

**Grant Funding Information**Thank you for your interest in Mesothelioma UK funding.

Please use the following document, in conjunction with the ‘Guidelines for completing Mesothelioma UK Research Grant Application’ when you are completing your application forms.

For this grant process, we are working in conjunction with Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation (RCLCF) and advise you to read the submission guidelines carefully.

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# **1. Introduction**

The UK has the highest incidence of mesothelioma in the world with around 2,700 people diagnosed each year. Mesothelioma is a cancer related to exposure to asbestos and predominantly affects the lining of the lungs. Although we are seeing some improvements in treatments and the care of patients diagnosed with mesothelioma much more can be achieved. There is an unacceptable variation in access to specialist treatment, care and clinical trials.

Mesothelioma UK is an established, well respected charity and is growing year on year. We are central to the UK and global mesothelioma community.

Mesothelioma UK is a specialist resource centre, specifically for the asbestos-related cancer mesothelioma. The charity is dedicated to providing specialist mesothelioma information, support and education to improve the care, treatment and outcomes for all UK patients diagnosed with mesothelioma and their carers.

Mesothelioma UK is committed to supporting research in all aspects of care and treatments related to mesothelioma.

Our mission is to fund world-class research, which is scientific and relevant to mesothelioma. Our aim is to increase the amount of income available to support research and audit dedicated to make a significant impact on mesothelioma treatment and care, outcomes and patient experiences.

**Key Research Objectives**

1. Mesothelioma UK will seek to increase the money available for audit and research each year and pledges to spend a third of its annual income on audit and research.
2. For Mesothelioma UK to be recognised as a credible and significant funder of mesothelioma audit and research.
3. To fund audit and research that is relevant and in tune with scientific and generic cancer research progress, service development and patient and carer need.
4. Mesothelioma UK will ensure all audit and research funded is disseminated rigorously to ensure practice, patients and healthcare providers remain informed and receive maximum benefit from any evidence generate.

This information will help you understand the kind of projects that Mesothelioma UK funds, the peer review process and grant management procedures. The terms and conditions of awarded grants are also included. Completion of an application means full acceptance of these terms and conditions.

The guidelines to completing the application form and the application literature itself can be downloaded from our website: [www.mesothelioma.uk.com](http://www.mesothelioma.uk.com)

# **2. Types of Awards Funded by Mesothelioma UK**

## **2.1 General information**

Awards are provided for pilot grants and project grants, in universities, medical schools/teaching hospitals and research institutes within the UK and Ireland. If a contract researcher wants to apply for funding on their own merit they will be considered if they have a proven track record and are willing to work alongside a UK or Ireland university or research institute.

Grants will be made in support of the research project including salaries, minor equipment and consumables costs. Mesothelioma UK will not directly employ staff.

All researchers funded by Mesothelioma UK will:

* Have a UK wide focus to the research
* Agree to a monitoring framework including interim reports
* Results / outcomes available within the time frame of the project funding.
* Acknowledge Mesothelioma UK on all publications
* Be obliged to present results at Mesothelioma research events
* Engage with Mesothelioma UK on communication, of the research project and its findings

Mesothelioma UK will only undertake the funding of research that has been peer reviewed, through it’s Grants Committee process.

The Grants Committee and External Reviewers will assess each application in the following areas:

* Potential impact
* Innovative research question
* Quality of methods
* Achievability in the timeline

Applications for funding should be based on actual expenditure and all figures should be entered in GBP (£ Sterling). Invoices will be paid in GBP (£ Sterling

Funding will be for Year 1 only funding or for Year 1 + Year 2 funding (ie, a maximum of 24 months). Projects will be funded in the areas of Palliative care/Symptom Control and Patient Experience.

# In general, the focus will be on multiple projects, ideally across the range of topics, outlined below and a maximum of £50,000 per annum for a single piece of research.

**2.2 Priorities for Funding**

Applications are invited in the following two areas:

1. **Palliative Care/Symptom Control**

Patients diagnosed with mesothelioma can experience a range of symptoms including breathlessness and pain, fatigue, coughs, loss of appetite and emotional distress. Patients often have a poor prognostic outlook and require a multimodal or collaborative approach to care and treatments. We encourage researchers to explore how the patient and/or family/ carers can be supported, treated, cared for, or educated during this time to enhance wellbeing and quality of life. You may also want to consider communication, shared decision making and advanced care planning.

