Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme

EME Researcher Led

The EME Programme welcomes researcher led applications that meet the programme remit.

Projects must have a strong collaborative approach, involving at least two of academia, NHS and industry. The EME Programme is particularly keen to encourage collaboration with small and medium enterprises.

The EME Programme welcomes studies adopting novel and efficient study designs or that include the development or testing of new methodologies in an embedded methodological study (EMS).

Where delivery of the EMS is integral to the main efficacy trial the additional costs should be modest and the purpose should be to explore issues that may potentially increase the efficiency of trials and value for money. The proposed work should be included in the EME application.

Where the EMS requires more substantial funding and can be delivered independently from the running of the main trial, a separate application should be made to the MRC-NIHR Methodology Research Programme (MRP). http://www.mrc.ac.uk/funding/browse/methodology-research-programme/ Applicants applying to the MRP for EMS funding, must add the prefix EMS to the title of their application for example, “EMS: A methodological study to…”

If your proposed study falls outside the scope of this call please consider submitting to the EME researcher-led workstream.

Applications are expected to set out programmes of work which contain distinct stages. It is expected that the early stages of the study will, if successful, lead onto a full evaluative clinical study or trial, which is in the remit of the EME Programme. This study must also be included and clearly specified within the application. Clinical trials embedded within the programme of work must be large enough to detect a meaningful effect.

Applications to this call may also include initial stages such as:

- The limited steps needed to progress the development of an intervention to a stage suitable for use in an accredited clinical service;
- Prospective clinical work or retrospective research utilising existing big data or clinical samples to inform the main study;
- Pilot or feasibility studies.

As a rough guide it is expected that these early stages will be complete within the first 18 months of the project and must not contribute more than 25% to the total cost or duration of the project.

Applicants will need to make a strong case for the future importance of the intervention through providing a measurable positive impact on health, innovation or future wealth creation and for the ultimate benefit of individual patients’ or the wider NHS.

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