

GOSH Charity and Sparks National Funding

2019/2020

Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity and Sparks have a shared passion and commitment to support paediatric research nationally. Through our partnership, established in 2017, we are making £2 million available to support project grant applications from researchers across the UK.

This year we are also proud to partner with [Action for A-T](#), [Dravet Syndrome UK](#), [Krabbe UK](#), [Myotubular Trust](#), and [Norrie Disease Foundation](#). Further information on these partnerships can be found below.

Remit of the funding call

Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity and Sparks are inviting project grant applications for child health research from researchers across the UK. The emphasis of this call is on complex childhood illness, including rare diseases.

The call will support translational research across the spectrum of medical conditions affecting the fetus, neonates and children directly, as well as pregnancy disorders that affect the child.

All projects must aim to improve understanding and/or outcomes for the child and have the potential to lead to the development of new diagnostic tools and novel interventions. Proposals will be asked to articulate a clear route to clinical application and strong partnership between clinical and laboratory-based research.

Eligibility

This is a national funding call and is open to researchers across the UK. For this funding call, you do not need to have a co-applicant or collaborator from Great Ormond Street Hospital or the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health.

We particularly encourage applications from early career researchers and those who are still consolidating their independent research careers.

Funding Available

Applications will be considered from researchers across the UK. Up to £2 million is available to spend and it is anticipated that we will fund a range of proposals from different investigators and institutions across the UK. Therefore, applicants are asked to carefully consider their request for funding and whether it represents good value for money. The charities would not expect applications to exceed £250,000. Funding will be provided for the direct costs of research (such as research staff and consumables) but will not cover consultant Programmed Activities, team-leader salary time or PhD studentships. Typically, projects will be up to 3 years duration.

Applicants will also have the opportunity to request up to £5000 from the Rare Disease Conference Fund to support scientific and clinical workshops and conferences in rare diseases. Further guidance is included within the application form.

Funding Process

Applications will be received and managed by Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity and considered by its Research Assessment Panel. Final funding decisions will be announced in February 2020.

Full details about the application process, including members of the panel, are available on Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity's [website](#).

Research Partners

We are also delighted to offer the possibility of joint awards in partnership with our research partners in the specific areas outlined below.

With our partners we are specifically interested in receiving applications that:

- Have the potential to lead to treatments and cures for Ataxia Telangiectasia (A-T). Research should demonstrate to be of actual or future potential benefit to A-T patients
- Improve understanding, quality of life for those affected by Dravet syndrome including those that investigate and improve treatments in comorbidities associated with Dravet syndrome
- Aim to address the cause, diagnosis, understanding and treatment of Krabbe disease
- Aim to significantly advance the search to find a cure and/or a treatment for any of the genetic forms of centronuclear and myotubular myopathy.
- Aim to improve the treatment or quality of life of patients with Norrie disease, and particularly welcome research into Norrie disease progressive hearing loss. Projects must be able to demonstrate potential benefit to people with Norrie disease.

For more frequently asked questions about this funding call please click [here](#).

Alternatively, if you would like to know more about the funding call, our research partners or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Grants team at Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity on grants@gosh.org.

The deadline for submission of outline applications is **4pm on Thursday 25 July 2019**

GOSH Charity and Sparks National Funding Call
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why do Sparks and Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity have a joint funding call?

In February 2017, Sparks joined Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity under a subsidiary model. Both organisations have a shared passion and commitment to support paediatric research. Through this partnership we aim to drive more funds and awareness into paediatric health research across the UK. As part of integrating our activities we combined our national funding rounds into a single joint national funding call in child health research. We have run two successful joint competitive calls for national funding and have made 26 awards totalling £4,330,919.

2. What is the remit of the call?

We are inviting applications for child health research from researchers across the UK. The emphasis of this call is on complex childhood illness, including rare diseases. The call will support translational research across the spectrum of medical conditions affecting the fetus, neonates and children directly, as well as pregnancy disorders that affect the child.

3. Who are your research partners and is the process for applications in these areas different?

We are proud to partner with a number of rare disease organisations this year: [Action for A-T](#); [Dravet Syndrome UK](#); [Krabbe UK](#); [Myotubular Trust and Norrie Disease Foundation](#). These partnerships offer us the possibility of making joint awards in these specific disease areas. Applications in research partner areas will not have a separate application or assessment process. All applications to the call whether they be across the broad theme of child health research or focussed in one of the research partner areas will be assessed in open competition.