1. **Patient Experience**

This area of research is specifically to encourage and foster innovation in patient experience and care. In particular, we invite applications from professional groups, such as nurses and Allied Health Professionals who are very involved in the patient experience of mesothelioma.

Applications invited for research into the following areas:

* Health economic and societal burden of mesothelioma

### Stigma and negativity associated with mesothelioma

### Financial hardship and difficulties experienced by patients and their families

### Relationship between deprivation, poor sense of self worth, literacy rates, low educational attainment and accessing information relating to cancer and cancer treatment.

* Improved care and support for those affected by a mesothelioma cancer diagnosis
  + The impact of the symptom burden on those diagnosed with mesothelioma

### Type of psychological and practical support that families and carers require at diagnosis, treatment, end of life care, and coping with survivorship

### Issues affecting carers and how they can be supported

### Psychological needs of patients living with lung cancer; what skills are needed to support these needs, and who is best placed to deliver this type of support

* + Interventions to ensure speedier attendance to General Practice and so faster access to diagnosis
  + Relationship between deprivation, poor sense of self worth, literacy rates, low educational attainment and late presentation.
* Improved communication and exchange of information for those diagnosed with mesothelioma
* Therapeutic relationships

* Promotion of shared decision making and patient centred care

## **2.3 Pilot Grants**

### 2.3.1 General information

Mesothelioma UK pilot grants are available to allow established scientists to investigate and develop new ideas in the field of mesothelioma research in the areas of **Palliative Care/Symptom Control** and **Patient Experience** (see Projects Funded at section 2.2 above for further details). Scientific innovation forms the framework for all Mesothelioma UK research; pilot grants therefore will be awarded if they can be clearly demonstrated that support is for a new direction of research for researchers to test hypotheses to provide sufficient data for a full application to Mesothelioma UK or alternative funding organisations including for example NIHR/RfPB. It is expected in general that a pilot grant will be used to fund a discrete piece of research that will not be supplemented from other sources. Pilot grants may not exceed 12 months duration.

The applicant must have a proven track record in their own scientific field and be employed in a UK or Ireland university or research institute. If a contract researcher wants to apply for funding on their own merit they will be considered if they have a proven track record and are willing to work alongside a UK or Ireland university or research institute.

### 2.3.2 Submission information

Please refer to Mesothelioma UK website for pilot grant application submission deadlines. Where we are working in collaboration with another lung cancer charity, for example Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation please follow the guidance stipulated on theirs and our website.

### 2.3.3 Costs

A maximum of £25,000 may be applied for for a 12 month period.

## **2.4 Project Grants**

### 2.4.1 General information

Mesothelioma UK projects grants are available to support innovative research in to mesothelioma in the areas of **Palliative Care/Symptom Control** and **Patient Experience** (see Projects Funded Section 2.2 above for further details). Mesothelioma UK will award project grants for a clear research proposal of relevance to Mesothelioma UK research topics and is expected to lead to a significant advance of understanding of mesothelioma cancer and its impact. These awards will thereby expand the levels of knowledge and expertise in mesothelioma research in the UK and Ireland.

The applicants should have conducted independent research in the field of mesothelioma or be an experienced researcher in a related field, and wish to build on their history and reputation in the mesothelioma area, deepening their knowledge and experience.

### 2.4.2 Submission information

Please refer to Mesotheioma UK website and the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation website for project grant application submission deadlines.

### 2.4.3 Costs

Project grants are awarded for up to two years. Costs covered are salary, consumables and small pieces of equipment. Costs will not normally exceed £50,000 per annum.

Consumables will not normally exceed £10,000 per annum, unless in exceptional circumstances.

### 2.4.4 Restrictions

Mesothelioma UK will not accept:

* applications for consumables or running costs only

## **2.5 Follow-on from a Mesothelioma UK Pilot Grant**

This kind of application arises when a grant holder submits an application based on the results obtained from a Mesothelioma UK pilot grant.

### 2.5.1 Submission information

The applicant must complete the grant application forms as for a normal grant application. In addition to this the application procedure asks for a two-page report outlining the initial aims of the pilot grant, how you have achieved these aims and how the new project builds on the previous work; to be submitted by the grantee with the application.

Applications for a follow-on from a Mesothelioma pilot grant will be reviewed in competition with all other grant applications submitted in that peer review round.

