



Letter of Intent Guidelines

Introduction

This call is designed to drive transformational therapy development, so projects are sought that will advance concepts toward clinical development and delivery.

We welcome high risk/high reward projects that have the potential to move the field in big steps, not incremental developments. It is not limited to a particular type of novel insulin. Applications investigating any bold concept, for example glucose responsive insulins, liver targeted insulins, monomeric/dimeric insulins etc are equally welcome.

Strong preliminary data should form the basis of any application. Applications must show evidence that the potential product developed would be of interest to people with type 1 diabetes and offer a welcome alternative to current insulins.

It is expected that results will be published in peer-reviewed journals to benefit the broader scientific community. If the results warrant patenting, publication will be expected as soon as protection has been granted.

This call is open to applicants affiliated with academic, medical or other recognised research institutions as well as to applicants affiliated with small to medium size biotechnology/pharmaceutical companies. There are no geographical restrictions. Principle investigators with chemistry and/or pharmacology backgrounds are welcome to apply and are encouraged to collaborate with researchers working in the type 1 diabetes field.

Phase 1 of this programme offers funding for up to 1 year with budgets capped at £500,000. Under exceptional circumstances, such as the need to use large animal models, a higher budget (up to £1 million) may be considered. Please contact SMFgrandchallenge@jdrf.org.uk early to discuss such request.

The deadline for application is **5pm (GMT) on Tuesday 30 January 2024**.

Reporting

A final scientific progress report is required within 3 months of the end of the grant period.

A follow up report will also be requested 18 months after the end of the project including final results, publication(s) resulting from the research and outcomes of applications for future funding or future development.

In addition to the final progress report, awards made as part of the Steve Morgan Foundation Type 1 Diabetes Grand Challenge will require the principal investigator to submit short progress reports every three months in line with the agreed project milestones.

Application Process

This call for proposals follows a multistep process including a pitch to a panel of experts.

Applicants should submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) using the template provided, via email to smfgrandchallenge@jdrf.org.uk, to provide an overview of their research plan.

All LOIs will be assessed by the Novel Insulins Innovation Incubator Panel. Please note that the panel includes people living with type 1 diabetes but without directly relevant scientific training.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to pitch their idea to the Novel Insulins Innovation Incubator Panel by joining a virtual meeting where they will be able to present the key aspects of their project and respond to questions from the panel. Full briefing will be provided to teams shortlisted for the pitch stage.

Applicants will be offered a conditional award on the pitch day and will be invited to submit a detailed proposal (full application), via RMS360 (the JDRF grant management system).

Full applications will be reviewed, and the applicants may be requested to amend their proposals to address the reviewers' comments.

Final review will be carried out ahead of final approval.

The decision will be ratified through the Partnership Steering Group financial governance processes and applicants will be notified of the outcome by 13 June 2024 (date may be subject to change).

Assessment criteria

The following criteria will be considered during the assessment including the pitch meeting:

- Significance,
- Innovation and high-quality science,
- Clarity and soundness of the proposed methods,
- Applicant and team track record and ability to deliver the proposed research, and facilities to conduct the proposed research,
- Potential impact on quality of life of people living with type 1 diabetes and involvement of people living with type 1 diabetes in the proposed research,
- Feasibility, the potential to deliver the stated outcomes within the timescales and budget,
- Value for money.

Contact us

For any enquiries relating to your proposal please contact the JDRF UK Research Team as early as possible: SMFgrandchallenge@jdrf.org.uk.

Application form guidelines

The form should be filled in using Calibri font, size 11, no less than single spacing. Margins, in all directions, must be at least ½ inch (1.27cm).

The instructions box, guidance in brackets and attachment checklist included in the application form can be removed prior to submission.

Your LOI and pitch will also be assessed a lay representative with lived experience but without directly relevant scientific training.

