

**Diagnostics in Tropical and Infectious Diseases (DiTi)
Committee Meeting
09:00-11:00, Friday 12th December 2025
Online**

MINUTES

Present: Susie Dunachie (SD) [Chair], Rouzet Agaiby (RA), Emily Adams (EA) Louise Thwaites (LT), Elizabeth Batty (EB),

Officers: Translational Research Office (TRO), Oxford: Deepak Kumar (DK), Kavita Subramaniam (KS), Vlada Yarosh (VY)
Mahidol Oxford Research Unit (MORU): Maneerat Ekkapongpisit (ME), Cheewin Kittikunapong (CK)

All Committee members and officers were present online on Teams

Apologies: Qhayiya Mudau (QM), TRO's Translational Partnerships Manager in Global Health

Agenda:

Each document was presented to the Committee Members as the chair navigated through them, in the following order:

- Welcome and Introductions to Committee Members & Translational Research Office
- Minutes of previous meeting DiTi Panel Meeting 2024
- Budget for 2025-2026
- Conflict of Interest Declarations
- Ranked list of proposals
- Guidance for reviewers' overview

General comments:

- Everything discussed at the meeting is strictly confidential, all feedback is constructive, anonymised and is provided as group feedback.
- Oxford University Innovations (OUI; Oxford's technology transfer office) Licensing and Ventures Managers were requested to provide input on the IP strategy and commercialisation outlook only of the projects (not scientific package).
- Summary of the funding volume given.
- For time efficiency, and given the gap between mean and median scores, the panel did not review applications ranked 7–11 unless a member specifically requested it. No such requests were made, so only the top-ranked applications were discussed, in their current numerical order.

Notable metrics:

- 11 applications had been submitted this year which is a 55% increase from 2024 (5 applications) and 2023 (4 applications)
- Out of the 11 applications, TRO had sight of 9 applications. 2 of the 11 were return applicants and 3 applicants also tapped into TRO’s other flagship fund the Medical and Life Sciences Translational Fund (MLSTF). Six applicants were brand new to DiTi.
- Out of 11, there was a good representation across all overseas research units:
 - 2 projects between PIs in OUCRU and MORU,
 - 4 projects between PIs in Oxford and MORU,
 - 5 between PIs in Oxford and OUCRU.
- Divisional Representation: 9 applicants were within MSD and 2 within MPLS.
 - Nuffield Department of Medicine was the highest concentration of application were from.
 - Malaria was the highest research area however there were other LMIC-related diseases in the pool of applications too (dengue, enterovirus, HIV).
 - Eight projects had signed external collaborations and 2 applicants identified themselves as early career researchers (ECR).

Awards made:

No	Title	Department & Divison	PI	Award
1	URICA: a rapid, point-of-care urinalysis test for monitoring intravascular haemolysis in vivax malaria infections and adverse reactions to tafenoquine.	DPAG, MSD	Swietach, Pawel	£56,500
2	Diagnostics for Enterovirus A71	NDM, MSD	Adams, Emily	£94,935
			Grand total	£151,435