ADDENBROOKE'S CHARITABLE TRUST CAMBRIDGE CLINICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Since 2007 the Cambridge Clinical Research Fellowship programme has been supported by ACT, the NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre and the Evelyn Trust.

Fostering the future leaders of clinical research is critical in building research capacity both within CUH and nationally. The Cambridge Clinical Research Fellowship programme provides fellowships at the entry point of the clinical academic research training pathway. As a springboard, fellows are expected to gain research experience and generate pilot data to enhance applications to external funders such as the Medical Research Council, Wellcome Trust or the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) leading to a 3 or 4-year programme of research and PhD qualification.

CCR Fellowships - General information

- Fellowship applications are welcome in any area of clinical research.
- Funding will be awarded for a maximum of one year (or pro-rata for part-time fellowships) and a consumables allowance is provided.
- The fellowships are for both medical and non-medical healthcare professionals (nurses, midwives, AHPs, healthcare scientists)
- Medical fellowship candidates should be trainee doctors who are post FY2.
- There is no requirement for medical fellowship candidates to have existing connections with CUH.
- Nurses, midwives and AHPs (NMAHPs) and healthcare scientists should be employees of CUH and/or University of Cambridge.
- Applications from candidates without an identified potential supervisor and/or project are welcome since, at the preliminary stage, the Fellowship Review Panel can advise and assist in placing the candidate with an appropriate supervisor and in a research field of interest to the candidate.
- Supervisors should hold a substantive or honorary contract with an NHS organisation in Cambridge or the surrounding area.
- The proposed research should be undertaken within an NHS Department or within the University of Cambridge.
- Successful applicants are expected to comply with ACT's Grant Agreement including submission of progress reports for review.

Applications

- The application process consists of three stages: preliminary application, full application and interview.
- The preliminary application requires a copy of a current C.V and a covering letter explaining the reasons for applying and how the fellowship may further career paths. The C.V should be no longer than two pages (10 font size minimum). The cover letter should be no longer than 300 words and include a description of any previous research experience and research publications. These can be uploaded to the ACT funding portal as PDF documents.

- The full application requires more detailed information regarding the project you intend to carry out and the costings. This will only need to be completed if the applicant is asked to progress to the next stage.
- If invited to interview, applicants are expected to give a short presentation, followed by questions from the panel.
- Medical fellowship candidates should seek review and endorsement from the academic lead for the directorate / department in which the research will be undertaken, before the application is formally submitted. This should include confirmation of the candidate and supervisor's eligibility and endorsement of the budget.
- NMAHPs and healthcare scientists are expected to have an endorsement by their line manager/divisional lead, that their application is fully supported.
- Salary costs should be requested at full gross cost (please include all NI and superannuation as provided by the medical staffing or finance team of the expected or current employer).
- If an incremental salary increase is expected during the fellowship period, please include this within the salary costings.
- Any additional salary costs, not included in the application, will not subsequently be funded.

Review and selection criteria

ACT is committed to efficient, fair and expert peer review and relies on CUH's Research Advisory Committee (RAC). The objective of the Cambridge Clinical Research Fellowship programme is to provide support for up to one year at the entry point of the training pathway, during which time it is anticipated fellows will apply for nationally competitive fellowships with a view to completing a higher degree. It is anticipated that substantive pilot data and/or developmental work will be generated during the fellowship which will be used to strengthen external applications. These principles define the selection criteria (given below) that the Fellowship Review Panel may use to review and identify meritorious proposals:

- The personal qualities of the candidate including knowledge of clinical academic training and future aspirations
- How the candidate will use the fellowship as a springboard towards their training and professional development as a clinical academic
- The environment in which the research will be conducted and the training that will be provided
- The nature of the proposed research project including the capacity to generate substantive pilot data or provide valuable experience in a specialist field
- The likelihood of success i.e. meeting the objectives of the scheme culminating in submission of a competitive application to national fellowship schemes.

Applying via ACTs funding portal

Applications should be made via ACT's funding portal: SmartSimple | Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust (smartsimpleuk.com)

- Applicants will need to register and create a password.
- Once logged in to the site, select *Funding Opportunities,* which will display the funding options available.
- Select the *CCR Fellow Cambridge Clinical Research Fellowships* option and click on *Apply now*.
- Please make sure to save draft applications straight away.
- Complete the questions as requested - mandatory questions must be completed before moving on - and attach documents where appropriate.
- Draft applications can be saved for as long as needed, before submission of the application.

- Once an application is submitted an email confirmation will be sent.
- The application status can be tracked via the portal and email notifications regarding any additional information requests, approval, or decline will be sent from this email address: noreply@smartsimple.com.

Timeline

- The deadline for receipt of preliminary applications is **4th January 2027.**
- Candidates will be notified in **February 2027** whether they will be invited to progress to the next stage and submit a full application.
- The deadline for receipt of the full application is **1st March 2027**.
- The applications will be considered by the Fellowship Review Panel (a sub-group of CUH's Research Advisory Committee) and it is anticipated that interviews will take place on **24th March 2027** (date subject to change according to panel availability).
- The recommendations of the Fellowship Review Panel are forwarded to the Evelyn Trust and ACT's Charitable Expenditure Committee for consideration and then finally approved by the Evelyn Trust's and ACT's Trustees.
- Applicants will be advised by letter of the outcome in **June/July 2027**.
- The expected start date for successful fellowships is **August/September 2027**.
- Applicants should take this timeframe into account when planning the start date of their proposed research.