



British Paediatric Surveillance Unit of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Sir Peter Tizard Research Bursary 2020-21

The RCPCH is once again inviting applications for the Sir Peter Tizard Research Bursary from paediatricians wishing to undertake an epidemiological surveillance study through the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit. The successful applicant will receive up to the value of £16,000 towards the costs of a surveillance study and training.

The purpose of the bursary:

- To encourage paediatricians who are not research active to undertake a study of a rare disease or condition which affects children and which addresses a question of clinical or public health importance
- To enable paediatricians to further develop their research knowledge and skills through the training opportunity afforded by such a study.
- To add to the body of knowledge of rare childhood diseases and conditions.
- To promote the role of the BPSU in the surveillance of rare diseases affecting children.
- To support the RCPCH's objective of building and strengthening research and research capacity in paediatrics.

Who is eligible to apply for this bursary?

Applicants must:

- be RCPCH members
- be a Paediatrician working (at least part of their time) in the NHS who are:
 - a) specialty trainee (any grade), academic trainee or
 - b) new Consultant (within 3 years of appointment to a consultant post)
- The candidate must **NOT** have previously led a BPSU study.
- The study team must **NOT** have previously submitted an application on the same topic for consideration by the BPSU scientific committee.
- Any one candidate can only submit one application per year.
- Joint applications (i.e. where two applicants work together on a BPSU study under supervision and share the award) are acceptable.

What are the selection criteria?

The purpose of the bursary award is to encourage paediatricians to develop skills and experience in epidemiological research.

All applications will be independently scored by members of the BPSU scientific committee ahead of a BPSU scientific committee meeting. At this meeting the committee will then discuss the applications and decide who award the bursary to. The bursary will not necessarily be awarded to the application with the highest mean score.

A copy of the Sir Peter Tizard Research Bursary 2020-21 scoring criteria can be accessed at www.rcpch.ac.uk/bpsu/bursary

For what purposes may the bursary be used?

The total award available is equivalent to £15,000. The money is intended for the following purposes:

- Inclusion onto the BPSU orange card, equivalent to £15,000 for a 13-month surveillance
- Up to £1,000 stipend
- Attendance of the bursary holder at appropriate training courses, for example, in research or statistical methods
- For attendance at appropriate conferences to present data
- The bursary holder will be invited to attend the BPSU Scientific Committee meetings as an observer for the year following the award of the bursary.

Which types of studies are eligible?

We will consider studies whose objectives meet the criteria for a surveillance study through the BPSU. Further details about the type of studies that are appropriate can be found on the BPSU website or by contacting the BPSU scientific co-ordinator at bpsu@rcpch.ac.uk.

Once the award has been made, the protocol proposed by the successful candidate will be assessed by the BPSU Scientific Committee in the same way as any other BPSU application and will have to obtain REC and HRA-CAG, PBPP approval. However, the medical advisors and scientific co-ordinator will provide advice and support to the Bursary holder when preparing the study application.

Applicants should be aware that it could take 6 months or more from BPSU approval for the study proposal to then appearing on the 'orange e-reporting card'. The condition will normally remain on the e-reporting card for a 13-month period following which several months will be required for data analysis and reporting. Most one-year studies therefore require two years to complete and write-up. The bursary will be paid, following approval of a financial statement, at the start of the study.

Does the project need to be fully developed before applying for the Bursary?

It is recognised that the full protocol will need to be developed further through the usual BPSU mechanisms. We expect that candidates will have identified an important research questions related to a condition or disorder of relevance to the BPSU and will be able to demonstrate in their application that the study aims, and methodology will allow those research questions to be answered within the context of a BPSU study. The quality and relevance of the proposed study will be an important criterion in selecting the successful application for the bursary. It is also important that a suitably engaged and experienced supervisor is identified to support the study.

What are the duties and responsibilities of the successful candidate?

It is expected that the successful candidate will be responsible for the overall conduct and management of the study in collaboration with the BPSU and that the study will conform to the ethics and governance standards expected by the BPSU, being registered through a local R & D office and with appropriate ethics approvals. Candidates will be expected to commit time to secure the necessary permissions once the final protocol has been approved by the BPSU.

The successful candidate will be responsible for:

- Responding to notifying paediatricians in a timely fashion
- Ensuring that resources are available to achieve timely data collection
- Completing the study
- Producing a progress report for the BPSU Annual Report, bulletins as requested.
- Producing a final report for the BPSU
- Producing a paper for a peer reviewed journal within 2 years of the end of data collection
- Presenting data at a Scientific Committee meeting at the request of the BPSU Chair
- Submitting abstracts for presentation at internationally respected conferences
- Contributing to BPSU scientific meetings
- Producing an annual financial statement of expenditure

When is the closing date for applications?

Friday, 16th October 2020

For further details and an application forms please visit the BPSU website at <http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/bpsu/bursary> or contact;

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