.g. consumables, equipment, salaries)* |  |
| **Awarding body:** |  |
| **Date of award:** |  | **Amount of award:** |  |

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| **Title of project** |  |
| **Nature of the award:** *(e.g. consumables, equipment, salaries)* |  |
| **Awarding body:** |  |
| **Date of award:** |  | **Amount of award:** |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Title of project** |  |
| **Nature of the award:** *(e.g. consumables, equipment, salaries)* |  |
| **Awarding body:** |  |
| **Date of award:** |  | **Amount of award:** |  |

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| **Suggested external referees. *Please nominate a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 referees external to UoS and UHS. There is no guarantee these referees will be approached.*** |
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