A/ Principal investigator

The principal investigator is the scientist, clinician responsible for the management of the project. The principal investigator must be affiliated with an academic or medical institution or with a small to medium size biotechnology/pharmaceutical company and have a contract of employment which extends beyond the termination date of the award.

The principal investigator's CV (max 2 sides of A4) must be attached to the application including up to 10 publications relevant to the project and all grants held in the past 5 years (including amount and funder).

Title of project

The title of your project should be clear, explicit and understandable to the people living with type 1 diabetes but with no scientific background.

Duration and proposed start date

The maximum duration is 12 months with an earliest start date set as 1 August 2024 and a latest start date 1 November 2024.

Total funding requested

Budgets capped at £500,000. Under exceptional circumstances a higher budget (up to £1 million) may be considered. Please contact SMFgrandchallenge@jdrf.org.uk early to discuss such request.

Lay summary (max 250 words)

Explain, in well-articulated plain English, what the project is aiming to achieve, what it will deliver, how this will benefit people living with type 1 diabetes and why this project should be funded (what is exciting about it).

Research Proposal Outline

Please present a clear vision of your project and its significance. Taking into consideration the assessment criteria, consider including background, scientific rationale/preliminary data, hypothesis and specific aims, research approach, methodology - including sample size, power calculation if relevant, potential for translation including short and long-term clinical development goals.

Budget

Provide a brief breakdown of how the funds will be spent including salary, consumables, animals, and others.

Equipment (excluding PC/laptop) request will be considered based on the experience of the applicant using them. Please contact SMFgrandchallenge@jdrf.org.uk early to discuss such request.

Travel costs is only allowed to support collaborative lab work, and not to attend conference.

The budget excludes indirect costs and any other non-attributable overhead costs (directly allocated costs).

Indirect costs: non-specific costs charged across all projects based on estimates that are not otherwise included as Directly Allocated costs. They include the costs of the Research Organisation's administration, such as personnel, finance, library and some departmental services.

Directly Allocated costs: costs of resources used by a project that are shared by other activities. They are charged to projects on the basis of estimates rather than actual costs and do not represent actual costs on a project-by-project basis.

Collaboration details

Co-investigators must provide significant input into the research and contribute to the running of some aspect of the project. No more than five co-investigators can be included.

The co-investigator's CV (max 2 sides of A4) must be attached to the application including up to 10 publications relevant to the project and all grants held in the past 5 years (including amount and funder).

Collaborators may help by supplying material, specific expertise, access to people with type 1 diabetes/carers, samples, etc.

Please explain the relationship between the investigator, proposed co-investigator(s) and collaborator(s)' groups and how the collaboration will lead to significant advancement of research or overcome research barriers that individual laboratories/groups face.

Justification for funding (max 300 words)

People living with type 1 diabetes are at the heart of what we do. Please explain how your research and the project may be of benefit to people living with type 1 diabetes. Be as specific as possible.

Public Involvement and Inclusivity (max 300 words)

Meaningful involvement can improve the quality and relevance of basic and clinical research (by providing a different perspective on research). Please explain how you are ensuring that the views and needs of people living with type 1 diabetes are taken into account in this project.

Inclusive research is essential for generating more generalizable results and ultimately better healthcare. Please explain how you have considered equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in your proposal including any limitations and how you would propose to address these.

There are helpful resources on JDRF's [participation, engagement and involvement](#) page.

B/ References, Reviewers, Confirmation and signature page (max 1 side of A4)

A maximum of 10 references relevant to the project description can be included. References should include first author name and initial(s) *et al*, title, year, journal, issue and first page number. Please use bold if you are a co-author. Posters, oral presentations or papers submitted/under review must **not** be used as references.

Please suggest three external reviewers to peer review your application if you are invited to the next stage. At least one and preferably two should be outside of the country you are based in. We may send your application to other reviewers of our choice. Please also indicate who should not be invited to review your application providing a full justification of the conflict of interest.

To officialise your application please complete the confirmation and signature box. Your application will **not** be acceptable if this section is incomplete.