

## MRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) Spring Funding Call 2023

**Scope:** The aim of this programme is to speed up the transition from discovery research to translational development projects, providing pump-prime funding to ensure that fundamental science is translated into new therapies, diagnostics, and medical devices.

**Funding:** We will provide funding of up to £70K per project.

**Time frame:** This IAA call will close on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May**, with funding commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023. All project spend will have to be complete by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

**Key elements:** Successful applications will: have a clear scientific rationale supported by preliminary data; provide a clear line of sight to clinical utility; involve early career researchers; recognise potential for commercialisation.

**Staff laboratory support:** IAA projects can be supported by our highly skilled Leicester Drug Discovery and Diagnostics (LD3) team. Key skills within the LD3 workforce can help transition your project to the next technology readiness or funding level, and include: *Cell Culture; Protein expression and purification; Protein-protein interactions; Biophysical characterisations; Crystallography; Assay development and validation; Molecular Biology; DNA/RNA extraction; Next Generation Sequencing/qPCR; Lab accreditation support; In-vivo study management and design; Personal licence holder. You may also choose to work with an LD3 partner as a co-applicant.*

**What we don't fund:** entire translational projects – applicants seeking funding for project grants are directed to DPFs; industrial partner costs; staff between posts or funding; PhD studentships; continuation of normal research grants; costs related to protection of intellectual property; staff exchange into a spin-out company of the host institution.

**How to submit your bid:** Email your application form and any supporting information to [drugdiscovery@le.ac.uk](mailto:drugdiscovery@le.ac.uk) cc [lh28@le.ac.uk](mailto:lh28@le.ac.uk) by 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**Further information:** Please come and talk to us (email as above) if there are any elements of your bid that you are uncertain about.

**Industry partnerships:** The Institute for Precision Health has organised an industry showcase event at the Charnwood Campus on April 25<sup>th</sup>. This is an ideal opportunity to showcase your research and start conversations with local life science industries. You can register for the event [here](#).

### **Funding terms and conditions**

Please ensure that proposed projects remain on track and provide 3-monthly project update reports. If there are any significant issues with the project, these must be reported as they arise. If spend is not complete within the specified time frame, funds will be re-allocated unless a project extension has been agreed. As a requirement of MRC funding, we will follow up the progress of your project over the next 5 years, and we request that you continue to engage with the team for this term. Please ensure that you acknowledge the award and the Institute for Precision Health in any publications that arise from projects benefitting from MRC IAA funding. If LD3 staff have contributed to the success of your project, please ensure that publications include them appropriately in the authorship. If LD3 staff will be working in your laboratories to deliver the project, we require a risk assessment to be completed on their behalf, ensuring that they have access to all of the necessary safety information. If they are new to the lab/building, then lab/building safety inductions must be carried out as appropriate. If your project involves use of clinical samples, you must ensure that the correct governance and ethics procedures are in place prior to commencing your project. Further information can be found at: <https://uniofleicester.sharepoint.com/sites/Research-Governance-Ethics-Integrity>; <https://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/aboutus/education-and-research/research-innovation/>