4. Is this funding call open to researchers across the UK or just researchers at Great Ormond Street Hospital and the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health?

This is a national funding call and is open to researchers across the UK. We encourage researchers from across the UK to apply for funding.

5. Do I need to have a co-applicant from Great Ormond Street Hospital and/or UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health to apply?

No. For this funding call you do not need to have a co-applicant or collaborator from Great Ormond Street Hospital and/or UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health to be eligible to apply.

6. Is the majority of this funding awarded to at Great Ormond Street Hospital and the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health? Do you have information about success rates for funding applications?

No, funding is awarded nationally based on quality assessment. In 2017/18, 64% of grants were awarded to institutions outside GOSH/ICH. In 2018/19, 67% of grants were awarded to institutions

outside GOSH/ICH. Success rates (from outline and from full application) are shown in the tables below:

2018/19

Outline Applications		Full Applications		Awarded	
83		31		12	
Applications from GOSH/ICH 24% (20)	Applications from other institutions 76% (63)	Applications from GOSH/ICH 29% (9)	Applications from other institutions 71% (22)	Applications from GOSH/ICH 33% (4)	Applications from other institutions 67% (8)

2017/18

Outline Applications		Full Applications		Awarded	
142		36		14	
Applications from GOSH/ICH 30% (42)	Applications from other institutions 70% (100)	Applications from GOSH/ICH 36% (13)	Applications from other institutions 64% (23)	Applications from GOSH/ICH 36% (5)	Applications from other institutions 64% (9)

7. Will you be running the Sparks Rare Disease Conference Fund?

Yes, however it is no longer a separate funding scheme and has been integrated into the GOSH Charity and Sparks national funding call. There will be up to £10,000 available and applicants can request up to £2000. We aim to fund a range of conferences, scientific and clinical workshops in support of rare diseases which bring together clinicians, families and scientists to share insights and inspire scientists with the experience of families and clinicians. Applications must form part of a wider research project application; applications solely for a conference will not be accepted. If invited for a full application, applicants will be asked to outline their plans for the conference. Further guidance is included within the application form.

8. How will funding decisions be made?

Applications will be managed by Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity. Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity is a member of the AMRC and as such, we ensure the research we fund meets the highest possible standards of quality, accountability, transparency and openness. The application will involve a two-stage process, an initial outline application and, if successful, invitation to a full application that will include external peer review.

Applications will be considered by the charity's Research Assessment Panel (RAP). The panel is made up of the following members: Professor Charles French-Constant (Chair of the Panel, University of Edinburgh), Professor Rosalind Smyth (UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health), Professor Anne Marie Rafferty (King's College London), Professor David Goldblatt (UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health), Professor David Edwards (King's College London), Professor Brian Bigger (University of Manchester), Professor Eamonn Maher (University of Cambridge) and Professor Raj Chopra (Institute of Cancer Research). The panel also includes two lay members: Yvonne Parry and Baroness Margaret Jay.

9. What is the timeline for the application process?

The deadline for an outline application is **4pm, Thursday 25 July 2019**. Applicants will be notified in early September if they have been successful with their outline application. The deadline for full applications will be in late October. If you are invited to submit a full application, you will be informed of the final funding decision in February 2020.

10. Do you have a maximum upper limit for which I can apply for?

Under this funding call up to £2 million is available to spend on projects across the UK. As in previous years, we anticipate funding a range of proposals from different investigators and institutions across the UK. Therefore, applicants are asked to carefully consider their request for funding and whether it represents good value for money. The charity would not expect individual applications to exceed £250,000.

11. Is there a limit on the number of applications I can submit?

Researchers can only submit 1 application as principle applicant, therefore we recommend you submit your strongest idea. However, you can be a co-applicant on other applications.

12. Can I talk to you about my research before I apply?

Yes, if you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact the Grants team at Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity on grants@gosh.org

13. How do I apply?

To start your outline application please click [here](#) and follow the instructions on the Grants Management System website. The deadline for outline applications is **4pm on Thursday 25 July 2019**.