### 2.6 Grant Extensions

### 2.6.1 Grant in abeyance

If a researcher employed on a Mesothelioma UK funded grant leaves, we will agree to put the grant into abeyance for a period of up to 12 months. If the position is not filled within this time funding may be withdrawn, and a request made for the grant to be resubmitted in a competitive grant round. A letter will be sent to the grant holder, and also the finance and research and development departments, requesting an update on the grant at three monthly intervals. Failure to respond to these letters will also risk withdrawal of funding.

## **2.7 Applications for Projects Taking place Within the NHS**

The Grants Committee will consider applications for research that will take place within the NHS. Should the research become part of a NCRN clinical trial Mesothelioma UK will fund the research but will not act as a sponsor.

## **2.8 Applications which fall out of Mesothelioma UK Funding Remit**

### 2.8.1 Animal research

Mesothelioma UK has undertaken never to fund any research projects using live animals.

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### 2.8.2 Equipment grants

The Grants Committee will not consider applications for equipment only. Under exceptional circumstances funding for large pieces of equipment may be considered within a project grant application where there is overwhelming evidence that Mesothelioma UK funding was required, the project could not proceed without it being in place, and that the equipment would be solely used for mesothelioma cancer research. Full justification for the equipment request is required and must be included in the research proposal.

### 2.8.3 Applications from outside the UK and Ireland

Mesothelioma UK will not consider applications from outside the UK and Ireland. However, they would consider an application involving a non-UK/ Ireland collaboration provided that the main grant holder and researcher was UK or Ireland based and the research will be carried out in a UK or Ireland institution.

### 2.8.4 Applications from a commercial entity

RCLCF will not consider an application from a commercial entity.

### 2.8.5 Applications for consumables costs only

The Grants Committee will not consider applications for project grants which request funding for consumables only.

2.8.6 Funding will **not** be granted for the following:

* Research is not mesothelioma cancer specific
* Does not fit with research criteria
* Research has already been completed in this area
* Has little or no potential impact on patients diagnosed with mesothelioma or their families.
* The proposal project does not have the ability to change opinion or practice
* Is not felt to be innovative / creative
* Does not represent ‘Value for Money’
* Proposals which consist solely of evaluations of existing health services
* The stated impacts/outcomes do not occur within the period of the project funding
* Research which cannot be translated into generic environments

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# **3. Application Procedure**

For the purpose of this grant application Mesothelioma UK are working in collaboration with the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation (RCLCF) and so the application process is being managed by both charities.

Please download the application literature from the Mesothelioma UK links only on the ‘Apply for a Grant’ pages of Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation CLCF’s website at [www.roycastle.org](http://www.roycastle.org).

**Please note the application literature are different for the lung cancer grant application with RCLCF.**

**Submitting you application form:**

Please email a copy of the application forms in MS Word and pdf formatalong with all supporting documents to **grants@mesothelioma.uk.com**

When emailing your application, the subject of your email should read:

Year & Month/project/pilot and the applicant’s name, for example; 2020MarProjectJones.

All application forms and supporting documents should be saved with a file name in the same format, for example; 2020MarProject Jones form A

The signed originals should also be sent to the Meothelioma UK office:

Dr Lynn Furber

Research Manager

Mesothelioma UK

Unit 116 Greenacres,

The Sidings,

Leicester,

LE4 3BR

Please note that only applications submitted using the most up to date Mesothelioma UK application literature will be considered for review.

# **4. Deadlines for 2020**

Mesothelioma UK grants open annually. The 2020 submission will close at 12.00 noon on Thursday 30 April 2020. We will aim to inform applicants of the decision by the end of November 2020. No applications will be considered after the deadline. Please refer to the website for further information on dates.

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# **5. Peer Review Process**

Your application will be considered by our Grants Committee in collaboration with Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation.Form A: Lay Summary and Scientific Abstract will be used to assess applications for continuation to second stage (ie full review by Grants Committee and external review).

Those applications deemed unsuitable for Mesothelioma UK support after stage one will not be sent out for external international review and will therefore not be considered for funding. You will be notified of this decision. On request, unsuccessful applicants may receive anonymised feedback.

Applications that progress to stage two will be reviewed by RCLCF/Mesothelioma UK External International Review Panel. We expect that these reviewers treat your application as confidential.

