

## Clinical PhD & Training Studentships 2017 call for applications



### Remit

We are seeking proposals from doctors working in a relevant field who wish to integrate rigorous research and academic competencies with their clinical skills. The scheme aims to provide clinicians with their first steps on the path to becoming leaders in clinical research and education. Applicants can apply for either a three year PhD studentship or a 12 month MRes research foundation qualification.

These awards can focus on any childhood cancer but we particularly welcome projects investigating **solid tumours** (including CNS). The proposed research must be in line with at least one of the following objectives:

1. To improve knowledge of the genetic and environmental causes and relevant biological mechanisms of childhood cancers with a view to developing interventions to reduce the risks of development.
2. To identify diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers for childhood cancers and develop systems for their introduction to clinical practice.
3. To optimise and develop more effective and less toxic treatments for children with cancer, with a special focus on those forms of cancer that still carry a poor prognosis and develop mechanisms to introduce them rapidly to practice.
4. To understand the long-term health implications of childhood cancer and its treatment and explore methods for interventions to reduce their impact.

PhD Studentships are for three years and include salary costs, according to the relevant grade and scale\*, and additional support of up to £30,000 per annum to support PhD fees, training costs, research costs and attendance at relevant conferences and meetings. The total Studentship is capped at £250,000. Awards in excess of the maximum will be considered in exceptional cases.

Alternatively, doctors can apply for funding to gain valuable research knowledge and experience through a 12 month MRes qualification. The aim is to provide doctors with sufficient research experience to be able to submit a competitive PhD studentship application. MRes grants will include salary costs, academic fees, training costs, research costs and attendance at relevant conference and meetings. The total award is capped at £75,000. Awards in excess of the maximum will be considered in exceptional cases.

\*The salary will be capped if the total grant value exceeds £250,000.

### Who may apply?

- We invite applications from individuals intending to undertake clinical, survivorship or health service research in **any area of childhood cancer. Projects focusing on solid tumours or other rare cancers are particularly welcome.**
- We are looking to support clinicians who are sited in the UK and have **completed their foundation training** by the closing date of the preliminary proposal (20<sup>th</sup> June 2017).

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- The Studentships are typically aimed at Specialist Registrars to provide them with the opportunity to pursue research ideas with the aim of translating them into practice to improve healthcare for paediatric cancer patients.
- **The PhD or MRes must be at a recognised UK Higher Education Institution.** The relevant clinical host should also be aware of the application. Early discussions with the academic partner are strongly recommended.
- Applications are considered on the basis of the applicant's overall clinical experience, previous research experience and future academic potential. Applications will be scrutinised for their scientific merit and originality of the research proposal with particular focus on the **translation to patient care**. The track record of the supervisor(s) and the appropriateness of the research environment will be assessed along with the project.

**Please do not apply if you do not meet the criteria set out above. Any applicants who have not completed their foundation programme by the deadline date will automatically be disqualified.**

## Application process

There is a two stage application process.

- Preliminary application stage. This requires submission of an outline application, along with two-page CVs from both the applicant and the proposed research supervisor (using the templates provided). The deadline for receipt of this submission is **5pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017.**

Preliminary applications will be considered by our Scientific Advisory Panel and short-listed applicants will be notified in July.

- Full application stage. Applicants short-listed at the preliminary stage will be invited to submit a detailed research proposal. Academic references and Host Institution approval will be required at this stage.

The deadline for receipt of full applications will be **14<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

Full applications will be peer reviewed by experts in the relevant field. The Panel will then review the full applications, along with academic references and external reviews.

- Interview. We expect to interview all of the candidates short-listed at the preliminary stage. Interviews will take place in late November 2017.

We expect successful Studentships to commence in early 2018.

## Queries

Please email [research@childrenwithcancer.org.uk](mailto:research@childrenwithcancer.org.uk) with any queries, or call Neil Meemaduma on 020 7404 0808.