



February 2016

**To whom it may concern**

**Subject: The Gilead UK and Ireland Fellowship Programme 2016**

Following the success of the Gilead UK and Ireland Fellowship Programme (GUKIFP) from 2009 to 2015, we are pleased to provide details for the Fellowship Programme for 2016.

The aim of the Gilead UK and Ireland Fellowship Programme is to award financial grants (or support and contribution to joint working initiatives between the NHS and Gilead or the NHS, Gilead and the third sector) to generate and promote best practice in the delivery of patient-centred care through innovative and reproducible models in the disease areas – HIV, viral hepatitis (HCV), invasive fungal disease (IFD), cystic fibrosis (CF) and oncology.

For 2016 the Gilead UK & Ireland Fellowship Programme is running two application windows throughout the year to provide additional opportunities to apply for a grant.

Evidence generated from Fellowship projects provides the opportunity to shape public health policy and practice (either at a local or national level) in the UK and Ireland, or to generate new studies or joint ventures to shape clinical care pathways. As an example, HIV data generated over the last 6 years have been successfully published in peer-reviewed journals and used to support the Halve It campaign, a coalition of national experts to tackle the public health challenges posed by HIV (www.halveit.org.uk).

Financial grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to individual organisations or groups of local healthcare providers such as, but not limited to, hospital clinics and patient organisations.

Therapy area criteria grant giving for GUKIFP 2016:

**HIV**

**Topic 1 – Targeted testing**

Background: in the HIV aspirational 90% diagnosed, 90% on treatment and 90% undetectable the shortfall remains in those diagnosed. Testing in GUM services and acute hospital settings has increased.

*The Fellowship is looking for innovative projects with expectation of reaching and HIV testing at least 250 individuals from higher risk populations in non-GUM/ non hospital settings. For example, these could include outreach, remote, or other novel testing strategies.*

Each application should outline clear plans for linkage to care.

**Topic 2 – Service deployment to improve the long-term health of people living with HIV (PLWH)**

*The Fellowship programme is looking for projects which focus on the development of innovative service models that assess the longer term needs of PLWH.*

**Viral hepatitis**

1. Local ODN integrated initiatives to evaluate acceptability, feasibility and effectiveness of community based HCV specialist treatment service models according to NHS service specification no F04 S

f. [https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/10/hep-c- netwrks-spec.pdf](https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/10/hep-c-netwrks-spec.pdf)

2. Local innovative initiatives to evaluate acceptability, feasibility and effectiveness of integration of

HCV testing into routine healthcare delivery demonstrating successful referral to care

Grant applications outside of the topics above will still be considered, however they must meet the ethos of the Gilead UK & Ireland Fellowship eg be innovative and enable sharing of best practice.

**Invasive fungal disease**

Antifungal stewardship projects which aim to drive quality improvements in the implementation of local, regional or national antifungal guidelines.

*This may be done by identifying one or more of the following factors:*

• Defining critical data gaps and unmet needs when treating invasive fungal infections in ‘high risk’

patients in the acute hospital setting

• Evaluating local epidemiology and antifungal susceptibility profiles to determine appropriate antifungal prescribing policy

• Implementation and/or auditing of effective use of starting, switching/de-escalation and stopping criteria

• Auditing of the appropriateness, safety, effectiveness and cost of antifungal prescribing in hospital and at discharge

Grant applications outside of the topics above will still be considered, however they must meet the ethos of the Gilead UK & Ireland Fellowship eg be innovative and enable sharing of best practice.

**Oncology**

1. Establishment of, or analysis of, local registries or databases that facilitate academic research into B cell malignancies, including chronic lymphocytic leukaemia and follicular lymphoma, such as longitudinal data on the natural history and effects of treatment

2. Initiatives to establish and validate local approaches for testing to identify high risk CLL including, but not restricted to, TP53 mutation testing

Grant applications outside of the topics above will still be considered, however they must meet the ethos of the Gilead UK & Ireland Fellowship eg be innovative and enable sharing of best practice.

**Cystic Fibrosis**

*In 2015, the Gilead UK & Ireland Fellowship Programme, in collaboration with the Cystic Fibrosis Trust in the UK and the Irish Thoracic Society provided a two year grant to fund a study into the different subtypes of CF exacerbations, identify biomarkers and how they react to antibiotics. Applications for a cystic fibrosis grant will reopen in 2017.*

How to apply

All grant or support requests will be assessed against clear criteria and, as in 2015, we expect this will be a highly competitive process. Please visit the Fellowship Programme website for therapy area specific application opening and closing dates. Each project’s funding will be awarded in instalments which are contingent on demonstration of satisfactory progress and successful completion by spring 2017 at the latest.

For 2016, the Gilead UK & Ireland Fellowship Programme is running two application windows throughout the year to provide additional opportunities to apply for a grant. Information relating to the second application window will be provided following the closure of the first application window.

For more information on the Gilead UK and Ireland Fellowship Programme, details of how to apply and the assessment criteria, please visit the Gilead UK and Ireland Fellowship Programme

website [www.ukifellowshipprogramme.com](http://www.ukifellowshipprogramme.com/) or contact us at [admin@ukifellowshipprogramme.com.](mailto:admin@ukifellowshipprogramme.com)

Yours sincerely,

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