

Action Medical Research Grant policy

The aim of the charity is to prevent and treat disease and disability by funding vital medical research in hospitals or research institutions across the UK.

The remit focuses on child health to include problems affecting pregnancy, childbirth, babies, children and young people. We support a broad spectrum of research with the objective of preventing and treating disease and disability.

Our emphasis is on clinical research and research at the interface between clinical and basic science. We pride ourselves that our research is both innovative and of a high standard as judged by rigorous peer review.

Within the above criteria, we also support research and development of equipment and techniques to improve diagnosis, therapy and assistive technology (including orthoses, prostheses and aids to daily living) and we encourage applications in the field of medical engineering.

Grants made available, identified by open competition and advertised annually:

Project Grants - for up to three years duration in support of one precisely formulated line of research.

Research Training Fellowships - for up to three years duration for the training of medical and bioengineering graduates and allied health professionals at an early stage of their career in research techniques and methodology in areas of interest to the charity.

We do not provide:

- grants towards service provision or audit studies
- grants purely for higher education, we do not pay course fees for degrees or subsistence costs (although Research Training Fellows can independently register for a PhD)
- grants for medical or dental electives
- grants for work undertaken outside the UK
- any indirect costs such as administrative or other overheads imposed by the research institution
- advertising and recruitment costs for staff
- 'top up' funding for work supported by other funding bodies
- costs to attend conferences (current Action Medical Research grantholders may apply separately as the need arises during the grant)
- general appeals from other charities. Applications would normally come directly from research teams and projects need to be passed through our scientific peer review system
- grants for research into complementary/ alternative medicine.
- grants on how best to train clinical staff
- grants on social research, family relationships or socioeconomic research
- grants for very basic research with little likelihood of clinical impact within the short to medium term.
- Applicants based in core funded units can apply but need to demonstrate added value.

Grants are assessed by open competition and external referees, the number of referees depending on the cost and complexity of the application. The applications and referees reports are then assessed by the members of our Scientific Advisory Panel.

Project grants recommended by the Scientific Advisory Panel are submitted to Council for final approval.

Shortlisted Research Training Fellows are invited for interview and trustees have delegated full responsibility for the decision to commit research expenditure within the research budget to the Scientific Advisory Panel members on the interview board and where a trustee is present.