



ABC UK IOPP 2025: Guidelines – Primary Care, Research and Clinical Categories

Aim

IOPP is ABC UK's annual grants programmes for primary care, research and clinical awards. The main aim of our IOP Programme (launched in 2016) is to encourage and fund small projects that will directly benefit bladder cancer patients. We are interested in stand-alone, high-quality projects which will demonstrate clear outcomes and improve knowledge, facilitate change, explore different approaches and, most importantly, directly improve outcomes for patients or the patient experience.

The application window for IOPP grants, and also the special Andrew Meadows Award, opens end October 2024, closing 01 March 2025.



The Andrew Meadows Award

A special in memory research Award which will be given each year to the project which, in the view of the judging panel, is most deserving of special funding. The Andrew Meadows Award will be given to the project we consider to be the outstanding project from the submissions we receive to the annual IOPP grant round. We wish to commemorate Andrew Meadows, who sadly died from bladder cancer in 2018 – this special Award is in his memory. We thank Andrew's family for their generosity in supporting vital research into bladder cancer.

Outcomes from this programme

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

- Raising awareness of our interest in supporting projects and new approaches to actual practice;
- Encouraging new work directly relating to bladder cancer in order to challenge the existing situation of low levels of investment in new treatments and low status on the public health agenda;
- Establishing a mechanism to assess interest in this type of project thereby identifying potential areas of interest for further development;
- Widening participation in BC improvement projects 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. Preference would be shown to new areas of work 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
- Epidemiological studies
- Laboratory based projects
- Qualitative research
- Clinical Practice
- Topics arising from the 2015 NICE Guideline research recommendations for bladder cancer, or topics relating to areas currently underrepresented in the existing Guidelines, or addressing gaps in bladder cancer data.

PROGRAMME CATEGORIES

IOPP 2025 is divided into two application categories: Primary Care IOPP Awards and Research & Clinical IOPP Awards. Further details on individual categories are in the Application Category information below.

ABC UK NURSING GRANTS PROGRAMME

There is a separate category for the ABC UK Nursing Grants Programme which has separate guidelines and application form/s – please ensure you are using the correct forms for this category. Primary Care nurses should apply within the Primary Care category below.

PRIMARY CARE

This category will give grants to projects which are based in the primary care sector.

Bladder cancer is often diagnosed late, with a great impact on outcomes for patients. This particularly applies to bladder cancer diagnosis in women, where symptoms can often be treated as female gynaecological-related symptoms eg UTI's, menopause etc. Bladder cancer also has one of the highest diagnosis rates following emergency admission. ABC UK is keen to encourage work within the primary health care sector which could help to address these issues and also highlight the need for further work.

The term primary care applies to any services to patients within the primary care sector and projects may be general practitioner or practice staff led. The project may be based in a GP Surgery or clinic, walk in centre, emergency centre, an academic unit for primary care research, focus on At Home services for patients, or wherever a primary care service is delivered.

These projects may cover any area relating to bladder cancer – for example: pathways, procedures or materials for health professionals and patients. Some of the areas of particular interest are listed below, although applications may also cover work outside of these suggested areas:

- Improving early stage diagnosis and testing procedures
- Improving referral pathway for suspected bladder cancer
- Improving diagnosis in women
- Improving knowledge of bladder cancer amongst primary care health professionals
- Raising patient awareness of bladder cancer and symptoms in a primary care context
- Improving primary care support offered to those living with bladder cancer

You may discuss project ideas with us and mentoring assistance with the application process, if required.

RESEARCH & CLINICAL

This category will give grants to projects which may be focused on any area of clinical specialism –

including urology, oncology, radiology. Projects may be laboratory, university or hospital based. Projects may be epidemiological or focus on practical clinical practice.

Bladder cancer can be characterised by no real improvement in patient outcomes since the 1970s, with little progress in development of effective new treatments over the same period and few improvements in surgical techniques. There is also a lack of data relating to the effectiveness of existing treatments and insufficient robust evidence from fundamental or translational research and clinical trials to support much current clinical practice and guide developments of improved treatments and practices.

Some of the areas of particular interest for applicant projects are listed below, although applications may also cover work outside of these suggested areas:

- Accurate diagnostic testing for bladder cancer and less invasive monitoring
- Improvements in existing treatments, testing for targeting treatment
- New areas of treatment
- Improving surgical and clinical practice
- Improvement, or analysis of, bladder cancer data to provide robust evidence for change
- Awareness within scientific community – both urological and non-urological

There is an opportunity to discuss the eligibility of project ideas in advance of a formal application.



