

Pfizer is proud to announce the launch of OPEN AIR, an innovative Competitive Research Programme that grants awards for high-quality research in the field of COPD.

A CALL FOR PATIENT-ORIENTED AND CLINICALLY FOCUSED RESEARCH PROPOSALS



Outcomes, Patients, Experience: Novel Approaches and Innovative Research

OPEN AIR COPD Competitive Research Grant Programme 2016

OPEN AIR is a competitive research grant programme organised and funded by Pfizer Limited with review of proposals by an independent expert panel.



Advancing understanding through OPEN AIR

Aims

OPEN AIR aims to inspire and award funding for innovative research projects in the field of COPD, opening opportunities for researchers to explore novel ideas that may further the understanding of the condition and its management and improve patient outcomes.

Pfizer invites submission of proposals that focus on **COPD patient-oriented and clinically focused research** with the aim of improving patient outcomes and experience in the short and/or medium term:

- Individual awards of up to £50,000 will be presented
- The grants will be non-renewable and will be for research undertaken ideally within a 12-month period (maximum 18 months), commencing in 2016

Eligibility criteria

OPEN AIR is open to applications from all clinical practitioners and scientists working in an educational institution, provider or commissioning setting and aims to encourage submissions from young investigators and from investigators who have not previously considered submitting a research grant application.

Applicants must:

- i Be working in the UK; and
- ii Hold a medical degree or pharmacy degree/PhD; and
- iii Not be members of the OPEN AIR Grant Awarding Committee*; and
- iv Not work directly for Pfizer, Novartis or any other pharmaceutical company

Applications should:

- Be focused on the delivery of optimal management of COPD
- Be focused on translational patient-oriented or clinically focused research in areas such as breathlessness, exacerbations and personalised medicine
- Make use of data to answer clinical, economic or healthcare provision questions that are important in the current NHS environment (e.g. through alignment to national guidance and national priorities)

To qualify as translational research, proposals should:

- Focus on answering clinically oriented research questions that have the potential to impact patient outcomes within a relatively short time frame
- Include analysis of patient-centred outcomes or reliable surrogate markers

Applicants whose projects are selected by the Grant Awarding Committee will be awarded the grant on the conditions that:

- i The contract between Pfizer and the respective institution is agreed within 3 months of receiving notification of the award; and
- ii Pfizer has received documentation confirming approval by the relevant ethics committee, Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), and the local Research and Development department as appropriate within 3 months of receiving notification of the award

Applications in the following areas of interest will be considered:

- Understanding the COPD patient pathway in the NHS and the unmet need of symptomatic COPD
- Early diagnosis and treatment (most realistically through retrospective* data analysis)
- Stratified medicine approaches
- Understanding risk factors for exacerbations in order to reduce exacerbations or the impact of exacerbations
- Exploring new models of care

Research can be prospective or retrospective* but should not be specific to Pfizer or Novartis medicines. The focus areas above are intentionally broad to enable a range of applications within the areas of interest.

Proposals that do not fit the interest criteria will not be considered for funding.

Important notes for applicants

Pfizer reserves the right to not support projects that fall outside of Pfizer's internal compliance policies and procedures or those that replicate existing research.

Additionally, Pfizer is unable to fund direct comparative treatment studies primarily involving competitor products; studies in which the benefit-risk ratio to patients is not obviously positive; or studies that involve the use of compounds in development.

The available OPEN AIR grants do not include the payment of institutional overheads as routine; however, in rare and exceptional circumstances, Pfizer may be able to consider supporting some level of overhead costs.

If your application includes a request for institutional overheads, you must contact the OPEN AIR team using the mailbox address openair@chameleon-uk.com to discuss your budget prior to submission of your application.

Owing to the competitive nature of the awards, Pfizer cannot provide any additional funding beyond what has been requested and approved by the external review panel.

*Grant Awarding Committee members cannot be an applicant or co-applicant on a proposal submitted for the programme, nor be an author on any publication ensuing from the award of funding by the programme. The committee members will not participate in the review of any proposal that poses a conflict of interest. Proposals received from Grant Awarding Committee members' institutions will still be allowed but the scoring and review decisions of these proposals will be made by the committee, excluding the potentially conflicted member.

*If access to data via a third-party database forms part of the research proposal, documentation will need to be provided indicating that the data required for the project are available in the third-party database and appropriate access has been granted to the data, or indicating the process by which access will be applied for, including timelines.

Grant Awarding Committee

OPEN AIR is supported by an independent panel of leading UK scientists and clinicians with appropriate research expertise and experience in pulmonology. This committee is supported by Pfizer's UK Respiratory medical team from an administrative perspective and to ensure compliance to Pfizer processes and policies. Pfizer has no influence over the grant awarding decisions.

The independent panel will review all research proposals, determine the successful applicants and present awards to recipients.

Chair of the independent Grant Awarding Committee:



Professor William MacNee
MBChB MD FRCP(G) FRCP(E)

Professor MacNee received his medical degree and MD from the University of Glasgow, UK, and trained thereafter in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh/University of Edinburgh Medical School, UK. He received an MRC travelling fellowship from St Paul's Hospital, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. He is currently Professor of Respiratory and Environmental Medicine at the University of Edinburgh and Honorary Consultant Physician at NHS Lothian, Scotland. He is a past Chair of the Scientific Committee of the European Respiratory Society (ERS) and past ERS President. He has served on the British Thoracic Society COPD Guideline Committee, was Co-Chair of the ERS/ATS COPD Guidelines Committee, and is a former member of the GOLD Executive Committee. Professor MacNee has been an Associate Editor of the *European Respiratory Journal* and the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*. His primary research interests are in pathological mechanisms of the lung and systemic effects of COPD, and he also has an interest in the mechanisms of the harmful effects of environmental pollutants. In addition, he has published over 380 peer-reviewed papers and edited several books on COPD.

