COVID-19_URGENT CALLS_ RESEARCH FUNDING/CHALLENGES_RESEARCH SUPPORT_02/04/20

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- Thank you to all who have contributed to the list –

New items are highlighted yellow

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1. URGENT CALLS (Listed by deadline)

UK Parliament - COVID-19 Outbreak Expert Database

Parliament has seen a surge in need for access to research expertise as it engages with the COVID-19 outbreak. To speed up the process of Parliament accessing relevant research expertise, Parliament's Knowledge Exchange Unit are creating a COVID-19 Outbreak Expert Database. Signing up does not commit you to contributing but allows Parliament to contact you rapidly; if they contact you and you aren't able to respond, they will fully understand. A link to the sign-up form can be found here.

Areas of expertise: *Agriculture and farming, Airlines/airports, Arts, Behavioural science, Burial and cremation, Brexit, Business, Charities, Children and families, Civil contingency planning and management, Climate change, Communicating uncertainty, , Consumer protection, Coronavirus, Coroners, Countryside, Courts, Criminal justice, Criminal law, Crisis communications, Critical national infrastructure, Data protection, Death, Defence, Economics, Education - higher and further, Education – schools, Elections, Emergency planning, Emergency services, Employment, Employment law, Energy, Environment, European Union, Financial services, Financial systems and institutions, Foreign policy, Government, Health economics, Health services, Housing, Human rights, Immigration, Immunology / vaccinology, Industry, Infection control, Inflation, Insolvency, International law, IT, Law, Legal aid, Leisure and tourism, Local government, Medicine, National security, Package holidays, Pandemics, Pensions, Police powers, Ports and maritime, Prisons, Public expenditure, Public finance, Public health, Public order, Railways, Registration of deaths, Religion, Social security and tax*

credits, Social services, Sports, Surveillance , Taxation, Trade, Transport, Unemployment, Virology, Waste, Water, Welfare, Welfare benefits.

The Royal Society - Urgent call for modellers to support epidemic modelling

This urgent call to action is addressed to the scientific modelling community and is a scheme to allow those with modelling skills (including data science) to contribute to current UK efforts in modelling the COVID-19 pandemic. A willingness to work on specified tasks, and to deadlines, is needed. However, no previous experience in epidemic modelling, as such, is required of RAMP participants. **Deadline:** April 2nd

The Alan Turing Institute: Call for COVID-19 rapid response data science taskforce

DECOVID is an emerging collaboration between The Alan Turing Institute, HDR UK and founding Trusts and academic partners. DECOVID aims to address urgent questions defined by clinical staff to produce rapid insights which are actionable on the frontline at a local level. This will support proactive care and management during the COVID-19 pandemic, with learning facilitated across the NHS through the insights of robust data science modelling, without placing a burden on front line staff. This is a joint call for teams of researchers as well as individual researchers to join us in addressing these urgent questions. Teams will rapidly trial tested, robust and reproducible data science and machine learning methods on this new national data resource of COVID ICU data, to create a near real-time, human-in-the-loop analytics platform and information console to support acute care management and clinical decision making for COVID-19. **Deadline:** April 3rd – 13:00

CEPI - Expression of Interest: Sponsor and CRO for clinical trials with COVID-19 candidate vaccines

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations is a global partnership between public, private, philanthropic, and civil organisations to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics. This call for expressions of interest requests information from entities able to serve as possible sponsors or to provide operational trial support (Clinical Research Organizations) for clinical trials involving vaccine candidates against COVID-19. **Deadline:** April 12th

2. RESEARCH FUNDING/CHALLENGES (Listed by deadline)

British Medical Association (BMA) - BMA Foundation COVID-19 Grant

The BMA Foundation COVID-19 grant is to promote research into COVID-19. Applications can be for proposed or current work on a specific project relating to COVID-19. Applicants must be UK-registered medical practitioners or research scientists in the UK. Award for £65,000 is available over a period of three years. **Deadline:** April 3rd

[Munich Re and Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft – Give a breath Challenge - Blueprints for Emergency Ventilation Equipment: Launch of Idea Competition to Help Tackle COVID-19](#)

Challenge - identify the best designs for emergency ventilation equipment which will allow for immediate, decentralised production via global 3D-printing or other rapid manufacturing capabilities. Individuals and teams are invited to submit their ideas for feasible and digitally distributable blueprints for the following types of emergency ventilation equipment: (i) Non-invasive ventilators, (ii) Consumables, such as respiratory masks, valves and oxygen tanks.

