

EME

The remit of the Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) programme is to fund studies which evaluate the clinical efficacy of an intervention for which proof of concept in humans has already been achieved.

EME is one of the programmes within the MRC-NIHR managed translational pathway for the development and testing of new technologies. Broadly, MRCs 'managed' programmes focus on the pre-clinical and early-clinical development stages, while the EME programme evaluates efficacy. The NIHR Health Technology Assessment programme considers clinical and cost effectiveness.

With a nominal budget of £15m per annum we support clinical research which translates science into improved health for people in the UK.

For studies of diagnostic tests or devices, we would fund the validation of the developed technology.

Where the proposed study provides you with the opportunity to undertake nested mechanistic evaluation you are encouraged to maximise on this. We do not restrict the amount of funding or the duration of the study; these should be set to ensure that the research question can be answered in a timely way.



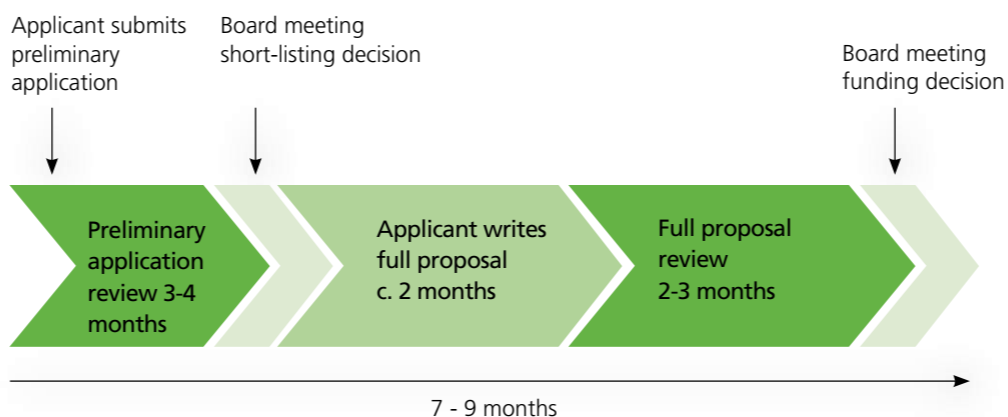
For more information go to: www.eme.ac.uk

Applying

Lead applicants should usually be based either within a UK Higher Education Institution or an NHS setting. Your research team should possess the necessary breadth of skills to undertake high-quality research and produce timely results. Involvement of a Clinical Trials Unit is considered favourably.

The EME programme uses an on-line application system with three cut-off dates each year (usually in March, July and November). We welcome preliminary applications at any time and you can access the electronic form via the website. For assistance with your application please go to www.eme.ac.uk

Decision making timetable



For more information go to: www.eme.ac.uk

Assessment

The EME programme aims to reach a funding decision within approximately eight months of the submission of your preliminary application. We usually operate a two stage application process and seek comments from external reviewers at both preliminary application and full proposal stages.

When assessing proposals the EME Board considers:

- The scientific quality of the proposal
- The feasibility of the study
- Whether the proposal includes reasonable costs and represents value for money

Fast-track applications

We run a fast-track scheme to provide a quicker funding decision. To follow this route you would need to provide a strong justification, demonstrating why the research would benefit from being fast-tracked. For example, where there is only a narrow window of opportunity for the research. Please contact us directly if you are considering applying through this route.



For more information go to: www.eme.ac.uk

EME funds first clinical study

The first clinical trial funded by the EME programme is investigating whether a simple procedure to activate one of the body's natural defence mechanisms improves the function of kidneys after transplantation.

The £800,000 clinical trial will recruit 400 patients requiring kidney transplantation over a three year period. In transplantation, the blood supply to the kidney is interrupted during surgery and the damage that results can limit the life-span and functioning of the transplanted kidney. The trial will examine whether activating a natural protective reflex known as Remote Ischaemic Pre-Conditioning (RIPC), which makes organs resistant to injury that occurs when their blood supply is reduced, has an effect on the outcome of transplantation. RIPC will be stimulated by reducing blood flow to the arm of both the kidney donor and recipient for short periods (using a blood pressure cuff). If RIPC protects the kidney, then the transplant should work more effectively and last longer. The trial includes important sub-studies which will explore the mechanisms of RIPC.



Professor Raymond MacAllister, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology
UCL (University College London)

For more information go to: www.eme.ac.uk

For the latest information on our work, details of application deadlines and support when making an application please go to www.eme.ac.uk

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The EME programme is funded by the MRC and managed by the NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre (NETSCC), based at the University of Southampton.

■ Efficacy and Mechanism
Evaluation programme



NHS
National Institute for
Health Research

Applying for Funding



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