

The primary mission of Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) Children's Charity is to enhance GOSH's ability to transform the health and wellbeing of children and young people, giving them the best chance to fulfil their potential. This year we are delighted to announce that we are continuing our partnership with medical research charity, LifeArc, for our third Translational Research Accelerator Grant Funding round.

LifeArc is a self-funded medical research charity with a focus on translation - advancing promising research into health care treatments or diagnostics to benefit health. The charity has a 25-year legacy of collaborating with scientists on diagnostics and therapies, enhancing and protecting innovation and advancing promising research. LifeArc reinvests any income it generates into furthering medical research to improve the lives of patients.

Together, through this funding scheme we want to support translational research at GOSH focused on addressing medical needs for rare disease patients.

### **Remit**

We are inviting translational, milestone-driven applications which aim to improve the prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment of rare disease or that focus on developing research tools that increase the efficiency of developing interventions in rare disease. The scheme is designed to support applications on the translational pathway with the expectation that researchers will continue to develop their therapy/diagnostic after GOSH charity/LifeArc funding, either by securing further funding from external translational schemes (from funders such as the Medical Research Council, National Institute for Health Research, Innovate UK and others), or partnering with/licensing to industry. Applications should:

- Address a rare disease medical need
- Have a strong scientific rationale
- Be a target-driven, milestone-oriented project with a credible delivery plan
- Have a clear route to patient
- Make the most of the unique patient populations at GOSH

The following activities **are eligible for support**:

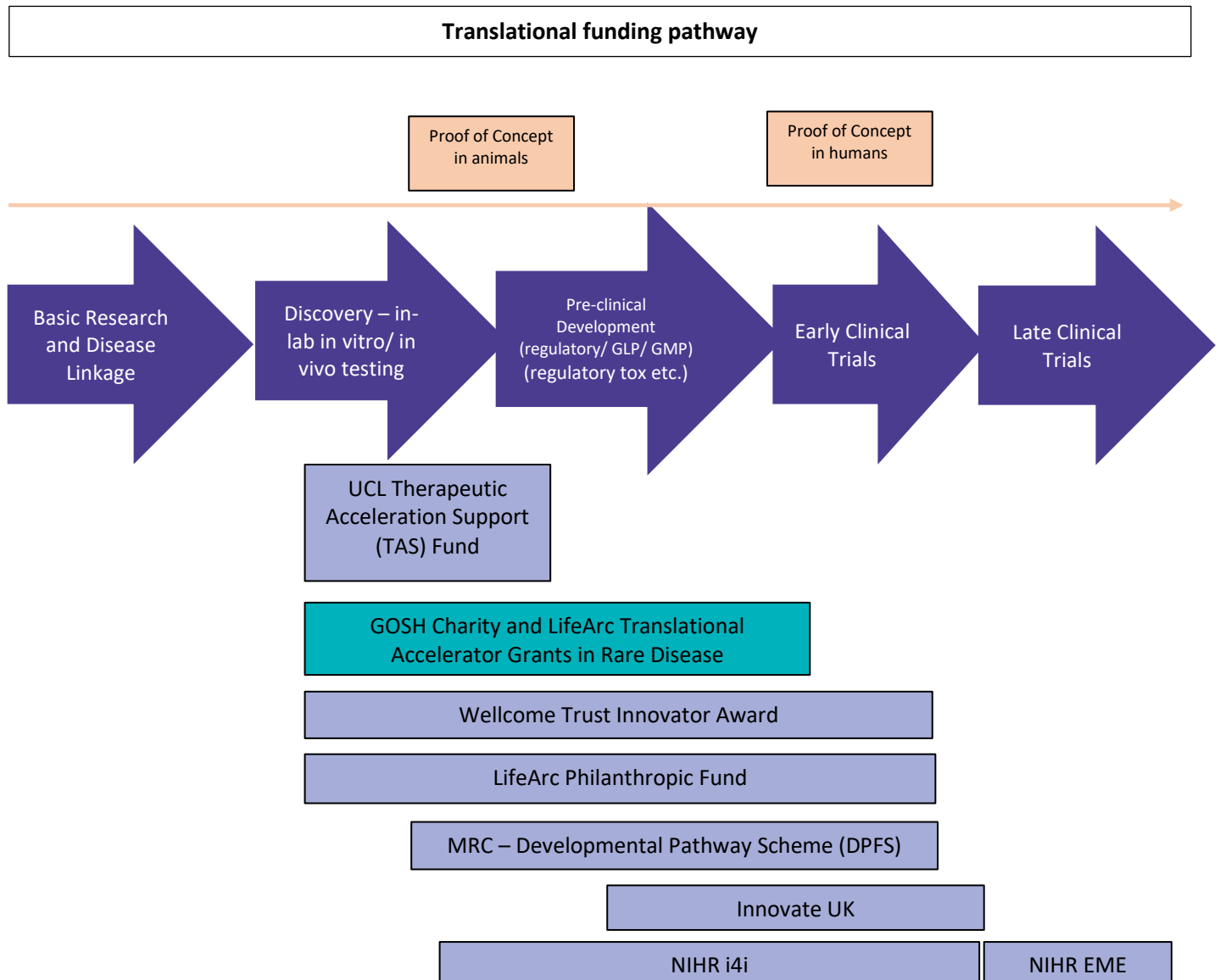
- Developing candidate therapeutic entities (e.g. drug discovery)
- Pre-clinical testing of novel therapeutic entities *in vitro* or *in vivo*
- Pre-clinical validation for repurposed therapeutics
- Early-phase clinical trials of novel therapeutic entities (phases 1/2)
- Clinical trials of existing therapeutics repurposed for a new indication
- Developing and testing novel devices
- Developing and testing diagnostics (including biomarker validation)

