

MLSTF Panel Meeting 30/10/24 Minutes

Present in person:

Forename	Surname	Membership	Internal/External	Department/Company
Nessa	Carey	Core (Chair)	External	Former Entrepreneur in Residence, Medical Sciences Division
Helen	McShane	Core (Co-Chair)	Internal	Deputy Head of Division and Associate Head of Division (People and Translation) (NDM, MSD)
Antony	Galione	Core	Internal	Pharmacology (MSD)
Fadi	Issa	Core	Internal	Surgical Sciences (MSD)
Eleanor	Stride	Core	Internal	ENG/IBME/NDORMS (MPLS)
Lauren	Laing	Core	External	OSE
Jan	Wolber	Core	External	GE Healthcare (EiR)
Toni	Day	Core	External	Organox (EiR)
Giles	Sanders	Core	External	TTP (EiR)
Paul	Cox	Core	External	Apellis Pharmaceuticals (EiR)
Gill	Shuttleworth	Core	External	Cancer Research Horizons
Gillian	Tannahill	Core	External	Johnson and Johnson
Helen	Fletcher	Core	External	Johnson and Johnson
Bill	Haynes	Core	External	Novo Nordisk
Matthew	Carpenter	Officer	External	OUI
Steve	Silvey	Officer	External	OUI

Present online:

Forename	Surname	Membership	Internal/External	Department/Company
Sue Ann	Clemens	Core	Internal	Paediatrics (MSD)
Claire	Brown	Core	External	OSE

Officers, in person:

Forename	Surname	Membership	Internal/External	Department/Company
Deepak	Kumar	Officer	Internal	MSDO (TRO)
Kavita	Subramaniam	Officer	Internal	MSDO (TRO)
Anna	Camera	Officer	Internal	MSDO (TRO)
Vlada	Yarosh	Officer	Internal	MSDO (TRO)
Oliver	Rughani-Hindmarch	Officer	Internal	MSDO (TRO)
Deborah	Thomas	Officer	Internal	MSDO (TRO)

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Apologies: Paresh Vyas (PV), David Clifton (DC), Oliver Harrison (OH), Laura Ferguson (LF), Matthew Wood (MaW), Heather Roxborough (HR), Dan Farley (DF)

- Welcome and Introductions to Committee Members & Translational Research Office
- Minutes of previous meeting.
- Budget for 2024-2025.
- Conflict of Interest Declarations.
- Ranked list of proposals.
- Innovation Co-funded applications for co-funding consideration.
- BBSRC IAA application for co-funding consideration.
- AOB

General comments:

- OUI are present to provide input on the IP strategy of the projects.
- Everything discussed at the meeting is strictly confidential, all feedback is constructive, anonymised and is provided as group/panel feedback.
- Summary of the Innovation co-funding scheme Expression of Interest (EoI) applications provided: 24 EoI submitted to the 4 innovation strands; 9 projects were shortlisted, of which 5 projects were selected for a full stage application.
- Summary of the funding volume given: Primary source funds only: ca £1.3M. Primary source and co-funds combined: ca £1.7M.
- Chair highlighted that it's unnecessary to exhaust all available funds if not warranted
- Summary of the conflicts of interest section and what to do if you have a CoI
- Minutes from previous round signed off
- Committee suggested the project that ranked 36-55 to be discussed after going through Projects 1-35, if there are still time remaining, due to falling below the cut off average median and mean. The panel also wanted to understand the disconnect on projects that fell under the Innovation Co-Funding stream which had scored low that were co-developed with innovation partners. Projects 36-55 were not discussed in the interest of time.

MLSTF application metrics:

- Increase in applications from last round (12% increase, 55 applications total)
- Increase in the number of applications that engaged with the TRO before submitting (38% for MLSTF 2024, 56% for this round). This may be due to the encouragement for researchers to do so at the latest symposium.
- Low number of applications from MPLS (7% of all applications)
 - There is a perception in MPLS that the EPSRC IAA is a more direct route to funding and an 'easier' option. TRO to strategically contact MPLS research facilitators to increase applications.
 - Generally, awareness of the MLSTF award is good, but the EPSRC IAA may be seen more favourably
 - Further talks to be taken offline.

Awards metrics:

- 17 awarded projects out of 55 applications (30% success rate)
- 3 ETI awarded out of 13 applicants (23% success rate)
- 4 MPLS applications, none awarded
- 5 women and 12 men were awarded
- Top 3 departments awarded: NDM, NDORMS, Oncology
- Top 3 research areas awarded: 1. Bioscience for Health, 2. Cell and Gene Therapies, 3. Rare Diseases
- Clinical interventions: 15 projects are categorised as Therapeutics/Drug Discovery, 2 as Devices (diagnostics)

Awarded projects (see next page):

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Priority	Title	Div.	PI	Award
1	Cell-Permeant Antibodies and Other Biomacromolecules to Treat Cancer	MSD	Vallis, Katherine	£82,972.87
2	Further evaluation of the efficacy of a novel mirtron-based knockdown/replacement gene therapy for the mutation-independent treatment of RHO-related autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa	MSD	MacLaren, Robert	£78,409.56
3	UniClo: Universal DNA assembly - development as a completely cell-free process	MSD	O'callaghan, Christopher	£80,481.89
4	Microvascular imaging for drug development trials	MSD	Lapidaire, Winok	£84,981.29
5	Can we target CLIC5 on fibroblasts to control the tissue-damage in inflamed joints?	MSD	Bezbradica Mirkovic, Jelena	£84,000.00
6	Development of bispecific macrophages engagers as cancer vaccines by promoting tumour antigen cross-presentation	MSD	Seymour, Leonard W	£85,000.00
7	Lineage-targeted iron blockade - developing a therapeutic platform, with POC in polycythaemia vera	MSD	Drakesmith, Alexander	£84,130.52
8	Rescuing genetic cardiomyopathy through disruption of TPNI/PDE interaction	MSD	Chao, Ying-Chi	£42,209.00
9	A novel therapeutic for radiotherapy-induced oral mucositis	MSD	Ruan, Jia-Ling	£50,000.00
10	Validation of a Novel Dynamic Joint Assessment System for Orthopaedics	MSD	Mellon, Stephen	£84,325.04
11	Evaluating single visit post-exposure prophylaxis treatment for rabies, using a novel rabies vaccine	MSD	Ritchie, Adam	£85,000.00
12	uORF-adenine base editing for therapeutic BDNF upregulation	MSD	Roberts, Thomas	£75,846.64
13	Novel amphiphilic cell-penetrating peptide for efficient and safe delivery of therapeutic oligonucleotide	MSD	Wood, Matthew J A	£85,420.27
14	Pre-clinical evaluation of an Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) vaccine for the prevention of Burkitt's lymphoma relapse	MSD	Leung, Carol Sze Ki	£49,999.67

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15	Engineering a mechanochemical T cell expansion technology: In vivo animal model validation	MSD	Fritzsche, Marco	£83,600.00
16	CD8+CD103+ Tissue resident memory T cells from human malignant pleural effusion as an Advanced Therapy Medicinal Product - translational studies to move towards human trials.	MSD	Rahman, Najib	£83,159.92
17	Next generation HIV-specific broadly neutralising antibody discovery through massively deep B cell repertoire sequencing of HIV controllers	MSD	Frater, John	£85,000.00
				Grand total £1,304,536.67