MRC IAA - Confidence in Concept Application Form

The **Confidence in Concept**scheme aims to accelerate the transition from discovery science to the early stages of therapeutic, diagnostic or medical device development by supporting preliminary work or feasibility studies to establish the viability of an approach.   
  
Funding of up to £75,000 may be awarded for each project. Typically, this will allow for a 12-month PDRA/RA contract plus consumables.    
  
**An Invention Disclosure Form (IDF) must be submitted two weeks prior to the submission of this application. Please visit**[**https://www.qub.ac.uk/Business/Commercialisation/IP-and-innovation/Got-an-idea/**](https://www.qub.ac.uk/Business/Commercialisation/IP-and-innovation/Got-an-idea/) **for more information or contact Maria Colligan (m.colligan@qub.ac.uk) in the Commercial Development Team.**  
 **Applications based on multi/inter-disciplinary research are eligible and encouraged**  
 **Please ensure that you have read the MRC IAA guidelines before proceeding with this application. The guidelines can be found at** [**https://www.qub.ac.uk/Research/Our-impact/impact-acceleration-accounts/FileStore/Filetoupload,1627536,en.pdf**](https://www.qub.ac.uk/Research/Our-impact/impact-acceleration-accounts/FileStore/Filetoupload,1627536,en.pdf)  
  
To discuss your application before submission, please contact [iaa@qub.ac.uk](mailto:iaa@qub.ac.uk) and include 'MRC IAA' in the subject line.

**It is expected that the outcome of the call will be announced approximately 6 weeks after the closing date.**  
  
**THIS CALL WILL CLOSE AT MIDNIGHT ON MONDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2023**

# Section 1

Project Title

1. Title of Project (Required to answer. Multi Line Text.)

Please provide a short disclosable descriptive title for the project. The title should summarise the proposed project to a non-technical audience. (Max 50 words)

Enter your answer

# Section 2

Related Invention Disclosure

**An Invention Disclosure Form (IDF) must be submitted two weeks prior to the submission of this application**.

For more information and to access the form please visit <https://www.qub.ac.uk/Business/Commercialisation/IP-and-innovation/Got-an-idea/> or contact Maria Colligan (m.colligan@qub.ac.uk) in the Commercial Development Team in the Commercial Development Team

1. Have you already submitted an Invention Disclosure Form (IDF) (i.e. is your application based on an existing invention already disclosed to the University?) **Please submit your IDF at least 2 weeks in advance of the call deadline.** (Required to answer)

Yes

No (please complete an IDF)

1. Please provide relevant IDF number

If you do not know the number, please contact Maria Colligan (m.colligan@qub.ac.uk) in the Commercial Development Team (Required to answer)

Enter your answer

# Section 3

Principal Investigator details

1. Name and Title (Required to answer. Single line text.)

Enter your answer

1. Staff ID (Required to answer. Single line text)

Enter your answer

1. Current position (Required to answer. Single line text.)

Enter your answer

1. University School/Centre Name (Required to answer. Single line text)

Enter your answer

1. Work Address (Required to answer. Multi Line Text.)

Enter your answer

1. Work Email (Required to answer. Single line text.)

Enter your answer

# Section 4

Named Researcher(s)/Co-I(s) details **(Early Career Researchers are encouraged)**

If this is not applicable please proceed to the next section

1. Name(s) and title(s) (Multi line text.)

Enter your answer

1. Staff ID (s) (Multi line text)

Enter your answer

1. Current position (s) (Multi text.)

Enter your answer

1. University School/Centre name (Multi line text.)

Enter your answer

1. Work Address(es) (Multi line text).

Enter your answer

1. Work Email (s) (Multi line text.)

Enter your answer

# Section 5

Previous MRC Funding

1. Have you previously received IAA/Proximity to Discovery/Confidence in Concept funding (for any project)? (Required to answer. Single choice).

Yes

No

1. If you answered 'Yes' to Q16, please provide a short synopsis of the impact achieved and indicate whether a report has been submitted. (Multi Line Text.)

Enter your answer

# Section 6

Partner Involvement

1. Would there be an external partner involved in this project? (Required to answer. Single choice)

Yes (please complete this section)

No (please go to the next section)

1. Name and Address of External Partner(s) (including department, if relevant) (Multi Line Text.)

Enter your answer

1. Main Activity of External Partner(s) (Multi line text.)

Enter your answer

1. How would you describe the partner? (Single choice.)

Large commercial organisation

Small and medium-sized enterprise (SME)

Public sector organisation

Third sector organisation (including charities)

Clinical collaborator (including Health care organisations)

1. Contact at the external partner(s) (Please include name, role and work email) (Multi line text.)

Enter your answer

1. Does the Principal Investigator or any named University employee have an equity stake in the external partner organisation? (Single choice.)

