

John Goldman Fellowships for Future Science- 2019

Overview

John Goldman (1938 – 2013) was a renowned haematologist, a pioneer in the treatment of leukaemia and the founding Chairman of Leuka. John's influence was worldwide and he mentored scores of scientists and clinicians during his distinguished career. His joy in scientific discovery served as an inspiration to future generations of researchers.

John's charity, Leuka, recognises that innovators need the chance to take risks without fear of jeopardising their careers and has created a funding programme aimed at those with a passion for science and a desire to translate scientific advances into clinical practice.

There are two main hurdles in a scientist or clinician scientist's career; securing funding for a novel research idea and the transition from being a post-doctoral researcher to becoming a completely independent investigator. The John Goldman Fellowship programme was developed to address these two career stumbling blocks by making funding available to fill the gap. The awards can provide 'pump priming' funds to achieve preliminary results that could act as springboard to an independent research career.

Scope

The proposed research must have relevance to leukaemia, other blood cancers and/or related diseases. Translational projects are particularly encouraged. Fellowships are designed to enable talented research/clinical scientists to test a novel hypothesis and get their research and careers off the ground in a supportive, well-funded environment, so that they can pursue their work creatively.

Successful applicants must be able to demonstrate:

- An innovative idea
- Scientific excellence
- The potential for success

Eligibility

Relevant, high quality and feasible applications are invited from scientists and clinician-scientists from across the UK. There is no age limit, although the awards are designed to provide an opportunity for talented early career scientists to develop as independent investigators.

Awards are open to researchers (who may or may not be medically qualified) who can demonstrate genuine potential to become the leading scientists of the future. Applicants should have a good publication record but it does not need to be exceptional at this stage.

The John Goldman Fellowships are aimed at three main categories of applicant:

- Principle Investigators (PI) - within 2 years of first permanent appointment.
- Post-doctoral researchers in the process of gaining PI status. Full explanation of path to full PI status should be provided. Normally expected to be within 6 years of obtaining a PhD, although exceptions will be considered if clearly justified.
- Clinician scientists- with no more than 6 years post PhD experience, although exceptions will be considered.

Applications

Applicants are ideally scientists/clinicians at the early stages of developing their independent research career. Applicants requiring personal support may be prioritised over those seeking funding for support staff.

Examples of applications that may be considered include:

- Providing an exceptional individual with personal support to enhance their work on a pioneering project within their own research institution.
- Providing an exceptional individual with an opportunity to further their knowledge and expertise through a secondment to another Centre of Excellence, either in the UK or abroad, to demonstrably enhance their research on their return.
- Enabling an exceptional individual to employ a post-doctoral researcher or research assistant to support them on a pioneering project.

Application process

All fellowship applications will be subjected to Leuka's vigorous and transparent peer review process, full details can be found on the Research Policy section of the Leuka website. The application review process is summarised below:

Initial assessment: Applications may be rejected following an initial assessment after which the applicant will be informed accordingly.

- Applicants must comply with the eligibility criteria - any deviation from the guidelines must be explained.
- Applications must be properly completed and signed - page and word limits must be strictly followed.

Peer review: Applications that pass the initial assessment will go for peer review by a minimum of five expert reviewers to be -

- Assessed and scored by at least three members of Leuka's Scientific Panel.
- Assessed and scored by a minimum of two expert external reviewers.

Shortlisting for interview: A decision meeting will be held during the first week of May 2019. Applicants will be notified by **9th May 2019** if they have been called for interview.

- Interviews will be held on the Thursday **23rd May 2019** in Central London.
- The format will be a 30 minute interview that will include a 10 minute presentation by the applicant.

Application feedback:

Feedback may be available at the discretion of Leuka but this cannot be guaranteed.

Grants

Grants are for up to £125k maximum, to span a 1-2 year period, as required. Potential to utilise the grant to leverage additional or matched funding will be viewed favourably, but is not essential. The grant may be used for salary and direct costs of the project but it will not support indirect costs such as institutional overheads.

The initial application should provide indicative financial information as to how the award will be utilised, corroborated by the relevant finance department. Shortlisted applicants may be asked to provide a more detailed financial breakdown, in line with the terms and conditions of the fellowship grant.

Closing date

The closing date for receipt of applications is **31st January 2019**. The awards should be announced in **June 2019**.

Leuka reserves the right to close the applications process earlier if interest is excessive. Regular updates to this effect will be available on the '*Research---For Researchers*' section of the website.

Fellowships awarded

A John Goldman Fellowship for Future Science is a distinguished award conferred by a panel of leading scientific experts. We hope the Fellows will become part of a global alumnus of protégés – spreading John Goldman's ethos of encouraging and harnessing scientific talent.

Working with the Charity

Fellows will be expected to act as ambassadors for Leuka and the programme.



Charity details

Leuka
52 Portland Place
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Registered charity no. 1154856