

**HASAG**  
ASBESTOS DISEASE SUPPORT

**ERASE  
MESO**

 The Mavis Nye  
Foundation

## THE MESO COLLECTIVE RESEARCH FUND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### PRE-APPLICATION / ABOUT THE AWARDS

#### How much can I apply for?

Project Grants - awards of up to £250,000 are available.

Preliminary Data Awards - awards up to £50,000 are available.

#### How many years funding can I apply for?

Project Grants - awards may be made to support projects for up to three years.

Preliminary Data Awards - awards may be made to support projects for up to a year.

#### Which award should I apply for?

Preliminary Data Awards are made to support novel avenues of research in order to establish proof of concept or to generate preliminary data, prior to more substantive funding applications.

Project Grants are for a more significant sum for up to three years.

#### What areas of research will be considered?

Any proposal directed at advancing the understanding of the biology or treatment of mesothelioma will be considered.

#### What is the overall budget available?

For this round of funding, we have around £350,000 to allocate.

#### Which institutions are eligible to apply?

Research organisations or healthcare providers.

#### I am an individual, can I apply?

To be eligible to apply for this award you should be employed by a research organisation or healthcare provider in the UK. See "about the lead applicant" below for further information.

#### I am based overseas can I apply? Where do you accept applications from?

Unfortunately for this round of funding and due to the restrictions placed on UK charities in making payments overseas we are currently only able to support individuals employed by and undertaking the project at a research organisation or healthcare provider based in the UK.

#### I am applying for an award to support a clinical trial but do not have ethical approval in place. Will this prevent my application from going forward?

No this can be considered, and the application will progress. However, if awarded it will not be allowed to start until we have received proof of ethical approval.

## ABOUT THE LEAD APPLICANT / PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

### Can I hold more than one award at a time?

An individual may only hold one award at any given time however an organisation may hold more than one award.

### I am on a fixed-term employment contract, can I apply through my institution?

If you do not have a contract of employment for the full duration of the proposed project your employing organisation must confirm that, if an application is successful, contracts will be extended up to the end date of the project.

### Can a PhD student be the lead applicant (PI)? At what stage of my career should I be?

Yes, for a Preliminary Data Award, provided their contract includes the entire duration of the proposed project.

## THE APPLICATION

### What languages are acceptable for applications?

All applications must be completed in English.

### What is an organisation confirmation letter?

The organisation confirmation letter is a letter, from the institution in which the principal investigator is affiliated, that states that the organisation will act as the guarantor for the project, that is, it will manage the funds for the project should a grant be made.

### Who should I suggest as an independent referee?

Please suggest a referee who is familiar with your field, but is not a colleague in your institution, and with whom you do not closely collaborate.

### Does my independent referee have to be based in the UK?

No, references written in English from appropriate overseas referees are welcomed by the MCRF. The only stipulation is that your referee is external to the institution from which you are applying.

### How long should the application be?

There is no particular limit however we have indicated a maximum word limit on some questions.

## COSTS / BUDGET

### What currency should the budget proposal be submitted in?

Budgets should be submitted in pounds sterling (£) only. The award will also be made in pounds sterling (£).

### What costs can I include in my application?

Applications may include requests for funding of:

- a proportion of the salary of the project lead
- posts such as research and technical staff
- consumables
- equipment
- data storage and sharing
- access fees and facilities costs

# SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION & ASSESSMENT PROCESS

## When do I have to apply by?

Applications must be received by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

## How do I submit my application?

Applications should be submitted in pdf format on the application forms provided and emailed to [research@erasemeso.org](mailto:research@erasemeso.org). Submissions after the grant call closing date will not be accepted.

We need to collect some personal information to manage your application. This will be handled securely and in line with UK data protection legislation.

## Who will review my application? What is the assessment process?

Funding decisions are made by our Research Advisory Panel, the members of which provide advice based on their specific experience.

Current Panel membership is:

- Professor James Spicer (London, Chair)
- Mr Andrea Bille (London)
- Professor Dean Fennell (Leicester)
- Professor Sanjay Popat (London)
- Dr Paul Weatley-Price (Ottawa)
- Paul Cook (London, Lay member)

Applications are shortlisted by our Research Advisory Panel (RAP) who may elect to seek external peer review, depending on the nature and value of the award.

The RAP will discuss short-listed applications at a review meeting, with members presenting each application (and its external peer review where relevant), based on their area of expertise. There may be an interview process, which may be conducted remotely.

The Panel includes a patient representative to ensure research is relevant to patients with mesothelioma. For this reason, each application must include a lay summary.

The budget available for the funding round is approved in advance by the EraseMeso Trustees.

**Conflicts of interest.** Members of our Research Advisory Panel and any external peer-reviewers are required to declare conflicts of interest. Where a conflict is disclosed no participation in the assessment of relevant applications will be allowed.

## What is the timeframe / when will I hear about my application?

You should receive an acknowledgement of your application within five working days. We will then let you know whether your application has made it through to the final review stage within one month of your application. Successful applicants will be notified within 90 days of the closing date.

## Can you give me feedback on my application?

Unfortunately, we are a very small charity and therefore do not have the capacity to provide feedback on any unsuccessful applications.

## If my application is not successful, can I apply for any future rounds of funding?

Yes, you can, although there is no guarantee that further rounds will be offered or that if they are the awards and criteria will be the same.

## What are the reporting requirements for grants funded by MCRF?

For awards of greater than one year, a brief annual report on progress will be required. For all awards an end of project report will be required.