The equipment to be developed should be designed for use in the decentralised treatment of non-intensive care COVID-19 patients, in order to reduce demand for hospitalisation. In addition, the challenge is also seeking ideas for the education and training of ad-hoc support workers.

The selected digital blueprints will be provided to governments and states around the world to help them to start decentralised large scale production where it is needed the most. **Deadline:** April 3rd

[LifeArc Coronavirus (COVID-19) therapeutics: £10 million call for rapid deployment](#)

LifeArc has made available an initial £10M for the identification of therapeutics that can be rapidly deployed to treat COVID-19. The aim is to run trials in patients during the current epidemic. It is anticipated that applications will be for funding to repurpose one or more drugs that are generic, already licensed, or are in late stage development for another indication. **Deadline:** April 6th

[World Bank - Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund (SIEF) - Can technology accelerate learning and skills?](#)

SIEF aims to fund experimental and quasi-experimental evaluations that examine the extent to which technology can accelerate learning and skills for both children and adults in low- and middle-income countries who are currently not learning adequately with their current set of services. Particularly interested in those who can quickly generate useful and actionable information on how we can help children, parents, and educators deal with the Covid-19 crisis around the world. **Contact:** Email questions that are not addressed in the call for proposals to siefimpact@worldbank.org with "SIEF Call 5 query" in the subject line. **Deadline:** April 10th.

[Elrha: Research to support COVID-19 response in humanitarian settings](#)

The call aims to fund public health research that will produce robust findings that will contribute to the effectiveness of the current humanitarian response and increase the evidence base for future responses to similar infectious disease outbreaks. Proposals will be eligible for research that targets: (i) Refugees or IDPs in camps or urban humanitarian settings, or conflict-affected people in humanitarian settings in LMICs, (ii) Health systems and health care workers supporting the COVID-19 response in humanitarian settings in LMICs. Topics of interest: (i) Innovative solutions, (ii) Supporting existing health care delivery, (iii) Predicting outbreaks, (iv) Social science behavioural research, (v) Co-ordination and sharing. **Deadline:** Round 1: April 13th, April 20th and May 4th

[British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC) - COVID-19 funding call](#)

The call aims to support research projects that aim to better understand and address the COVID-19 outbreak. Projects should be consistent with aims of the Society "To improve the prevention and treatment of infectious disease, and to promote the appropriate and effective use of antimicrobial agents." Members and non-members from any organisation worldwide can apply for grants of up to £25,000 (larger grants may be considered in exceptional circumstances). Funding is available for: (i) New projects, (ii) Extension of existing projects, (iii) Expenditure of staff or consumables. **Deadline**: April 17th

[InnoCentive: Challenge - What should we know to better treat coronavirus](#)

InnoCentive invites submissions for its call on what we should know to better treat coronavirus. This seeks well-defined problems aimed at advancing the knowledge about coronavirus and how to respond more effectively against it. Solvers are not expected to provide a solution to any problem, but should define problems or areas requiring further exploration and research. Ideal problems are those whose eventual solutions will greatly expand the knowledge of coronavirus. The award is worth USD 2,500. **Deadline:** May 24th

[MIT Solve: health security and pandemics challenge](#)

MIT Solve is seeking tech innovations that can slow and track the spread of an emerging outbreak, for example by improving individual hygiene, developing low-cost rapid diagnostics, analysing data that informs decision making and providing tools that support and protect health workers. Solve is also seeking solutions that focus on preventative and mitigation measures that strengthen access to affordable primary healthcare systems, enhance disease surveillance systems, and improve healthcare supply chains. All solutions selected for Solve's five current Global Challenges will receive a $10,000 grant funded by Solve. **Deadline:** June 18th

[Call for Code: 2020 Code Global Challenge](#)