# **6. Grants Committee Meeting**

All grants put forward for external review are reviewed with the reviewers’ comments and the grants are then re-scored. The grants are then ranked from the highest to lowest, and those that the Grants Committee deem suitable to be funded are then recommended to the Board of Trustees who make the final decision as to whether or not the charity should fund the project. Please note that the charity will not enter into any discussion regarding this process and that the decision taken by the Board of Trustees is final.

You will be informed whether your application has been successful by a formal letter along with Terms and Conditions of Award and Start Date Declaration form.

# **7. Terms and Conditions of Award**

## **7.1 Payment of Grant**

Grants will be paid quarterly in arrears, on the receipt of an invoice from the Finance Officer. Mesothelioma UK is not liable as employer of any persons to whom support may have been given. Payment of invoices will not begin until a signed start date form has been received.

Grant amounts agreed will not be increased or extended other than in exceptional circumstances and where funds are available. Applications should include in the application form expected cost of salary rises over the period of the grant.

## **7.2 Project Management**

### 7.2.1 General

Mesothelioma UK must receive advance written notification of any changes to personnel. Any changes to the principal investigator must also be approved, in writing, by the researcher and any co-applicants. Mesothelioma UK must also approve any other changes to be made to the project itself.

Full financial and performance monitoring of research grants will be undertaken by Mesothelioma UK.

The Grant holders are expected to be actively engaged in their project and will remain responsible for conduct throughout.

Mesothelioma UK requires to be given in writing the names, qualifications, career plans and tenure of all individuals working on the project.

Failure to comply with any of the above may risk withdrawal of the grant from Mesothelioma UK and may require the submission of a new application.

### 7.2.2 Reports and Publications

Mesothelioma UK will request a report on the progress of your grant at the end of each year. Failure to submit such a report will jeopardise the continuation of support by Mesothelioma UK.

Final reports on all projects are also required and the final invoice will not be paid until this is received.

The grant holder must notify Mesothelioma UK, in advance of publication, of the acceptance of their abstract or paper for publication or presentation so that we can prepare a press release when appropriate. Acknowledgement of the support of Mesothelioma UK is required in all publications relating to the research including abstracts submitted to scientific meetings. If you wish to use our logo on any publications or presentations please contact the Mesothelioma UK office for more information.

Mesothelioma UK maintains a library of all publications resulting for research funded by them. Electronic copies of abstracts and all published papers (acknowledging the support of Mesothelioma UK) must be sent to [**grants@mesothelioma.uk.com**](mailto:grants@mesothelioma.uk.com)

### 7.2.3 Contact with the Media

It is important for the charity to raise its profile where appropriate; Mesothelioma UK supports and encourages the researcher to promote their Mesothelioma UK funded work with the media but strictly in consultation with the charity’s Communications department.

Mesothelioma UK Communications department will contact the researcher when appropriate to help respond to relevant media enquiries and PR initiatives about the charity’s work.

Mesothelioma UK communication department will draft a press release regarding the award, to national and local media. Further press releases regarding the award will be issued, as appropriate. Any media work undertaken by Mesothelioma UK, regarding the award, will be carried out with the full involvement of the grant holder.

### 7.2.4 Charity visits

Mesothelioma UK will invite grant holders and researchers to attend a variety of charity meetings and receptions in order to present Mesothelioma UK funded work. All reasonable travel expenses will be paid.

Mesothelioma UK may undertake to visit grant holders during the course of the grant, to which the charity may invite the local MP, Mesothelioma UK staff, trustees, Grants Committee, fundraisers, spokespeople and supporters.

### 7.2.5 Intellectual Property

Mesothelioma UK’s aim is to exploit the outcome of its research so that the understanding of mesothelioma is maximised. Neither the host institute or Mesothelioma UK (nor its agents) shall be under an obligation to protect intellectual property and materials where, in the parties reasonable opinion, there is insufficient commercial justification to do so.

The host institute shall allow Mesothelioma UK (or its agent) to visit, meet and discuss with Mesothelioma UK grantees the results of their research and any potential for protection of such Intellectual Property Rights and for the commercial exploitation of their research. If, in the opinion of Mesothelioma UK (or its agent), any results of Mesothelioma UK funded research have a potential for commercial exploitation then Mesothelioma UK (or its agent) will inform the host institute.

