**GUTS UK/DR FALK SPR TRAINEE AUDIT/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS CRITERIA**

Applications are invited from UK-based gastroenterology specialty trainees (who hold a National Training Number) who would like to conduct an audit in any area of gastroenterology (including hepatology and pancreatology) or nutrition.

The aim of this award is to engage and support trainee gastroenterologists in audit and quality improvement that will bring about real benefits for patients. Guts UK and Dr Falk are committed to engaging trainees with research, obtaining funding and adding an extra dimension to your career at an early stage.

Applications can be made for the full £10,000 or for smaller amounts. Applications can come from individual trainees or from collaborators within trainee networks working across different sites regionally or nationally. Applications may be for new projects for existing networks or for the development of a project within a new research network. If you plan to apply as a network, refer to the ‘Tips to set up a successful trainee network’ document on the Guts UK website.

The project must address an area of clinical need within gastroenterology and have clear patient benefit. Pilot and feasibility work to enable larger grant applications will be considered. The project must be entirely based within the UK and for a maximum period of one year.

The successful project should be able to start within a maximum of six months of the date of the award. Ideally ethical approval, where necessary, will have been sought before the application is submitted but applications will be accepted before approval has been sought. However, funds will not be released until proof of ethics approval has been submitted for applications where ethical approval is required. A final report should be available to Guts UK within three months of completion.

This award is not to support salary costs of the applicants nor higher degree fees. All relevant non-capital project costs can be funded under this award. This can include, for example, network-related set up costs such as website, database expenses as well as project-related travel or volunteers’ expenses.

In order to assist with project start-up costs 50% of the grant will be paid at the start of Grant Period on receipt by Guts UK of an invoice. The remaining grant will be paid on receipt by Guts UK of the final report (subject to a satisfactory peer review), an invoice and a breakdown of costs incurred against the items of expenditure in the Grant Budget.

Trainees who have an established project or fellowship that is fully funded are not eligible for this award unless the funding is to contribute to a separate piece of work. Details of other funding for related work must be provided on the application form.

Applicants must have a minimum of 12 months of training remaining from the proposed start date of the project.