**APPLICANT DETAILS**

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| --- | --- |
| **Principal Investigator** | |
| Name: |  |
| Position |  |
| Department |  |
| Division |  |
| Email address: |  |
| Research Group |  |
| **Co-Investigator (1), if applicable** | |
| Name: |  |
| Position |  |
| Department |  |
| Division |  |
| Email address: |  |
| Research Group |  |
| **Co-Investigator (2), if applicable** | |
| Name: |  |
| Position |  |
| Department |  |
| Division |  |
| Email address: |  |
| Research Group |  |

*A maximum of 3 applications can be accepted per research group with the applicant appearing as Co-I or PI. We strongly recommend an internal triage process within your research group to shortlist the three best applications to be submitted to this scheme. Please discuss applications with your group prior to submission*.

**This section is ONLY applicable if you are applying as an**

**EMERGING TRANSLATIONAL INNOVATOR\***

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| --- | --- |
| Are you an **Emerging Translational Innovator**? **\*** | YES  NO |
| Are you applying as a ***Junior ETI*** or as an ***ETI transitioning to an independent researcher***? \*\* | ☐ Junior ETI  ☐ ETI transitioning to an independent researcher |
| Please confirm that your senior PI or line manager has granted you permission to undertake this work, subject to award recommendation by the panel **\*\*** | YES  NO |
| If you are applying as an ETI, please confirm that you have engaged with the Translational Research Office (TRO) prior to submitting your application.  *Please note that it is mandatory for ETIs to consult with the TRO before submitting an application* | YES  NO |
| Do you currently have an active MLSTF award that would overlap with this MLSTF project if awarded? If yes, please provide details on the time commitment and work management required for both projects and any other projects you might be involved in. | ☐ YES ☐ NO  Details, if yes: |
| Please can you state the details of the mentor who will support you during your proposal**\*\*\***  Name:  Email address: | |
| Please briefly state the expected skills set that you are looking to gain/develop during the course of the application with support from the identified mentor [max. 200 words] | |
| How will this application support your future aspirations? [max. 150 words] | |

*\** Oxford employed-, early career researchers which includes post-doctoral researcher, clinical researchers, or junior group leaders within the first few years of independence and/or on their first permanent, open-ended or long-term rolling contract. For Further information and details on ***Junior ETIs*** and ***ETIs transitioning to independent researchers***, please see the ETI Framework, which can be found [here](https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/research/internal-research-funding/funding-directory/managed-by-msd/medical-and-life-sciences-translational-fund#:~:text=must%20be%20included.-,EMERGING%20TRANSLATIONAL%20INNOVATORS%20(ETI),-*%20Please%20note%2C%20the).

\*\* A signed letter of confirmation from the PI/line manager will need to be appended to the case for support application.

\*\*\* The mentor can either be your senior PI or line manager. Alternatively, if you are unable to seek support from your line manager or do not match the skillset that you require, we strongly suggest that you take a look at our [ExiR network](https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/for-staff/resources/translational-research-office/experts-in-residence) and identify an Expert that you would require support from.

**Project Title**

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**Research Area (please tick all that apply)**

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| --- | --- |
| Neuroscience |  |
| Diabetes |  |
| Oncology |  |
| Cell and Gene Therapies |  |
| Psychiatry/Mental Health |  |
| Physical sciences linked to medical research |  |
| Cardiovascular science |  |
| Other (please describe) |  |

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| --- | --- |
| Bioscience for health |  |
| Clinical/human translation (aligned with NIHR Biomedical Research Centre activity) |  |
| Infection/Immunity/Inflammation/AMR |  |
| Vaccine Science |  |
| Rare diseases |  |
| Global health / LMIC setting |  |
| Endocrinology |  |
| AI/Data Science for health\* |  |

***\*Please Note: If you have ticked AI for a research area above, and your application does involve AI as a significant component, please ensure you complete Section 1.3 of the form. These questions provide a high-level summary of key aspects of your AI-based application. Reviewers expect concise yet impactful responses rather than detailed explanations. Full details should also be included in the relevant sections of the application.***

**Administrative Contact for Award**

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| Name, position and contact details of administrative contact *(Departmental research facilitator, manager, administrator or finance officer who can facilitate award set up through IRAMS and X5).* |  |

***In order to complete this form, please use font ‘Arial’ with minimum font size of 11 without adjusting the margin of the text box.***

***Applicants are strongly advised to use the ‘Guidance for Applicants’ document on ‘What are the panel looking for?’ hints under each section of the case for support form when completing your application.***

***The use of generative AI tools to prepare MLSTF applications is permitted, however, caution should be applied. The MLSTF scheme’s stance on the use of generative AI in applications is in line with the guidelines set by UKRI. Further details can be found*** [***here***](https://www.ukri.org/publications/generative-artificial-intelligence-in-application-and-assessment-policy/use-of-generative-artificial-intelligence-in-application-preparation-and-assessment/)***.***

**Non-confidential lay summary** (max. 250 words)

This information could be shared with external agencies such as funders and potential industry partners if deemed within the best interest of the PI. Please Include a description of your innovation and its impact, who the potential partners and/or end user could be, the competitive advantage, how the funding will be used to reach a critical milestone.

