

**OLYMPUS/GUTS UK ENDOSCOPY FELLOWSHIP: RESEARCH SCOPE AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

## Research scope:

Guts UK and Olympus are offering a jointly-funded 3-year Fellowship for endoscopy research on Barrett's Oesophagus and Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GORD). The research project will need to address one or more of the ‘Top 10 research priorities in Barrett’s Oesophagus and gastroesophageal reflux disease’ (Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2017 Nov;2(11):824-831. doi: 10.1016/S2468-1253(17)30250-9). The main objective is to answer, or help clarify, one or more of the current uncertainties identified around Barrett’s Oesophagus and GORD.

The research priorities cover screening, diagnosis, surveillance and treatment, so the projects submitted to the call can take a number of different approaches and methodologies within clinical research, utilising advanced endoscopy or related technologies. Projects can also include basic and/or epidemiology research (including genetic studies) or healthcare economics adjuncts, provided they can help elucidate the clinical question. Technological evaluations should be transferable and avoid being specific to a particular manufacturer.

The specific objectives of the project will depend on the research question proposed but must involve endoscopy and could address:

* a need for improved patient risk stratification,
* the durability and role of different endoscopic therapies for dysplastic Barrett’s Oesophagus,
* alternative diagnostic and surveillance tests,
* efficacy of a dedicated Barrett’s Oesophagus service,
* cost effectiveness and appropriateness of current or new surveillance approaches,
* advances in non-drug treatments for Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease.

## Eligibility criteria:

This research fellowship is restricted to specialty trainees working in gastroenterology or surgery. The research fellow will be supervised by an established investigator with a track record of collaboration and delivery in research, as well as experience in PhD supervision to completion. The fellow appointed to work on the project must register for a PhD degree.

The fellow must be based in the UK and will be supervised from one centre but multicentre collaborations are encouraged. Research teams that collaborate with other specialties, academic departments or community based healthcare providers will be welcomed. If the project involves collaboration between different sites, the fellow will communicate closely with all the involved centres and coordinate the collection and evaluation of data. Fellowships can include an element of research training overseas, up to 6 months.

## Budget and research duration:

The total value of the fellowship is £210,000 to cover salary costs and consumables over 3 years.

Equipment and capital costs will not be funded. If part of the project takes place abroad, consumables in overseas institutions will not be covered.

## Other considerations:

Guts UK are keen that the research starts as soon as possible after the award of the grant. The successful applicant must ensure he or she has permission to come out of programme in time to start the fellowship.

Ethical and other relevant approvals as required by the project will need to be in place before the work commences. Research involving animals will not be accepted for this grant call.

Provided the study meets the NIHR’s definition of a research study, the project will be eligible for adoption by the UK Clinical Research Network and therefore will be eligible for NIHR support. Applicants are encouraged to contact their local NIHR Clinical Research Network for advice as early as possible.

Dissemination of the research findings will be a key aspect of this fellowship. The team carrying out the research are expected to publish papers and present key findings at relevant conferences. The team will also be expected to describe their work to representatives of the priority setting partnership that identified the top ten research questions, as well as to other relevant lay audiences.

## Application process:

An application form and guidance notes for completing the form can be downloaded from:  
<http://gutscharity.org.uk/research/grants-and-awards>. Please submit your application by email to [research@gutscharity.org.uk](mailto:research@gutscharity.org.uk) and post one wet-signed copy to Guts UK, 3 St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LB. Applications will be considered incomplete until the wet-signed copy has been received.

The deadline for applications will be 5pm 8th October 2018. Applications will be assessed by the Guts UK Research Awards Committee and external peer reviewers. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview on 7th December. The Research Awards Committee will then select one research project for funding and the Trustees of Guts UK will approve the award of the grant to that research project. The successful applicant will be notified by mid-December 2018.

**Please note:** Any queries relating to submission of the application must be referred directly to Guts UK. Applicants or their colleagues may not contact a Research Awards Committee member or Guts UK Trustee to discuss any aspect of an application or the decision reached on it.

**For details of the terms and conditions of the fellowship please see the Guts UK website.**