

## Wolfson Mental Health Research Initiative

The Wolfson Foundation intends to allocate up to £10 million for research into mental health, subject to the excellence of the proposals received. The aim of the programme is to support novel and outstanding research with the potential to make advances in the understanding and treatment of mental health.

### **Summary of process and timetable**

1. Stage 1 proposals: outline description of project to be submitted by Friday 11 January 2019.
2. Announcements of shortlisted proposals will be made at the start of March 2019.
3. Stage 2 proposals: detailed applications for shortlisted proposals to be submitted by Friday 14 June 2019.
4. Institutions will be informed of the outcome in October 2019,

### **Guidelines for applicants**

Universities and research institutions in the UK are eligible to apply. One application only may be submitted by each university. Collaborative applications from two or more institutions are also eligible, although one institution should be named as the lead applicant. The intention is for one or - at most - two awards to be made at a high value, subject to the excellence of proposals received.

### *Eligible costs*

It is intended that the initiative cover mental health research and that both capital and non-capital expenditure be eligible. Non-capital includes both the endowment of chairs or posts and programme costs for up to five years. It will be important for applicants to demonstrate commitment to funding such ongoing costs at the end of the award period.

Wolfson is particularly interested in proposals that aim to attract a talented research leader (or leaders) to work in the UK. An element of the funding can be used for the training of early career clinical researchers.

Capital costs include new build, refurbishment or equipment. Wolfson will not provide funding for the VAT element of a project. The capital costs should not exceed 20% of the requested sum.

It is not intended that there be any match-funding requirement, though proposals that can demonstrate the availability of some funding from the institution or other sources may be viewed more positively.

#### *Definition of mental health research*

It is intended that proposals should focus especially on research in the general area of anxiety and depression, broadly defined.

The research focus should be on something relatively tractable. There will be particular interest in proposals that (a) emphasise adolescent mental health (albeit potentially as part of a life course perspective); (b) allow an institution to create an outstanding new mental health centre, perhaps building on strengths in other areas. (In the case of institutions with existing excellence, emphasis should be placed on a new strand of research); (c) draw on insights from other areas of medicine; (d) attract new talent into the UK.

#### **Method of application**

Institutions wishing to apply should email an outline description of the proposal to the Wolfson Foundation office by Friday 11 January 2019.

The outline should be no more than 5 pages in length, and should include:

- a clear statement on the research to be undertaken, covering any past achievements and future directions;
- the benefits that would arise from a major investment;

- the planned leadership of the initiative (and, where relevant, any recruitment strategy);

In addition to the five page limit, the following should also be included:

- a signed cover letter from the Vice-Chancellor or equivalent. (It is important that the proposal comes with the full backing of the institution);
- one page CVs of the principal researchers;
- indicative costs and proposed timing of the project.

Proposals will be assessed by a panel of international reviewers advising the Wolfson Foundation. A shortlist of applicants to be invited to submit detailed Stage 2 bids will be announced in March 2019. Further guidance on what should be contained within a Stage 2 application will be provided to shortlisted applicants (and feedback from Stage 1 highlighting particular points to be addressed in the detailed proposals may also be offered at this stage).

Stage 2 applications must be submitted to the Wolfson Foundation office by Friday 14 June 2019. Successful applicants are likely to be informed by the end of October 2019.

### **Assessment criteria**

Proposals will be assessed on the following criteria:

- The excellence and novelty of the planned research (alongside past achievements), particularly the extent to which the proposal allows an institution to make a step change in the scale and quality of research
- Proposed leadership of the initiative
- Possibility of bringing together high calibre researchers, including attracting talent from outside of the UK
- Likely outcome of the project/research (particularly in relation to practical benefits for those suffering from anxiety and/or depression)

- Commitment to long term support and fit within the institutional strategy
- Proposed costs and timing of the project
- Provision for ongoing costs and maintenance
- Value for money

### **Support**

Any queries should in the first instance be made to Mark Davies, Programme Manager (Science & Medicine) at [mark.davies@wolfson.org.uk](mailto:mark.davies@wolfson.org.uk) or 020 7323 5730 extension 217.

### **Address for submission of applications**

Proposals should be emailed to Mark Davies, Programme Manager (Science & Medicine) at [mark.davies@wolfson.org.uk](mailto:mark.davies@wolfson.org.uk)