I am happy for this summary to be shared with selected potential industry collaborators and/or funders Y N.

**Funding History (please tick all that apply):**

Please indicate if the project has received any funding from the following sources to date.

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| --- | --- |
| If this current application is related to a previous **unsuccessful** application, please indicate how you have incorporated the feedback received by appending a 1-page point-by-point response to the reviewer comments to this application. If this current application is related to a previous **successful** application, please indicate below how this current application is different (Maximum 100 words) | |
| Medical Research Council (MRC) |  |
| Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) |  |
| National Institute for Health & Care Research (NIHR) |  |
| Cancer Research UK (CRUK) |  |
| Wellcome |  |
| Other (Please specify) | |

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| Has your proposal been submitted to be considered for funding elsewhere?  Y. N.  If yes, please give brief details, e.g. successful/unsuccessful/awaiting outcome? (Minimum 100 words): |

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: Brief outline of existing and expected intellectual property (IP) from this proposal**. It is highly recommended that you consult with [Oxford University Innovation (OUI)](https://innovation.ox.ac.uk/) to discuss all IP matters (max 200 words).

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| Do you have any patents/IP in place or submitted that covers this work?  Y. N. | Please give brief details: |
| Do you anticipate that work proposed here will give rise to any new IP?  Y. N. | Please give brief details: |
| Do any organisations other than Oxford University, have any rights to the work being proposed here *(e.g. through commercial sponsorship, or grant funding)? How will IP be managed in respect to these collaborators?*  Y. N. | Please give brief details: |
| Do you need to access background IP/patents, materials, data or other resources held by anyone else for this work (*e.g. using a technique/discoveries patented by another group, or materials, data or equipment provided under an agreement)?*  Y. N. | Please give brief details: |
| Have OUI been engaged in discussions around the proposed research?  Y. N. | Please give brief details of the Licensing and Ventures Manager engaged with the project: |
| Have you created a spin-out company based on this or a similar technology?  Y. N. | Please give brief details if yes: |

**Ethics**

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| --- | --- |
| Not required | Please give reason *(e.g. does not involve human material):* |
| Application in progress | Please state status: |
| Ethics obtained | Please give relevant ethics committee project title and reference number: |

**INDUSTRY INNOVATION STRANDS**

*To facilitate the co-development of projects with an appropriate Cancer Research Horizon investigator, Oxford-based investigators should submit a non-confidential Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Translational Research Office (TRO)* ***by 5 pm on the 12th of September 2025*** *to be considered for the Industry Innovation Strand****.*** *Please click this* [*link*](https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/research/internal-research-funding/funding-directory/managed-by-msd/medical-and-life-sciences-translational-fund#expression-of-interest-forms) *to download the respective EOI form. Please contact the TRO for further information.*

**Cancer Research Horizons Innovation (CRUK) Co-Fund**

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| *The Cancer Research Horizons Innovation Fund seeks proposals that have been previously or are currently funded by CRUK and fall within the Oncology remit.* |
| Have you previously received CRUK funding for research directly related to this application? Y N  Have you been shortlisted through the expression of interest (EOI) stage by CRUK? Y N  ***Please give details:*** |

**University Challenge Seed Fund**

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| Are you applying or have you already applied for University Challenge Seed Fund (UCSF) co-funding? If yes, please provide the details of your submission.  ☐Y ☐N | Submission details:  **Project title:**  **Funding volume: £**  **Submission date:** |
| Have you already been awarded funding through UCSF? Please state funding volume (£) and the year of the award.  Y N | **Award Made: £**  **Year of the award:** |

**CASE FOR SUPPORT FORM**

**SECTION 1.1: Scientific Justification and Project Developmental Plans** (max 500 words).

**Please use this section to include scientific background information and justification such as:**

The unmet clinical need of your proposed project; Background data and progress to date; MLSTF project objectives, milestones, go/no-go success criteria and proposed end-point outcomes; Next steps in the development plans post MLSTF. You are **HIGHLY** encouraged to append **supporting data and information (figures / tables**) [max 1 page] and a **comprehensive Gantt chart on the milestones and timeline** of your project [max 1 page] in support of your MLSTF application form. **PLEASE NOTE, the information in this section should not be a copy of the non-confidential lay summary.**

Which follow-on funding streams would be most appropriate for your project?   
 MRC DPFS  NIHR i4i  BHF TA CRUK MPA  Other

**SECTION 1.2: Please list the key risks to delivering the project** (max 500 words)

Provide 1) A list of risks associated with the project, including the unlikely-likelihood of occurring; 2) What impact the risks would have on the successful completion of the project (low-medium-high); 3) How will these risks be managed and what mitigation plans are put in place?

