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BSAC COVID-19 GRANTS CALLS

In 2020 BSAC supported COVID-19 research grants as follows:

FIRST GRANT FUNDING CALL – AWARDED MAY 2020

Funded from BSAC reserves supported by unrestricted educational grants from Pfizer UK and Shionogi

A worldwide open call for research grants in response to the current coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.

This first call was issued in May 2020 and attracted 389 expressions of interest. Following triage 54 applicants from 15 countries were invited to submit full grant applications for grants to a maximum of £25,000. The applications were externally reviewed by a review pool comprising 22 internationally renowned experts.

Eleven grants were awarded (total funds awarded: £272,238). Grants were awarded based on scientific excellence following peer review:

Agamemnon Grigoriadis	King's College London, London, England	Targeting intracellular vesicular trafficking using a novel V-ATPase inhibitor to ameliorate pathogenicity of SARS-CoV-2 and related viral pathogens
Allison McGeer	University of Toronto, Canada	Control of COVID-19 outbreaks in long term care (CONTROL-COVID)
Anna Schurich	King's College London, London, England	Characterising the effects of immune-modulating drugs on the T cell immune response to COVID 19
Aran Singanayagam	Imperial College London, London, England	Utilising novel antimicrobial agents to restore dysregulated immunity to SARS-CoV-2 in high risk patients
Eugene Makeyev	King's College London, London, England	A scalable workflow for rapid population-wide diagnostics of COVID-19
Fraser Scott	University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland	Accelerated introduction of a novel class of resistance-proof antiviral drugs: Strathclyde Minor Groove Binders
Adrian Mulholland	University of Bristol, Bristol, England	Harnessing High Performance Computing Tools in a COVID-19 Drug Repurposing Pipeline
Justin Stebbing	Imperial College/ Imperial Healthcare NHS Trust, London, England	The anti-viral and anti-cytokine effects of baricitinib: stitching together a dual mechanism

Nathalie Juge	Quadram Institute Bioscience, Norwich Research Park, Norwich, England	Intramolecular trans-sialidase as alternative therapeutics against COVID-19
Rajika Perera	CEO, Poseidon LLC, Pasadena, California	Development of a novel small non-antibody protein scaffold as a therapy to reduce the SARS-Cov2 viral load
Richard Flavell	Yale University and Howard Hughes Medical Institute, New Haven, Connecticut	A humanized mouse model of COVID-19 harnessing the clinical potential of patient-derived antibodies

SECOND GRANTS CALL - AWARDED OCTOBER 2020

Funded by an unrestricted educational grant from Pfizer

An open and worldwide open call for research grant applications to support grant applications in response to the current coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency. The call supported all aspects of COVID-19 research from all countries but with specific interest in expressions of interest from (a) researchers in low-to-middle-income countries, or applications that address aspects of COVID-19 in LMIC communities and (b) that address the impact of COVID-19 on the antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial stewardship agenda.

This second call was issued in June 2020 and attracted 105 expressions of interest (52% from LMICs). Following triage 29 applicants from 12 countries were invited to submit full grant applications.

To reflect the global nature of this grants call, funding was offered in US Dollars. Funding aimed to support grants within each of the following funding brackets:

- Up to \$25,000
- \$25,000-\$50,000
- \$50,000-\$75,000
- \$75,000-\$100,000
- Exceptional applications may attract a level of funding greater than \$100,000

Twenty-five full applications were received, and peer reviewed by a pool of 27 international expert reviewers. Applicants from LMICs were offered independent support (by individuals outside of the peer review pool) in developing applications if such support was required and where English was not a first language.

Eight grants were awarded (total funds awarded: USD \$626,362). Grants were awarded based on scientific excellence following peer review:

Applicant(s)	Institute	Project Title	Country	Amount awarded (USD, \$)
Steven Sacks, Linda Klavinskis & Anastasia Polycarpou	MRC Centre of Transplantation, Guy's Hospital London	Targeting the Complement system - alveolar epithelial response to COVID-19 with Mirococept	UK	69,300
Catherine Hayes, Clodna McNulty, Philip Howard, Tracey Thornley, Diane Ashiru-Oredope & Ayoub Saei	Public Health England	Evaluation of a community Pharmacy Antimicrobial Stewardship Toolkit to support and improve patient infection self-care, safety netting and antibiotic adherence during and post COVID-19	UK	75,082.65
Charles A. Narh, Jack S. Richards, William Hopper & Lydia Mosi	ZiP Diagnostics Pty Ltd., Victoria, Australia	Field validation of a new high-sensitivity, low-cost SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid point-of-care test in Ghana	Australia	99,660
Dishon Muloi, Eric Fèvre, Jack Makau & Katie Hamilton	International Livestock Research Institute, Nairobi	COVID-19 and antibiotic use beyond the clinic: a longitudinal survey of antibiotic use in a low-income setting	Kenya	22,700
Helen Lambert, Esmita Charani, Wenjuan Cong, Luwen Shi, Haishaerjiang Wushouer & Guiqing Yao	Population Health Sciences, University of Bristol	Implications of COVID-19 for AMR and antimicrobial stewardship in China and beyond	UK	98,697.75
Linzy Elton, Muzamil Mahdi Abdel Hamid, Hana Elbadawi, John Tembo, Timothy McHugh, Margaret Thomason, Isobella Honeyborne & Kerry Roulston	Centre for Clinical Microbiology University College London	The impact of COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures on transmission of hospital acquired infections and antimicrobial resistance in Africa	UK	65,000
Mark Wilcox, Jane Freeman, Kerrie Davies, Caroline Chilton, Anthony Buckley, Ines Moura & Suparna Mitra	Leeds Institute for Medical Research, University of Leeds	Impact of antimicrobial prescribing during the COVID-pandemic on MDRO colonisation and the gut microbiome	UK	95,921.48
Philip Demokritou	Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston	Arresting the spread of SARS-CoV-2 on surfaces and in the air using engineered water nanostructures enriched with de novo designed neutralizing peptides and nature derived antimicrobials.	USA	100,000

THIRD GRANTS CALL - DECEMBER 2020

Funded by an unrestricted educational grant from Pfizer

A worldwide open call for PhD / Doctorate Studentships based in Low- and Middle-income countries (LMICs) Research Institutions, focussed on any aspect of COVID-19 related research and/or the impact of COVID-19 on antimicrobial resistance. This call was aimed at supporting early career researchers / new investigators to support the acceleration of careers of research scientists in LMICs.

This call was issued in December 2020 and invitations to submit full grant applications were issued to applicants from Brazil, Ghana, Indonesia and Malaysia. Deadline for invited submissions is 30 April 2021.

Use of Funds:

Funds awarded will be used solely to support research studies and researchers performing Research. No portion of the Funding may be used to purchase capital equipment such as computers, iPhones, tablets, appliances, machinery, camera equipment, sensors, etc. None of the funds are used to underwrite the contributions of BSAC in peer reviewing and managing the awards; these costs are met from the charitable income of the Society.

Companies or organisations wishing to support the BSAC funding programme should email Tracey Guise, BSAC CEO at: tguise@bsac.org.uk