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**RESEARCH SCOPE AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE ‘GUTS UK-BSPGHAN SMALL GRANTS’**

Guts UK ([www.gutscharity.org.uk](http://www.gutscharity.org.uk)) and The British Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (BSPGHAN [www.bspghan.org.uk](http://www.bspghan.org.uk)) are announcing a grant call for new research projects. For the first time they will co-fund a call for a start-up grant to support research studies on paediatric pancreatitis and pancreatic diseases.

On 15th June 2021 both organisations are opening a new call to award one grant up to £10,000.

## Research scope:

Guts UK and BSPGHAN are inviting applications for research studies on pancreatitis and pancreatic diseases in children. We have identified these conditions as an area to prioritise to improve treatments and healthcare interventions for the children affected. This award is envisaged as a development grant for 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 can include, but are not limited to, research projects focused on establishing or expanding clinical registries that will allow collection of relevant epidemiology data are welcome.

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

* Scientific excellence (plausibility, feasibility, importance, originality, potential to elicit clinically useful results).
* Value for money.
* Suitability of research team (track record of the applicants).
* The potential difference the research will make to the lives of patients.
* The potential for further funding and/or follow up studies.

## Eligibility criteria:

The grant call is open to clinician and scientist investigators, including Academic Clinical Lecturers, based at a UK university or hospital. The principal applicant must have a contract of sufficient length to cover the duration of the research project. At the time of applying the principal applicant must have their salary guaranteed for the entire period of the research project. This award is not for a fellowship; the principal applicant must not be a fellow though co-applicants may be. Funding will be available only in the UK.

## Budget and research duration:

The maximum allowed budget is £10,000. Only the direct costs associated with the project will be funded. This grant is not intended to be used as ‘top-up’ funds to meet a shortfall in funding from another body. Overhead allocation or other indirect costs, including senior or supervisory posts which are already covered by other funding will not be funded. Publication, open access, and public relations costs, attendance at conferences and equipment or capital costs will not be funded either. All costs must be clearly explained and justified. Awards are provided for up to 24 months.

## Other considerations:

Guts UK are keen that the research starts as soon as possible, and it is expected that the research project will start within 6 months of the award date. Ethical approval, if required by the project, will be needed before the work commences. 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. For clinical research proposals, applicants are encouraged to contact their local NIHR Clinical Research Network for advice as early as possible.

## 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 (including copies of supporting letters/emails). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we are accepting electronic signatures. However, after the deadline, we might ask you to post a wet-signed copy to Research Awards, Guts UK, 3 St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LB.The deadline for applications will be 5pm 16th August 2021.

Applications will be initially scored by representatives from the Guts UK Research Awards Committee and from BSPGHAN. The top scoring applications will be assessed by a panel of representatives from the Guts UK Research Awards Committee and from BSPGHAN at a meeting at the end of October. Approval from the trustees of Guts UK will be sought for the award of this grant to the research project recommended by the Panel. The successful applicant will be notified in November 2021.

If you have any questions about the application procedure please contact:
Manuela Volta, Research Manager at Guts UK
Telephone: 0207 052 5768
E-mail: research@gutscharity.org.uk

**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 Guts UK Research Awards Committee member, BSPGHAN representative or a Trustee of Guts UK to discuss any aspect of an application or the decision reached on it.

These grants will be bound by the Guts UK terms and conditions, 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 website.