The appropriate authority in the host institute and /or the grant holder is required to consider and inform Mesothelioma UK (or its agent) of any results produced from or arising during the course of Mesothelioma UK funded research and any rights in those results, including any patents, design rights, copyright and other industrial and intellectual property rights, whether registrable or not and all scientifically useful or commercially exploitable material, know-how and data relating to any invention arising from Mesothelioma UK funded research (“Intellectual Property Rights”) which might be suitable for commercial exploitation. Publication or any other form of public presentation of the results should not occur until after that consideration and all necessary steps to protect any Intellectual Property Rights have been taken. However, there should be no unnecessary delay before publication.

The host institute may elect to take all necessary steps to protect any Intellectual Property Rights, as may from time to time be identified by the host institute and /or Mesothelioma UK (or its agent) and notified by each of them to the other. If the host institute decides not to protect any Intellectual Property Rights, Mesothelioma UK (either itself or through its agent) may elect, but is not obliged, to take the necessary steps required to protect those Intellectual Property Rights. In this case, the host institute shall co-operate fully with Mesothelioma UK (or its agent) and ensure that their employees, contractors and agents do the same and will, upon Mesothelioma UK (or its agent’s) request, assign to Mesothelioma UK (or its agent), at no cost (but without prejudice to paragraph 5), their respective whole right, title and interest in and to the results of any Intellectual Property Rights relating to those results.

All revenues generated through the commercial exploitation of the Intellectual Property Rights arising from research funded by Mesothelioma UK, shall following reimbursement of costs directly incurred in protecting the Intellectual Property Rights and in carrying out the exploitation be divided equally between the host institute on the one hand and Mesothelioma UK (or its agent) on the other regardless of which undertook the commercial exploitation. In the event that parties other than those funded by Mesothelioma UK contribute to the generation of Intellectual Property Rights, the parties shall meet to agree who should assume responsibility for such action and a revenue share which reflects the relative contributions of all parties. Successful applicants must therefore advise Mesothelioma UK of all other financial assistance to their projects.

The host institute shall be solely responsible for rewarding the inventors and department in which the researchers are situated out of its share of the revenue net of the aforementioned costs.

The prior written agreement of Mesothelioma UK (or its agent) is required for any commercial exploitation of the research results and any Intellectual Property Rights, before the host institute or any individuals involved in Mesothelioma UK funded research enter into any agreement, accept any appointment or take any action, which involves agreeing with a third party to any restrictions on publication, or the early disclosure, of the results of their research.

Mesothelioma UK (or its agent) reserves the right to refuse such agreement or to grant agreement subject to such terms and conditions as Mesothelioma UK (or its agent) may decide.

Mesothelioma UK retains the right to call for an assignment to Mesothelioma UK of all Funded Intellectual Property. Such right is likely only to be exercised in exceptional circumstances. After such an assignment has been completed Mesothelioma UK and the host institution shall negotiate in good faith to agree the terms of a revenue share agreement in respect of net income received by Mesothelioma UK arising from the commercial exploitation of such Funded Intellectual Property.

The host institution shall retain copies of all agreements (including collaboration agreements, material transfer agreements and confidential disclosure agreements) proposed and/or completed relating to Funded Intellectual Property. The host institution shall provide Mesothelioma UK with copies of such agreements as Mesothelioma UK may request from time to time.

For the avoidance of doubt, Mesothelioma UK reserves the right to vary its policy from time to time regarding ownership and exploitation of the Intellectual Property Rights and to change these Conditions accordingly.

### 7.2.6 Scientific Fraud/Integrity

In the event of fraud occurring, Mesothelioma UK wishes to make it clear that it is the responsibility of the employing authority to investigate this. If a case of scientific fraud is suspected in the course of the research, then Mesothelioma UK should be notified and kept informed of further developments. At the initial stages of the enquiry Mesothelioma UK would not normally suspend the grant. However, if adequate steps are not taken to proceed with the investigation, Mesothelioma UK will suspend the grant. If fraud is proven Mesothelioma UK will terminate the grant immediately.

### 7.2.7 Experimental Animals

Mesothelioma UK has undertaken never to fund any research projects using live animals.

### 7.2.8 Patient Involvement in Research

We require that patients be treated according to the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki and the Guidelines for Good Clinical Practice.

**Completion of an application means full acceptance of the above terms and conditions.**