



Call for proposals for scientific research pilot projects

13 May 2016

Action for M.E. invites proposals for high quality research pilot projects that will address the biology of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E.)/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS).

Proposals must be submitted by email to research@actionforme.org.uk by 4pm Friday 1 July 2016.

Context

M.E. (often diagnosed within the NHS as CFS or M.E./CFS) is a chronic, fluctuating, neurological illness that causes symptoms affecting many body systems. It affects an estimated 250,000 people in the UK, and around 17 million people worldwide. People with M.E. experience severe, persistent fatigue associated with post-exertional malaise. However, M.E. is also characterised by a range of additional symptoms including chronic pain, increased sensitivity to light and sound, and problems with sleep, cognition and the nervous, immune and digestive systems.

Focus of the Call

This call builds on priorities identified by people affected by M.E. through an Action for M.E. survey. Applicants should refer to our [research strategy](#) to ensure that their project fits at least one of the priorities.

The focus of this initiative is to support high-quality, innovative medical research ideas that have the potential to increase the current knowledge base of M.E./CFS; and on drawing in expertise and resources from related research fields. We are particularly interested in projects with a partnership focus where match-funding is required.

Available funds

£25,000 for one or two pilot projects

Proposals submitted against this call must be costed using the Full Economic Costing model. However, as a charity Action for M.E. will expect to meet only the direct costs incurred with overheads being met by the parent institution.

Eligibility

This call is open to UK-based researchers, including those working in partnerships, who can show they will direct the proposed research and be actively engaged in carrying it through.

Eligible institutions include UK higher education institutions, Research Council institutes and [eligible Independent Research Organisations](#) listed by the Research Council UK.

Action for M.E. is seeking applicants with proven expertise in relevant areas of science in order to ensure high quality results.

How to apply

You must submit:

- a case for support – further guidance on completing your case for support can be found on page 3.
- a CV for each named researcher
- an explanation of how the pilot study could be developed later into a full scale project and the potential benefits that would be achieved through this research.

Additionally, you may include a cover letter and any letters of support.

Please ensure you allow sufficient time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the call closing date.

Following initial triage, applications will be processed as follows:

- assessed by expert peer-review; applicants will be given the chance to respond to reviewers' comments and applications will only proceed to the next stage if they meet the peer review requirements
- considered by our [Scientific Advisory Panel](#) and [Voice Committee](#) with recommendation to the Research Panel.
- recommendation made by Research Panel to the Board of Trustees of Action for M.E., who will make the final decision.

Action for M.E. must receive your application by 4pm Friday 1 July 2016.

Application format

Cover page

- Name/s of applicant/s
- Institutions
- Title
- Duration
- Total costs
- Abstract – 150 words
- Lay summary – 200 words
- People and track records

Case for support – no more than four pages excluding CVs

- Background
- Research questions and outcomes
- Methods
- Time schedule
- Ethics and research governance
- Justification for costs
- Other sources of funding
- References
- Application assessment
- The following general criteria will be used in the assessment of applications:
 1. Research quality
 2. Impact; importance, innovation and timeliness of the research pilot and its potential to be developed into larger scale research that will make a significant contribution to the M.E./CFS research knowledge base.

Timetable

Task	Date
Launch call	Friday 13 May 2016
Submission deadline	4pm Friday 1 July 2016
Peer review (external)	July to August 2016
Applicants' response	August 2016
Scientific Advisory Panel/Voice Committee Review	August 2016
Prioritisation Research Panel meeting	September 2016
Board decision	September 2016
Applicants receive notification of outcome	September 2016
Awards announced	October to November 2016

If you have a query about the call, contact research@actionforme.org.uk