



Reversing Cancer

Our experience with Newton Grants

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Our experience

- **Wellcome Trust Collaborative Science Award**
 - 2017-2019: Breast cancer genetic predisposition [£727k]
- **Newton Ungku Omar Grants [each ~£200k]**
 - 2017-2018: Breast cancer genetic predisposition [UNMC]
 - 2017-2018: Breast cancer tumour genetics
 - 2017-2018: Immunotherapy for Oral cancer (treatment)
 - 2017-2018: CRISPR to find Achilles heel of Oral cancer
- **MRC Global Challenge Fund [~£200k]**
 - 2017-2018: Vaccines for prevention of Oral cancer

Key elements 1: Why does my research matter?

- Research Quality
 - **strength** of medical or scientific case
 - level of **innovation**, and whether this is likely to lead to significant new understanding
 - management **strategy** proposed, including equitable access to any shared resources
 - **feasibility** of experimental plans, statistics, methodology and design, including provision of sample size calculations, strategies to avoid bias, and preliminary data where appropriate
 - how well **risks** have been identified, and will be mitigated.

Key elements 2: Why are we the best people?

- Research environment and people
 - **track record(s)** of the individuals in their field(s) and whether they are best-placed to deliver the proposed research
 - level of **commitment** of host research organisation to supporting the proposed research
 - Whether appropriate **facilities** will be available to the researchers

Key elements 3: What we would achieve?

- Potential economic and societal impact of the proposed research, including
 - identification of realistic **potential improvements** to human or population health
 - contribution to **relieving disease/disability burden** and/or improving quality of life
 - identification of potential **impacts of research** and **plans to deliver these** (in the Pathways to Impact statement)

Key elements 4: Is it good use of taxpayers \$?

- Value for money
 - whether funds requested are **essential and justified** by the importance and scientific potential of the research
 - **investigator time and proposed involvement** related to management of the research
 - whether the proposal demonstrates **value for money** in terms of the resources requested
 - whether any animal use is **fully justified** in terms of need, species, number, conformance to guidelines

Key elements 5: Have I covered all holes?

- **Research governance issues**, including
 - whether proposed research is ethically acceptable
 - any ethical issues that need separate consideration
 - appropriateness of ethical review and research governance arrangements
 - any potential adverse consequences for humans, animals or the environment and whether these risks have been addressed satisfactorily in the proposal
- **Data management plan**
 - the types, scale and complexity of data being (or to be) managed;
 - the likely long-term value for further research including by sharing data; and
 - The anticipated information security and ethics requirements.

What they don't tell you

- How to meet and collaborate with internationally renowned individuals (what's in it for them?)
 - Fellowships, Conferences, workshops, writing a paper together
- How to prepare a topnotch application (and ensure that all possible holes are filled)
- How long does this take?
- How to prepare for an application before the call for applications is announced?

Summary: Key elements

- Niche area – relevant, trendy, impactful
- World renowned collaborators
- Track record and ability to deliver results
- Value for money
- Long term vision and prospects



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GOOD LUCK!

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