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# forCrohns/Guts UK Crohn’s Disease Research Grant - Research scope and eligibility criteria

## Overview

forCrohns and Guts UK are announcing a joint grant call for research projects on Crohn’s disease. forCrohns ([www.forcrohns.org](http://www.forcrohns.org)) funds research that helps people with Crohn’s disease today and can contribute to finding a cure in the future. Guts UK ([www.gutscharity.org.uk](http://www.gutscharity.org.uk)) funds research on all digestive disorders. The two organisations have teamed up for a second year to support research in their area of synergy.

## Research scope

To align with forCrohns charitable objectives the research question must focus on Crohn’s disease, though projects might also benefit patients with other Inflammatory Bowel Diseases. The research project should be able to advance our understanding of Crohn’s disease, contribute to finding a cure and/or improve the impact the disease has on patients. The research question could, for example, be informed by the top ten research priorities identified in the James Lind Alliance [Priority Setting Partnership on Inflammatory Bowel Disease](http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/priority-setting-partnerships/inflammatory-bowel-disease/).

To ensure the research is innovative and efficient, applicants will be asked to demonstrate their understanding of ongoing studies on Crohn’s disease, and explain how their proposed project fits in within the current research landscape on Crohn’s disease.

It is envisaged that the research project could allow the collection of pilot or proof-of-concept data that will enable a high-quality competitive application to be made subsequently to a research council or other large funder, such as the National Institute of Health Research.

Applications will be assessed for plausibility, feasibility, importance, originality, suitability of research team, and potential to elicit useful results, further funding and/or follow up studies.

## Eligibility criteria

The grant call is open to research established investigators, both clinicians and scientists, based at a UK university or hospital. Academic Clinical Lecturers who have a contract of sufficient length to cover the duration of the research project will be considered. This award is not for a fellowship; the principal applicant must have an established academic or clinical position. Fellows can be co-applicants, but their salary must be covered by other funds. Funding will be available only in the UK.

## Budget and research duration

The maximum allowed budget per project is £50,000. It is envisaged that two grants will be awarded. Only the direct costs associated with the project will be funded. Overhead allocation or other indirect costs, including senior or supervisory posts which are already covered by other funding will not be funded; equipment or capital costs will not be funded either. All costs must be clearly explained and justified. The maximum duration of the projects should be 24 months.

## Other considerations

forCrohns and Guts UK are keen that the research starts as soon as possible after the award of the grant. Ethical approval will be needed before the work commences, if required by the project. If relevant, all licences pertaining to research using animals must be valid and in place.

Provided the study meets the NIHR’s definition of a research study, the selected project(s) will also be eligible for adoption by the UK Clinical Research Network and therefore will be eligible for NIHR support.

## Terms and condition

These grants will be bound by the Guts UK Terms and Conditions of Grants, as well as by any special conditions relevant to the grant call. For details of the Guts UK Terms and Conditions of Grants please see the Guts UK website. In addition to the requirements described in that document, forCrohns requests the following special conditions:

* Grant holders are required to produce an interim progress report after 6 months of the project.
* Grant holders are required to plan and deliver an educational event for Crohn’s disease patients at some point during the grant period. Grant holders can decide what is presented, whether it is an overview of the project and its findings or a more general educational event about the disease. forCrohns and Guts UK will be the exclusive charities at such an event (i.e. the event cannot be held alongside another event).

## Application process

An application form and guidance notes for completing the form can be downloaded at <http://gutscharity.org.uk/research/research-awards-information/>

The deadline for applications is 5pm 19th August 2019. Applications will be initially reviewed by a joint panel with representatives from both Guts UK and forCrohns. Shortlisted applications will be sent for external peer review. These applications and their peer reviews will be assessed by a Review Panel made up of Guts UK’s Research Awards Committee and forCrohns representatives, who will select two research projects for funding. The trustees of both charities will approve the award of a grant to that research project. The successful applicant will be notified by the end of December 2019.

Please email your application together with a scanned copy of the application with wet signatures to research@gutscharity.org.uk (including copies of supporting letters/emails). You will need to post a wet-signed copy to Research Awards, Guts UK, 3 St Andrew’s Place, London, NW1 4LB (this can be received till a week later than the submission date). Both the electronic and hard copies are required for the application to be considered complete. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

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