**SECTION 1.3: To be completed if your project involves significant use of AI.** Significant use of AI in an MLSTF project refers to the integration of artificial intelligence as a core enabling technology that fundamentally shapes the project’s functionality, development, and value proposition. Use of AI in the project is therefore not only an add-on feature but a major technique that drives the project’s capabilities, automation, decision-making, or user experience.

|  |
| --- |
| Please outline your current intended use statement for the technology (which may be subject to further refinement), including target users and the benefits to those users [max.150 words] |
| Please describe the data that will be used for training the AI technology, including specifying the dataset(s) you have used, as well what curation have you performed. Please also describe the data that will be required in operational delivery of the technology [max.150 words] |
| Please describe the AI tools and methods that you intend to deploy for this proposal, including the model architecture. Are you using an off-the-shelf model (specify which one) or a bespoke model? [max. 150 words] |
| Is any part of your code based on or incorporate any 3rd party code? If so, have you checked the applicable permissions for use (e.g. research only/ all or commercial use) [max.150 words] |
| How have you conducted the training, testing and validation set up? How have you mitigated against overfitting of the model? Please comment on e.g. cross-validation schemes, hold-out datasets, external validations. Please also specify which features or input variables drive the prediction of your model? [max. 150 words] |
| Please describe any novel approaches (e.g., use of data, methods deployed) in the AI component of your proposal [max. 150 words] |

**SECTION 2: Competitiveness of the approach** (max 400 words)

Discuss the competitive landscape in both academic and industry sectors and what significant advantages the proposed research will offer over the methodologies already on the market or in development by your competitors.

Have you considered, or do you have the need, to receive support for market research and identify commercial opportunities? Y N. If you have ticked yes, please note that MLSTF can fund market research or business development support as part of the proposal. You are advised to contact the TRO at the application who can support you in acquiring a quote.

**SECTION 3: Industry engagement** (max 200 words)

Provide the details of an industrial collaborator, if you have one, and what their contribution will be. If there is no collaboration currently in place, please describe any conversations that you may have had with industry or what your plans are for engaging with the commercial sector.

**SECTION 4: Regulatory management** (max 300 words)

Provide evidence and details of consultation with the appropriate regulatory body or regulatory experts and summarise the outcomes of these discussions. Alternatively, summarise why regulatory discussions are not necessary at this stage.

**SECTION 5: Data Management Plan** (max 100 words)

State your data management plan or provide evidence that the creation of such a plan is currently underway and how you propose your data will fit within the NHS Secure Data Environment.

Does your project include utilisation of clinical data from the NHS or other sources as training model for your proposed technology? Yes No

**SECTION 6: Justification for support** (max 200 words)

Provide a description of what resources (models, equipment, infrastructure, expertise) are needed to undertake the proposed project. Also provide justification for the funds being requested and state why the MLSTF scheme is an appropriate scheme for your proposal.

If you are applying as an ETI, please confirm that the funds you are requesting are up to £50K which is in remit with the MLSTF ETI route Yes

**SECTION 7: Sources of matched funding** (max 100 words)

Provide details of other sources of funding to match the MLSTF award. These could include: industry cash or in-kind, internal/external awarded grants, Departmental support.

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| **Once completed please append the following documents to this case for support form and merge into a single PDF to be uploaded onto IRAMS by the deadline:**  **One page CV for each named applicant**  **One page of the X5 costing**  **One page MAX of a comprehensive Gantt chart for the proposed project (Please see this exemplar Gantt chart ‘Setting Realistic Timelines’ to help prepare your application** [**https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/for-staff/resources/translational-research-office/news-training-events/tips-for-mlstf-applicants**](https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/for-staff/resources/translational-research-office/news-training-events/tips-for-mlstf-applicants)  **One page MAX of your supporting data/table/figures for SECTION 1.1**  **A signed letter by senior PI or line manager confirming permission for ETI to undertake the proposed activity in application**  **A 1-page point-by point response to reviewer comments, if an applicant is resubmitting a previously unsuccessful application.** |