All modalities of intervention are eligible for support from the scheme, including small molecules, peptides, antibodies, vaccines, regenerative medicine, cell and gene therapy, devices, surgical techniques and psychological approaches. An indication of where this scheme fits within the wider translational funding pathway can be seen in the diagram below.

The following activities are **not eligible** for support:

- Fundamental or investigative research that does not link to a development plan
- Studies where the primary purpose is to investigate disease mechanism
- Late-phase clinical trials

If you have any questions about this please contact [grants@gosh.org](mailto:grants@gosh.org).



### Applicant Eligibility

Projects must be led by research active professionals based at GOSH or the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health. Collaborations with industry and other academic partners are encouraged where relevant to the project. Lead applicants may only submit one application per round.

The direct costs of research are eligible for support through this scheme. If the projects involve partnerships with industry, please note that only the academic costs will be funded, and that IP derived with this funding will be owned by UCL/GOSH.

### Funding Available

There is a total of £1million available under this call. There is no formal upper limit on the funds that can be applied for, but it is anticipated that we will fund a small number of high-quality projects of up to **three**

**years duration.** Applicants should note that continued funding will be subject to the achievement of the corresponding milestones.

### **Application process**

Before applying, applicants are recommended to contact the grants team by emailing [grants@gosh.org](mailto:grants@gosh.org) to discuss the eligibility of their proposed project.

1:1 pre-application sessions with a representative from LifeArc and GOSH charity are available to provide support to applicants about their proposed applications to the scheme. Please contact the grants team for more information.

### **This is a two-stage application process**

- 1) Applicants are required to submit an outline application form through the charity's online [application portal](#) which will be reviewed by GOSH Charity's Research Assessment Panel.
- 2) Successful applicants will then be invited to submit a full application which will undergo external peer review and further review by the Research Assessment Panel.

### **Webinar and Feedback Sessions**

GOSH Children's Charity and LifeArc will be running a webinar to provide further information about the call and assist applicants with their applications. The webinar will include representation from LifeArc, the Chair of the GOSH Charity Research Assessment Panel, the UCL TRO and the Joint GOSH and ICH R&D Office.

- **Webinar– Date TBC** This webinar is aimed at those who are interested in submitting an outline application. The aim of this webinar is to:
  - Provide information about the scheme and the types of applications we are looking for.
  - Provide an opportunity for applicants to ask questions about the scheme and the application process.
- **1:1 Feedback Sessions–** These sessions are open to those who have been invited to submit a full application and will take place at the beginning of May. The aim of these sessions is to:
  - Provide in depth support for applicants who have been invited to submit full applications.
  - Provide support to applicants and a forum to discuss their feedback from the outline application stage via 1:1 sessions

### **Deadline**

The deadline for submission of outline applications is **12pm, Thursday 30 March 2023**.

**Applicants should expect to hear the outcome of their outline application by the beginning of May, with the deadline for full applications being 12pm, Thursday 15 June 2023. Funding decisions are expected in October/November.**

### **Eligible Costs**

This funding is intended to support the key steps required to deliver patient benefit. Applicants can apply for the direct costs of research, for example:

- Salaries for research staff (including post-doctoral research associates, research assistants, research nurses, technicians, statisticians, technologists, methodologists, etc.)
- Consumables
- Experimental animals

The following are examples of costs that would be considered ineligible:

- Salary of the Principal Investigator/team leader
- Conference and publication costs
- Consultant programmed activities
- PhD studentships
- The apprenticeship levy
- Any other costs that should be covered by the NHS

The examples provided above are not an exhaustive list and all costs requested should be fully justified within the application. If an applicant is in any doubt of the eligibility of a proposed cost, please do contact the grants team at [grants@gosh.org](mailto:grants@gosh.org).