Applying to Medical Research Charities for funding – an Alzheimer’s Society perspective

Dr Jacqui-Ann Hanley
Research Grants Officer
Alzheimer’s Society

- UK's leading dementia support and research charity

- Almost 3,000 community-based services across England, Wales and Northern Ireland

- Website, Publications, National Dementia Helpline, and Talking Point.

- Fund research into the cause, cure, care and prevention of dementia.
Research funded by Alzheimer’s Society

• Four key areas:
  - Cause
  - Cure
  - Care
  - Prevention

• Programme organised into two funding streams:
  – Biomedical
  – Care, services and public health
Research grants we offer

- Undergraduate summer bursaries (up to £2,100)
- PhD studentships (up to £85,000)
- Clinical research training fellowship (up to £225,000)
- Junior fellowships (up to £225,000)
- Senior fellowship (up to £400,000)
- Project grants (up to £400,000)
- Dissemination grants (up to £50,000)
- Implementation grants (up to £400,000)
- AS - ADDF Drug discovery grants (up to $1.5 million)
- AS - Alz Nederland knowledge exchange fellowships (£10,000)

alzheimers.org.uk/researchfunding
Dementia Research Leaders programme

Supporting the greatest minds to work on the brain's greatest problem

With six times more researchers working in the field of cancer than dementia, there is a pressing need to expand the dementia research community.

alzheimers.org.uk/researchleaders
Association of medical research charities

- The national membership organisation of leading medical and health research charities
- 136 member charities, who spend £1.3bn a year on research in the UK
- Quality and standards/ data and impact/ policy

amrc.org.uk
General application process

↓ Submit outline application
↓ Review
↓ Submit full application
↓ Triage
↓ Review
↓ Shortlisting
↓ Applicant response
↓ Interviews
↓ Committee meetings
↓ Decisions communicated

alzheimers.org.uk/researchfunding
Our grant awards process

1. Call CLOSES
   - Peer review
   - Lay review by Research Network
   - Shortlisting
     - Applicant response
       - Fellowship applicants will be invited to interview
       - PhD applications will be discussed at the GAB meeting
       - Research Network GAP
         - Grant Advisory Board
           - Rejected
           - Successful

Average 6 months
Submit online at [grants.alzheimers.org.uk](https://grants.alzheimers.org.uk)
Our grant submission process

1. Application created by lead applicant on CC Grant Tracker

2. Lead applicant adds finance officer (mandatory), co-applicants and collaborators/mentors

   - Automated email is sent to all parties to notify them

3. Signatories and co-applicants must log in and confirm involvement

4. Applicant finishes entering data into application form

5. Co-applicants must log in and approve the application

   - Automated email is sent to Finance Officer

6. Lead applicant must select “save”, “validate” then “submit” to submit the application for final approval

7. Finance Officer must log in and approve the application

   - Confirmation of submission sent to lead applicant via email

Fully Submitted
Our application form

Scientific case for support

(5 pages; including preliminary data, excluding references)

Lay case for support

(4 pages)

- Aims of the project and significance of the research.
- Work which has led up to the project
- Experimental design and methods
- How will the results from this research be used?
- Involvement of people affected by dementia and relevant stakeholders.
- For PhD and fellowship applications: Training and educational environment.

alzheimers.org.uk/researchfunding
Research Network

• Formed in 1999
• 260 carers, former carers and people with dementia
• Demographically diverse
• Various roles:
  – Steer priorities of research programme
  – Review research applications
  – Monitor funded projects
  – Disseminate research findings
  – Develop research proposals
  – Represent Alzheimer’s Society

alzheimers.org.uk/researchfunding
Lay review

• Research Network volunteers only see Lay case for support

• Public and Private comments

🌟 Applications are shortlisted based on peer and lay reviews
Finance and costings

- Directly incurred costs only
- Charity Research Support Fund – covers indirect costs
- AcoRD - clinical research
- Publication costs

🌟 Check with funder if not sure!

alzheimers.org.uk/researchfunding
Animal research

- All AMRC charities support position statement
- NC3R’s - Refine, Reduce, Replace
- Considered in peer review – AMRC mandatory by 2017

nc3rs.org.uk
Post award

- **Reporting** – progress, publications, lay involvement

- **Researchfish** - Online system for tracking outputs, outcomes and impact

- **Monitoring** – every 6 months/1 year with Research Network volunteers

[alzheimers.org.uk/researchfunding]
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Proposal development

Opportunity to seek the input of the Research Network prior to submitting an application.

- Reviewing the lay application
- Development of research questions
- Patient recruitment and data capture processes suggestions
- Dissemination advice

🌟 Apply at least 1 month before grant deadline, and depends on ask

alzheimers.org.uk/proposaldevelopment
Tips

⭐ Check applicant guidance and website

⭐ Don’t underestimate the lay application

⭐ If re-submitting, note and reference previous reviewer comments

⭐ Check numbers- Finance, power calculations, statistics

⭐ Provide evidence- preliminary data, recruitment numbers

⭐ If in doubt, check with the funder!

alzheimers.org.uk/researchfunding
Contact and further information

• Further information on our grant rounds:
  www.alzheimers.org.uk/researchfunding

• Research report 2015:
  www.alzheimers.org.uk/researchreport2015

• AMRC, AcoRD guidelines and animal research:
  www.amrc.org.uk
  www.nc3rs.org.uk

⭐ Any questions contact: grantenquiries@alzheimers.org.uk