



# Foundation for Liver Research Roger Williams Legacy Grants Scheme

Supporting Translational Research in Liver Disease and related Health Impacts

## Background

The Foundation for Liver Research (FLR) is a registered charity in England and Wales (RCN1134579), founded in 1974. Its inception was driven by the commitment to support the groundbreaking initiatives of Professor Roger Williams, who established the globally renowned Institute of Liver Studies at King's College Hospital.

Since its establishment, the Foundation has played a pivotal role in advancing various aspects of liver research, contributing significantly to the enhancement of diagnostic techniques and treatment modalities for patients with liver disease. The FLR is dedicated to comprehensively exploring the scientific underpinnings of liver function. Its overarching goal is to pioneer innovative therapies and discover cures for liver diseases, irrespective of their origins, addressing every stage of disease progression.

For further information please visit [the website](#) of The Foundation for Liver Research and The Roger Williams Institute of Hepatology.

## Legacy Grants Scheme Call for Applications 2024

As in previous years, the main aim of this translational research programme is to support experimental studies in the following key areas:

- (1) Improved understanding of the pathogenesis of liver disease
- (2) The development of accurate diagnostic tests, identification of early risk biomarkers, and exploration of protective and therapeutic vaccination strategies for liver disease.
- (3) Accelerated translation of research discoveries from bench-to-bedside

The overarching purpose of the scheme is to enable translational research that tangibly benefits patients with liver disease. It is expected that this pump-prime award would support the acquisition of preliminary data, fostering the foundations for a subsequent application to a Research Council or a similar funding body for a programme grant or fellowship award. We hope that this funding will ultimately culminate in grant success, peer-reviewed publications and significant clinical advancements in the understanding and treatment of liver diseases.

In 2024, we particularly encourage proposals for innovative translational studies that delve into the molecular intricacies governing the cross-talk between fat and alcohol in Metabolic Alcohol-Related Liver Disease (MetALD). Understanding the molecular underpinnings of this complex interaction is crucial for developing targeted interventions. Proposals should aim to uncover molecular pathways, biomarkers, and potential therapeutic targets associated with the interplay of fat and alcohol, to advance our understanding of the molecular landscape in MetALD, paving the way for novel therapeutic strategies and personalised treatment approaches.

### **Duration and Amount of award**

The Foundation invites applications for awards of up to £50,000 towards the direct costs of the project (note that service delivery, educational events, commercial studies, major equipment, overheads and indirect costs will not be funded).

Projects must be between 12-24 months in duration and project must start between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

### **Eligibility criteria**

Applicants, projects and the host institution must be based in UK organisations.

Applications must be within the scope of the above outlined Call for Applications (e.g. no social science projects, or projects not relating specifically to liver disease).

Prior recipients of this funding scheme are not eligible to apply for further grants.

Resubmission of previous applications are only accepted for proposals which scored highly in previous rounds (22 or above in 2023).

Staff and students at The Roger Williams Institute of Hepatology are not eligible to apply.

### **Application process**

Applicants must complete the application form available [on our website](#).

Please see full guidance within the application form, including page limits and formatting rules.

Applicants should also submit a short CV (maximum two pages each per Lead and Co-Lead applicants only) and a list of relevant recent publications (maximum one page).

Please name your application documents according to the following naming protocol:

- <Surname of lead applicant, initial, LGS 2024 application form>
- <Surname of lead applicant, initial, CV>
- <Surname of lead applicant, initial, Co-applicant CV, name of co-applicant> (where applicable)
- <Surname of lead applicant, initial, Publications> (max 1 page)

Applicants are also asked to complete an anonymised, short, [online LGS Applicant Survey](#) to enable the Foundation to analyse and improve the equality, diversity and inclusion of this scheme.

Pre-submission scientific enquiries can be directed to Professor Shilpa Chokshi, Acting Director & Chief Scientific Officer of the Roger Williams Institute of Hepatology ([s.chokshi@researchinliver.org.uk](mailto:s.chokshi@researchinliver.org.uk)).

Applications should be submitted by email to [grants@researchinliver.org.uk](mailto:grants@researchinliver.org.uk) no later than 5pm on the closing date.

**Closing date: 5pm Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

### **Review process**

Proposals will be assessed by the Foundation's Legacy Grants Scheme Review Committee against the following criteria:

1. Translational research with potential for clinical benefit to patients with liver disease
2. Potential for the proposed research to inform further studies
3. Feasibility of proposed project and its likely outcomes
4. Value for money
5. Relevance to the objectives of the Foundation for Liver Research

Applicants whose outlines are shortlisted by the Committee for further consideration may be contacted for further details. Additional opinions may be sought from external peer reviewers.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by the end of June.

### **Successful applications**

Successful applicants must acknowledge receipt of the award within 21 days of notification and supply the following details:

- Contact details for the finance team at the host institution that will administer the grant.
- Bank account information for the Host Institution for receipt of funds.
- Anticipated start date of the project and estimated duration i.e. 12, 18 or 24 months.
- Signed acceptance of terms and conditions of award.

### **Terms and Conditions of Award**

Please see the full [Terms and Conditions of Award](#) which include details of reporting and payment arrangements.

Successful applicants will be required to provide a brief progress report every 6-months and a final project report within six weeks of the end of the project. Reports are expected to include a summary of progress, outcomes and future planned outputs. Grant recipients will also be required to present their project findings at the Roger Williams Seminar Series.

It is expected that funding by the Foundation for Liver Research will be acknowledged in all published materials.

### **Privacy Information**

The Foundation for Liver Research will collect applicants' personal information for the specific purposes of processing the Legacy Grant Scheme applications and awards.

For further information please see our Data Protection Policy available on our [website](#).