

INSTITUTE OF MAXILLOFACIAL PROSTHETISTS & TECHNOLOGISTS



Research Award

FINAL IMPT EW 180618

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Introduction

- 1.1) The role of the maxillofacial prosthodontist has changed significantly in recent years. Increased professional autonomy, the evolution of higher academic qualifications has significantly impacted upon the profession and the application of contemporary practice.
- 1.2) Coincident with such development is greater accountability, increased clinical responsibility and raised public expectation of an optimum rehabilitative outcome. In addition, there is an overriding requirement for the provision of high quality evidence based practice to ensure patient safety and wellbeing.
- 1.3) The Institute of Maxillofacial Prosthetists & Technologists (IMPT) is the UK professional body that advises on the training, qualification, practice and conduct of Maxillofacial Prosthetists and Reconstructive Scientists. To ensure high quality care, the IMPT has produced guidance that outlines good clinical and scientific practice through research.
- 1.4) It is the purpose of this document to provide a framework for research funding. This document will provide guidance on the application for the IMPT Research Award.
- 1.5) This document will address the application process, assessment criteria, scope of funding and some frequently asked questions. However, these guidelines do not attempt to encompass every scientific or clinical detail coincident with research within our speciality.

Application

2.1) Process

As part of the application process, applicants will be required to produce documentation for the following:

1. A signed letter from the NHS Trust or the Research & Development department where the research will be undertaken, stating permission to carry out the proposed research within the NHS Trust.
2. A detailed research project proposal (Max 2,500 words, excluding references)
The proposal should be set out under the specific headings:
 - Abstract (maximum of 200 words)
 - Introduction (including the scientific background to the research question)
 - Aims and objectives
 - Project design
 - Subjects (including justification for sample size)
 - Research methodology
 - Data analysis
 - Potential impact on patient care
 - Study timescale and costs
 - Other funding obtained, declaration or conflict of interest statement
3. The Lead applicant must provide a short CV to include any previous involvement in research and/or publication experience.
4. Please provide the Ethical approval letter, copy of the IRAS form and HRA approval if applicable.
5. Evidence of a current Good Scientific Practice or Good Clinical Practice Certificate, available through the National Institute of Health Research Clinical Research Network.

2.2) Format

A hard copy must be submitted to the IMPT Council Secretary in Times Roman 12 font, double spaced, and in a single sided page format.

2.3) Who can apply?

This award is open to IMPT members only. The Lead applicant must be a Full or Associate member of the IMPT. Other research collaborators should be listed in the Abstract.

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) partnership status?

All the awards offered by the IMPT may be put forward for NIHR CRN support through an application onto the National Portfolio. Successful applicants could be eligible for NHS infrastructure support and NHS service support; more information can be found on the NIHR website.

Assessment Criteria

The application is assessed by an IMPT appointed panel:

- 1) IMPT Secretary
- 2) A representative from the IMPT Education Committee
- 3) Independent Academic Assessor (non IMPT Council member)

In judging the applications, assessors are asked to consider the following points:

Originality

- Will the project provide new insight into the problem?
- Would the project be valuable in confirming the results of existing studies?
- Is the research of clear value to patients, the profession and the NHS?

Importance (clinical or otherwise) of the work

- Is the project area already receiving attention; i.e. is further support warranted?
- Will the project contribute to the furtherance of knowledge in the field?
- Will the project ultimately benefit patients or patient care?

Scientific reliability - project design and methods

- Is the project well designed?
- Are the methods outlined appropriate to achieve the objective?
- Is the sample size justified?
- Is the use of controls appropriate?
- Are supporting references up-to-date and relevant?

Data analysis

- Is the proposed data analysis described?
- Will the project be statistically sound; i.e. has appropriate statistical analysis been undertaken?

Experience of applicant, facilities and support

- Is the applicant sufficiently experienced and qualified to carry out the study?
- Is the applicant's department, work setting or level of supervision of a high enough calibre to support the project adequately?
- Does the applicant hold an up-to-date Good Scientific Practice or Good Clinical Practice Certificate?

Justification of resources

- Will the supplies or services for which funding is requested, provide a valuable contribution to the project? Is the funding requested appropriate for the supplies or services detailed; i.e. has the applicant supplied an up to date quotation or realistic estimates?
- Is completion of the project dependent on the applicant securing funds from other sources? Preference will be given to projects for which completion is not dependent on the applicant subsequently obtaining additional funding from other sources.
- Would funding for this project be available from non-voluntary sources i.e. commercial?

High quality peer review

Peer review must be independent, expert and proportionate.

- *Independent:* At least two independent experts should have reviewed the study prior to submission for the IMPT Research Award. The definition of independent used here is that the reviewers must be external to the investigators' host institution and not involved in the study in any way. Reviewers do not need to be anonymous.
- *Expert:* Reviewers should have knowledge of the relevant discipline to consider the clinical and/or services based aspects of the protocol, and/or have the expertise to assess the methodological and statistical aspects of the study.
- *Proportionate:* Peer review should be commensurate with the size and complexity of the study. Large multicentre studies should have higher level (more reviewers with broader expertise and often independent review committee or board) peer review.

Scope of Funding

The panel will consider all reasonable requests however limitations will apply.

The IMPT Research Award could help to explore and test new ideas, methods, approaches, interventions and/or devices. Typically funding could be available for clinical research costs, fieldwork expenses, materials and consumables.

4.1) Can the award cover tuition costs for medical education, postgraduate education or post-doctoral education?

No. The IMPT Research Award is only available to support research, which is either in progress or proposed and is not available for funding of postgraduate education involving 'taught' programmes (eg Masters courses).

4.2) Would the award provide funding for overseas education or training?

No. The IMPT Research Award is not available for this purpose. Other Awards may be available for this instance.

4.3) Would the award cover the cost of attending a conference overseas?

No. The IMPT Research Award is not available for this purpose, but is available to support research, which is either in progress or proposed, and not to provide funding solely for travel or accommodation expenses. Other Awards may be available for this instance.

4.4) Would the award provide funding for a research project to be carried out outside the UK?

Each grant application would be considered according to the application criteria, but other grants may be available for research outside the UK.

4.5) Would the award cover the cost of computer hardware?

No. The purchase of computer hardware cannot be funded by this award. Software may be covered as part of expenses or equipment dependent on the assessment of the Study application criteria.

4.6) Will the award cover salary costs?

No. The award cannot cover salary costs.

Frequently asked questions

5.1) When can I apply for funding?

Applications for the IMPT Research Award will be considered at any time, in accordance with the application process set out above, to the IMPT Council Secretary.

5.2) When will the award be announced?

All applications will be examined against the application criteria and panel assessment and peer review (4-6 weeks from receipt). The Study will then be bought before the next full meeting of the IMPT Council and all applicants will be informed after Council has made its decision.

5.3) When will the money be available?

Award money will be available through the Treasurer upon presentation of receipts to the sum of the monies awarded.

5.4) How long will the money be available for?

The total funding awarded is available over the study period as stated on the Study Protocol documentation.