A Queen’s researcher can still apply for an MRC IAA award even if they have an equity state

Yes

No

# Section 7

Background including underpinning work

1. Briefly outline your previous/current research that this application for IAA funding is based on. Please include relevant references (title & funder reference #) to previous awards, where appropriate (Max. 300 words)(Required to answer. Multi line text.)

Enter your answer

1. What is the technology, idea or opportunity that you would like to develop? (please provide a clear and concise overview including the unmet need, where relevant) Max 150 words (Required to answer. Multi Line Text.)

Enter your answer

1. Please provide details of any other external collaborators involved in this project to date (academic or industry) and the nature of their involvement (e.g.  MTAs, co-inventors, owners of materials) (Multi Line Text.)

Enter your answer

# Section 8

Project Proposal

1. What are the Aims and Objectives of the activity you are seeking funding for? (Max 200 words)(Required to answer. Multi Line Text.)

Enter your answer

1. Brief summary of project (Max 300 words)

You will have a further opportunity to expand on the impact the project could deliver in Section 10 (Required to answer. Multi Line Text.)

Please provide a non-confidential abstract of the project. Please try to include:

* Where in the clinical or patient pathway this technology could potentially fit
* Acknowledgement of any competing solutions (in academia and industry)

Enter your answer

1. Project Description (Max 500 words) (Required to answer. Multi Line Text).

Please provide a description of the experimental work you intend to carry out. If possible, provide details of project **milestones or go/no criteria and deliverables**which could be used to determine if the next stage in technological development has been successfully achieved. If sub-contracting a work package, please provide details of an indicative quote.

Enter your answer

1. In addition to the word limit, ONE A4 page containing figures and legends may be uploaded (Upload File.)

**Upload file**

File number limit: 1Single file size limit: 10MBAllowed file types: Word, Excel, PPT, PDF, Image, Video, Audio

1. Please upload a work plan, or a Gantt chart of the proposed activities you are seeking funding for (Max 1page) (Required to answer. Upload File.)

Please include details of the proposed methodology and an overview of the key work packages. Ensure that project endpoints are clearly described. In order to ensure that the project remains on schedule, please include timings and monitoring arrangements (e.g. feedback/updates from partners, Commercial Development, PI, or external experts).   
  
Make clear at which points the input of collaborators (within or outside QUB) will be required, and what materials will be transferred in or out of QUB.

**Upload file**

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# Section 9

Project Management

1. Provide a short summary of the PI and key project team members and their role & responsibilities in this project. Please make the staffing requirements clear – e.g. a Named Researcher/Co-I will be required for 12 months. Please also provide details on how the project will be managed, and what experience the team has of managing similar projects. (Required to answer. Multi Line Text)

With the permission of the PI, suitably experienced PDRAs are encouraged to take a leading role in preparing and managing the project, particularly in any commercial discovery and planning for future development of the technology. (Max 300 words)

Enter your answer

1. With respect to Project delivery list any Risks and Mitigations (Max 150 words) (Required to answer. Multi Line Text. )

Enter your answer

1. Briefly outline any Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) principles that were considered in the project design/development (Max 100 words) (Required to answer. Multi Line Text.)

Rather than re-iterating Institutional level EDI (gender, race and disability) policies, when completing this question please reflect on all aspects of EDI and how they are acknowledged and adequately addressed within your working environment and project plans. (See the guidance notes)

Enter your answer

1. Please detail how you have considered the principles of Responsible Innovation in your project design/development (see guidance notes). (Required to answer. Multi Line Text.)

Enter your answer

# Section 10

Translational Pathway

1. Outcomes for current project (Max 250 words) (Required to answer. Multi Line Text.)

Some suggested points to consider: 

* What measurable outcomes do you anticipate from the experimental work?
* How will these successful experiments advance the technology along the translational pathway?
* Will new QUB IP have been generated and / or protected? Will existing QUB IP be validated, improved, or have a new use demonstrated?

Enter your answer

1. If the CiC project meets the objectives, what is the potential to deliver impact e.g. in terms of health and welfare, improved outcomes for patients, adoption of new therapeutic/diagnostic/devices, disease prevention, economic growth, lower costs of treatment, spin-out or new business creation? (Max 500 words)(Required to answer. Multi Line Text).

Some points to consider:

* At what point in the clinical pathway would this technology be applied?
* What benefit to health outcomes would you ultimately hope to see?
* What might be the advantages over existing or competing solutions?
* What academic impacts could be expected?
* Is there any possibility for economic benefits in Northern Ireland, or opportunities for QUB and QUB graduates?
* Are there other potential non-academic beneficiaries?