Action Bladder Cancer UK is an NIHR non-commercial Partner: Appropriate research studies funded through ABC UK's IOPP funding stream are now automatically eligible for NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) support and therefore entitled to access NHS support via the NIHR Clinical Research Network, provided the study meets the standard NIHR study criteria.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications should only be submitted on the ABC UK Application form on the website.
- Please ensure you are using the correct application form for your category – there are two forms – one for Primary Care and Research & Clinical and a separate form for ABC UK Nursing Grants.
- Guidelines given here and within the application form should be followed.
- There is an opportunity to discuss project ideas and to request assistance or mentoring with your application. Please contact us on info@actionbladdercanceruk.org with any questions about your application or the process.
- Projects should contain milestones and demonstrate specific outcomes.
- A reporting timetable will be agreed to provide information on progress of funded projects.
- Please see the Application checklist at the end of these Guidelines.

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 2024	Call for applications opens
15 March 2025	Deadline for applications and Application Assistance
March/April 2025	Applications review process and Panel Assessment process
30 April 2025	Outcome published; applications and grants: awarded, awarded with amendments or declined.
July 2025 – Jan 2026	Interim Reporting as required
30 April 2026	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: Urology Unit of NHS Trust, academic, research, primary care, secondary care, professional practice etc). Please ensure you obtain permission, or have fulfilled the internal requirements of your organisation, before making a grant application. It is also advised that bank account details for grant payment are clarified with your organisation as part of your application preparation.

Applications are invited up to £15,000 per project. The maximum grant for any one project is £15,000. Exceptionally a maximum amount of £20,000 will be considered. In very exceptional circumstances a maximum of £25,000 may be considered, however it is suggested you contact us to discuss your application in advance. There is no maximum number of projects, however ABC UK would prefer to fund a higher number of smaller value projects. We aim to give at least one award in each of the three categories, subject to them meeting our assessment criteria to reflect ABC UK's interest in encouraging these projects.

The Andrew Meadows Award is an annual special Award within the IOPP Programme. A special research Award given each year to the project which, in the view of the judging panel, is most deserving of special funding. The Andrew Meadows Award is given to the project we consider to be the outstanding project from the submissions we receive to our annual IOPP grant round. We wish to commemorate Andrew Meadows, who sadly died from bladder cancer in 2018 - this special Award is in his memory. We thank Andrew's family for their generosity in supporting vital research into bladder cancer.

Grants may be used to cover salary, expenses, consumables, equipment and other costs directly incurred by the project. Travel costs will be covered, although it is advisable that these are not viewed as excessive. Funding is not to be used to subsidise the applicant's normal activity. 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 on an ABC UK template provided and be accompanied by a detailed breakdown of grant expenditure.

Interim project progress reports would be requested and a timetable for reporting given at the time of grant confirmation. Deliverable milestones should be included within the application and will be agreed with ABC UK. If any delays occur to the project, it is advised that ABC UK are informed as soon as possible.

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.

Acknowledgement of ABC UK Grants

The Grant recipient would be expected to acknowledge ABC UK grant funding in any publication, project presentation or publicity of their own with the following words: “This work has been funded by Action Bladder Cancer UK”, with inclusion of the ABC UK logo where possible. This includes acknowledgement within presentations of the project work at conferences etc.

Further Publication and Outcomes from ABC UK Funded Research

ABC UK are keen to learn of the impact of their funded research and would request that all grant recipients advise of any future publication arising from ABC UK funded research (ABC UK would link to this from website), and any further outcomes eg: conference presentation or where ABC UK funded work has enabled further work or a larger project.

EXCLUSIONS

Projects must be stand-alone. Applications which are part of a larger research project will not be considered unless a discrete project area of activity or workstream can be identified which may be solely accredited to ABC UK grant funding. If you are considering requesting funding for a discrete element of a larger project, it is recommended that you consult ABC UK for advice before submission.

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR APPLICATION

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your idea for an application, please contact us in the first instance on info@actionbladdercanceruk.org

PRE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please see below for items to check **before** submitting an application. If unsure of anything, please contact us, we're happy to advise.

Application form

- Please ensure the application form is signed by **both** the lead applicant and also by the appropriate person within your organisation.
- Applications won't be formally accepted for assessment until this form is completed and signed.
- Budget details are included, with as much detail as possible.
- Please ensure that you have followed any necessary internal process within your organisation relating to making an external application for funding. For example, does your application need to be approved internally and/or does it need to be cleared with your finance department?

Financial details for grant acceptance

- Check which account for your organisation the funding will be paid into (eg this might be more complicated if you are at an academic institution which has a separate medical school).
- Please ensure you have all financial details in order to complete the grant acceptance form otherwise payment of grant may be delayed.
- The grant acceptance form also needs to be signed by the lead applicant and the appropriate person from within your organisation.
- You will also be required to provide proof of bank account details provided for the grant payments, as set out on the grant acceptance form.

Action Bladder Cancer UK
November 2024