Panel members:



Professor David Halpin
MA DPhil MB BS FRCP

Professor Halpin is currently Consultant Physician and Honorary Associate Professor in Respiratory Medicine at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, UK. He trained at the University of Oxford and St Thomas's Hospital Medical School, UK, completing a DPhil at the Department of Human Anatomy, University of Oxford, before finishing his clinical training at St Thomas's. He completed his postgraduate training in Respiratory Medicine at the Royal Brompton Hospital.

Professor Halpin is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and a member of the British Thoracic Society, European Respiratory Society, and American Thoracic Society. He leads a busy clinical department, continues research in respiratory medicine and has published widely. He lectures frequently around the world on COPD and asthma and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Global Initiative on Obstructive Lung Diseases (GOLD) and of the GOLD Science Committee. Until recently, Professor Halpin was an Associate Editor of *Thorax*. He was also the Chairman and Clinical Expert for the COPD Guideline Development Group of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) in the UK and Respiratory Clinical Lead for the NHS in the South West from 2010 to 2015.



Dr John Hurst
PhD FRCP

Dr Hurst graduated from the University of Edinburgh Medical School, UK, and was appointed Senior Lecturer, then Reader in Respiratory Medicine at UCL, UK, in October 2007. He has a particular research interest in mechanisms of exacerbation susceptibility and cardiovascular risk. He received the 2012 European Respiratory Society COPD Research Award.

His clinical work at Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust focuses on the Specialist COPD and Bronchiectasis services, and he leads the London Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency Service. Dr Hurst has an active role in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education. He also serves on the Editorial Board of the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.



Professor Mike Morgan
MB BChir MA MD FRCP

Professor Morgan is the National Clinical Director for Respiratory Services in England. He is a Consultant Respiratory Physician at the Department of Respiratory Medicine, Allergy and Thoracic Surgery at Glenfield Hospital (part of the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust), UK, and Honorary Professor at the University of Leicester. He is also a Vice President of the British Lung Foundation and the Editor of *Chronic Respiratory Disease* and was previously Chairman of the Asthma UK Research Committee. He has recently demitted as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the British Thoracic Society and now serves as President-Elect of the Society.



Professor Mike Polkey
PhD FRCP

Professor Polkey is a Chest Physician with 25 years of experience. He qualified at the University of Bristol, UK, trained initially in General Internal Medicine and became a member of the Royal College of Physicians in 1991. He began his specialty training in Pulmonary Medicine in 1991 but interrupted it to read for a PhD at King's College London, UK, in 1994. In 2000,

he was appointed as a Consultant Physician to the Royal Brompton Hospital in London, where he currently serves on the lung failure team.

Professor Polkey is an expert in all aspects of advanced lung disease that result in respiratory failure, especially COPD, and has particular expertise in rehabilitation and skeletal muscle biology, weaning from invasive mechanical ventilation, the management of chronic respiratory failure and respiratory aspects of neurological disease such as ALS.

Professor Polkey is Professor of Respiratory Medicine at Imperial College London, UK, and also Deputy Director of the Royal Brompton Hospital NIHR Respiratory Biomedical Research Unit. He has experience in acquiring and directing multicentre research grants. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed scientific articles and is Associate Editor of *Clinical Science* and past Editor of the *European Respiratory Journal*. Professor Polkey was elected a Foundation Fellow of the European Respiratory Society in 2014.

Overview of the OPEN AIR 2016 Competitive Research Grant allocation process

The OPEN AIR application process is a two-stage process, as follows:

- 1. Expression of Interest:** applicants will be required to make an initial Expression of Interest, providing a brief outline of their intended research. These Expressions of Interest will be judged by the independent Grant Awarding Committee.
 - **Deadline to submit Expression of Interest: 11 December 2015**
 - **Decisions communicated to applicants*: w/c 21 December 2015**
- 2. Full application:** a number of Expressions of Interest will be selected by the independent Grant Awarding Committee for further evaluation. Full applications will be required to support each of these selected submissions. These applications will be judged during a Grant Awarding Committee meeting in February 2016.
 - **Deadline to submit full application (if selected): 29 January 2016**
 - **Decisions communicated to applicants: early March 2016**



What are the expected project outcomes?

Research projects are anticipated to expand knowledge in the field of COPD, improving the lives of patients who are constricted by this disease.

Awardees are expected to present findings at scientific meetings and/or publish their findings in scientific journals. In addition, awardees will be invited to and are expected to present their projects and/or results to fellow researchers at a Pfizer-organised investigator meeting and provide a short summary of their project for an OPEN AIR abstract booklet. The first investigator meeting is planned to be held in November/December 2017.

Additional information

Projects that are awarded funding through OPEN AIR may also be eligible for NIHR CRN or NIHR EME support, as well as MRC funding.

Please visit www.crnc.nihr.ac.uk/portfolio and <http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/programmes/eme> for more information.

An OPEN AIR grant may be awarded in addition to other funding from foundations or government agencies, or other organisations (including but not limited to other pharmaceutical companies), as long as there is no direct overlap of the scope of work covered by the OPEN AIR grant and that of the other funding body.

How to apply

Applications should be made by email to: openair@chameleon-uk.com

Further enquiries

For questions relating to the Pfizer OPEN AIR Programme, please email: openair@chameleon-uk.com

*Note that the Grant Awarding Committee will be unable to provide feedback on all Expressions of Interest.