Enter your answer

1. Funding and Strategy for Further Development - The MHLS Faculty and the MRC would strongly encourage applicants to use their CIC project as a bridge to a more substantial follow-up grant for further development of their technology, in particular DPFS. (Max 4,000 characters (including spaces) per answer/around 600-1,000 words. This has been updated due to limits within MS Forms. Any issues please upload answer as word document at Q53) (Required to answer. Multi Line Text.)

In this section, please set out an indicative summary of project objectives, rationale and milestones that could plausibly form the backbone of a follow up application for a 2-3 year DPFS project, assuming success with the deliverables of the current CIC project. (Please see the MRC IAA Guidance Document for more information - <https://www.qub.ac.uk/Research/Our-impact/impact-acceleration-accounts/FileStore/Filetoupload,1627536,en.pdf>)

Enter your answer

1. What do you see as the longer-term potential this project will unlock or enable? (Please consider approximately a 5-year timeline; consider future applications/development of collaborative relationship/further collaborative work with external partners etc.) (Max 200 words) (Required to answer. Multi Line Text.)

Enter your answer

# Section 11

Ethical and IP Considerations

1. Please provide details of any regulatory/ethical issues to be addressed prior to commencing the project. Also indicate if you have obtained, or will need approvals for use of animal or human tissues. (Multi Line Text.)

Enter your answer

1. Please provide details of any externally owned IP, that you know of, where you would need access to complete the project or bring a product to market. (Multi Line Text).

Enter your answer

# Section 12

Detail of Costs

All MRC IAA applications should be registered on the Research Application System (RAS).  Applicants should work with the relevant Faculty Finance Office to calculate project budgets. **Please be in contact with your Faculty Finance Office at least 5 days in advance of the call deadline.**

1. List RAS # (Required to answer. Single line text.)

Enter your answer

1. Proposed Start Date (Required to answer. Date). This indicative date may be dependent on negotiation of collaborative agreement

Please input date (M/d/yyyy)

1. Proposed End Date (Required to answer. Date.)

Please input date (M/d/yyyy)

1. Total duration of the project (in months) (Required to answer. Single line text.)

(Max. duration permitted is 12 months)

Enter your answer

1. Approx. PI time to be allocated to project (Required to answer. Single line text.)

Enter your answer

1. Please upload details of the funding requested *(Please do not include any overhead figures. You can use RAS information)* (Required to answer. Upload File.)

Please provide a breakdown of the budget and include cost and information on the following:

* Salary (and associated superannuation and NI contributions)
* Sub-contracting
* Consumables
* Other (please specify)

**Upload file**

File number limit: 1Single file size limit: 10MBAllowed file types: Word, Excel, PPT, PDF, Image, Video, Audio

1. Total funding requested from QUB in £GBP (Required to answer. Single line text.)

Enter your answer

1. Please provide details and estimated value of any contributions (cash and/or in-kind) from alternative internal or external sources (if any) (Multi Line Text.)

Enter your answer

1. Justification of resources (Required to answer. Multi Line Text.)

Please provide a brief justification of any resources requested, including reference to tasks / work packages in the project plan where necessary.  A breakdown of consumable costs for example is helpful.  
  
If you have indicative quotes/emails from service or equipment providers you may upload these with this application, in Section 13.   
  
For further details on eligible costs please refer to the guidance document. (<https://www.qub.ac.uk/Research/Our-impact/impact-acceleration-accounts/FileStore/Filetoupload,1627536,en.pdf>)

Enter your answer

# Section 13

Authorisation and Additional Information

1. Please confirm the following (Required to answer)

* I accept and agree to the requirements detailed in the MRC IAA Guidelines (<https://www.qub.ac.uk/Research/Our-impact/impact-acceleration-accounts/FileStore/Filetoupload,1627536,en.pdf>)
* I have approval from the Head of School or School Director of Research to proceed with this application
* Any external partner mentioned is aware of the application
* I have submitted an IDF at least 2 weeks prior to application submission
* I confirm that the PI and Co-I will attend the Innovation Training Programme and provide a 9 month project report.
* I confirm that if successful I will complete brief quarterly updates, an end of project report and annually provide update reports on commercial and translational progress

1. Please attach email communication confirming support for the application from the Head of School or School Director of Research and any external partner(s) (Required to answer. Upload File.)

**Upload file**

File number limit: 5Single file size limit: 100MBAllowed file types: Word, Excel, PPT, PDF, Image, Video, Audio

1. Please feel free to upload any further information to support your application, such as details of, and references to, any partner organisations and further letters of support, quotes/emails from service or equipment providers, further details on your proposal, and any ethical approval which may be required for your proposal (Upload File.)

**Upload file**

File number limit: 7 Single file size limit: 10MBAllowed file types: Word, Excel, PPT, PDF, Image, Video, Audio