**MRC Confidence in Concept (CiC) – Guidance Notes**

**About the scheme**

With support from the MRC, the University has funding available to support **health related translational** projects which are at the stage of proof of concept (Confidence in Concept Awards)

## Description of the scheme

* CiC awards will fund larger proof of concept studies which provide robust evidence to funders of the feasibility of a proposed solution to a health, clinical or product development need.
* They are intended to accelerate the translation of discovery research into new therapies, diagnostics and medical devices by supporting preliminary work or feasibility studies to establish the viability of an approach – before seeking more substantive translational funding.
* The scheme forms part of the Biomedical Catalyst partnership between the MRC and Innovate UK, which also includes the Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme (DPFS)
* Partnerships between medical/health related disciplines and engineering disciplines are specifically encouraged
* Matched funding from industrial/academic partners is encouraged
* A clear vision of translation and the pathway to impact is required within the application
* Overview: see <https://www.mrc.ac.uk/funding/browse/confidence-in-concept-scheme-parent/confidence-in-concept-scheme/>

## Award amount and duration

Applicants can apply for up to **£50k (in exceptional circumstances more will be considered) and we expect project durations to be between 6-12 months** which will be dictated by the needs of each project. Projects should be ready to start upon confirmation of funding and must be completed and funds must be spent within 18 months of being awarded.

## Eligibility

* This scheme is open to all academic staff members within an interest in solving health-related problems
* Funds will be used to support translational projects directly (not for coordination activities)
* Individual projects should be based on specific milestones in the translational pathway

The funding will **not** support:

* Entire translational projects; applicants seeking funding for entire projects are directed to [DPFS](https://www.mrc.ac.uk/funding/deadlines/biomedical-catalyst-developmental-pathway-funding-scheme-dpfs-submission-deadlines/).
* Administration costs or industrial partner costs
* Staff between posts/funding (i.e. as “bridging” funds), or PhD studentships
* Continuation of normal research grants
* Costs relating to the protection of intellectual property

## Further information and queries

If you require further information or have any queries please contact Sue Mcdonald, Programme Manager, S.M.Mcdonald@soton.ac.uk

Round closes on 1st October 2018, successful applicants will be notified in December 2018