

ABC UK Improving Outcomes for Patients Programme 2016 – 2017: Guidelines

Aim

Action Bladder Cancer UK's main aim of this programme is to encourage and fund research and innovative practice developments that will directly benefit bladder cancer patients. We are interested in stand-alone, innovative, high-quality projects which will demonstrate clear outcomes and improve knowledge, facilitate change, explore novel or different approaches and, most importantly, directly improve outcomes for patients.

We are launching this programme on 01 November 2016 and it is intended that it will be run annually.

Outcomes from this programme

This programme will reinforce ABCUK's commitment to support bladder cancer patients by:

- Raising awareness of our interest in supporting research projects and innovative approaches to actual practice;
- Encouraging new work directly relating to bladder cancer in order to challenge the existing situation of low levels of research investment and low status on the public health agenda;
- Establishing a mechanism and catalyst to assess interest in small research projects and practice developments thereby identifying potential areas of interest for further development;
- Widening participation in research and innovation in practice to include primary and secondary health sectors (eg GP's, nurses, hospital Trusts, CCGs) and post-graduate students, as well as cancer specialists/academic researchers;
- Providing final reports and measured outcomes as evidence of our impact and for further development, awareness raising and fundraising.

Focus of programme

Submissions must be directly related to bladder cancer and demonstrate direct outcomes and/or benefits for patients. Projects must be UK based and can be laboratory, clinical, epidemiological or qualitative. Preference would be shown to new areas of exploration and pump priming of new projects. Areas of interest might include the following (although projects outside these areas would also be considered on merit):

- Early diagnosis
- Primary care
- Patient decisions
- Improving treatment pathways
- Patient experience and support
- Topics arising from the 2015 NICE Guideline research recommendations for bladder cancer.
- Epidemiological studies
- Laboratory based projects.

Process

- Applications should only be submitted on the form downloadable from the website, www.actionbladdercanceruk.org/abc-uk-grants/
- Guidelines given here and within the application form should be followed.
- Projects should contain milestones and demonstrate specific outcomes.
- A reporting timetable will be agreed to provide information on progress of funded projects.

Timeline

It is preferred that submitted projects run for a maximum period of 12 months. Consideration will, however, be given to applications justifying a longer period.

01 November 2016	Call for applications
31 January 2017	Deadline for applications
February/March 2017	Applications review process and Panel Assessment process
31 March 2017	Outcome published; applications and grants: awarded, awarded with amendments, or declined.
June 2017 – Dec 2017	Interim Quarterly Reporting
31 March 2018	End Project date (unless otherwise agreed at time of grant) and Final Reporting

Assessment Process

All applications will be reviewed upon receipt and any clarifications and additional information requested from applicants. Applications will then be reviewed by the ABC UK Grants Panel for final decision. Panel members include representatives from urology, oncology, research, patients, primary and secondary care as appropriate, and include ABC UK trustee/s plus external members.

Grants Terms and Conditions

Grants are not made to individuals. Grants will only be made to an organisation (eg: academic, research, primary care, secondary care, professional practice etc)

The maximum grant for any one project is £10,000. There is no maximum number of projects, however ABC UK would prefer to fund a higher number of smaller value projects.

Grants may be used to cover salary, expenses, consumables, equipment and other costs of the project. Applicants are expected to submit a fully costed budget with their application.

75% of grant would be payable upon confirmation of grant/start date of research.
25% balance of grant would be payable upon receipt of approved final report.

This final report would be submitted to a template provided by ABC UK and should be accompanied by a detailed breakdown of grant expenditure.

Interim project progress reports would be requested on a quarterly basis. Deliverable milestones should be included within the application and will be agreed with ABC UK.

ABC UK would retain the right to publish the final report both on ABC UK website and in external publications and to publicise by any appropriate means, however we are prepared to discuss on a case by case basis to ensure that journal publication is not prejudiced.

Grant recipient would be expected to acknowledge ABC UK grant funding in any publication or publicity of their own with the following words: "This work has been funded by Action Bladder Cancer UK".

Exclusions

Projects must be stand-alone. Applications which are part of a larger research project will not be considered.