This global initiative rallies developers, visionaries, and problem solvers to create practical, effective, and high quality applications based on one or more IBM Cloud services (for example, web, mobile, data, analytics, AI, IoT, or weather) that can have an immediate and lasting impact on humanitarian issues. This year, the competition has two tracks: (i) Solutions that help halt and reverse the impact of climate change, (ii) Solutions to mitigate the impact of global pandemics like COVID-19 on communities around the world. Grand prize $200,000, with first and second runners up receiving $25,000. **Deadline:** July 31st

[National Institute for Health Research - Travel and subsistence funding to support LMIC engagement during the COVID-19 outbreak](#)

The awards will provide travel and subsistence funding to appropriately qualified public health professionals, clinicians and academics who wish to offer science and technical advice to support the immediate response to COVID-19 in low and middle-income countries. **Deadline:** December 31st

[Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA): COVID-19 Peace & Recovery Program](#)

IPA's Peace & Recovery Program is accepting off-cycle proposals, capped at $50,000, for time-sensitive additions to research projects that study or support the COVID-19 response. Due to the limited funding available, this funding will likely not fund entire randomized evaluations, but is meant to support research projects with additions such as: (i) Adding a module to an existing survey in order to track COVID-19 exposure or response, (ii) Adding a treatment arm that may support communities' resiliency in response to COVID-19, (iii) Anonymizing, curating, and sharing already-collected data quickly so that it can be used for decision-making by the humanitarian community, (iv) Downstream surveys" that follow up on a sample that participated in an already-completed randomized trial in order to identify whether the intervention studied has an impact on the communities' response to COVID-19. Successful applicants will have a research team or staff that has the necessary experience to study the emergency response. As a result, interdisciplinary teams are encouraged. **Deadline:** OPEN CALL

[UKRI - Open call for research and innovation ideas to address COVID-19](#)

Proposals are invited for short term projects addressing and mitigating the health, social, economic and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak. UKRI will support excellent proposals of up to 18 months duration which meet at least one of the following: (i) New research or innovation with a clear impact pathway that has the potential (within the period of the award) to deliver a significant contribution to the understanding of, and response to, the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts, (ii) Supports the manufacture and/or wide scale adoption of an intervention with significant potential, (iii) Gathers critical data and resources quickly for future research use. **Deadline:** OPEN CALL

[UKRI – Natural Environment Research Council – Urgency Grants](#)

The NERC Urgency Grant scheme exists to provide funding for unexpected and transient scientific opportunities created by unpredictable natural events. NERC welcome Urgency proposals related to the current Coronavirus outbreak. Research must fall predominantly within the NERC remit. Proposals will need to be sensitive to social distancing and other restrictions being brought in as a result of the current situation. **Deadline:** OPEN CALL

[The Defense and Security Accelerator – COVID 19: rapid sanitising technology](#)

 DASA, has launched an Open Call for technologies which can sanitize ambulances rapidly.
It currently takes up to 45 minutes to sanitize an ambulance. Far too long given the circumstances. DASA is looking for technologies that could dramatically reduce this time. DASA is looking for innovations that are ready for rapid deployment. **Deadline:** OPEN CALL

[Innovate UK – Helping the Department for Transport gather data](#)

Innovate UK is looking for companies which could help the Department for Transport gather data on social distancing in the UK. The announcement was made [in a tweet](#) by Karla Jakeman, Innovate UK's connected transport innovation lead. **Contact:** Information is sparse – for info contact her [Karla Jakeman](#) on Twitter or Innovate UK at support@innovateuk.ukri.org

[Wellcome Trust/Gates foundation/Mastercard COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator](#)

The COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator will work with the World Health Organization, government and private sector funders and organizations, as well as the global regulatory and policy-setting institutions. The Accelerator will have an end-to-end focus, from drug pipeline development through manufacturing and scale-up. By sharing research, coordinating investments, and pooling resources, these efforts aim to help to accelerate research. **Questions** to epidemics@wellcome.ac.uk **Deadline:** Criteria and process currently being finalised. Information will be provided as soon as it is available.

[Wellcome Trust Epidemic Preparedness – COVID-19](#)

Overview: Call aims to strengthen the evidence base to better prevent and control coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemics and to increase research and response capacity. Call is broad, including but not limited to, clinical research, treatments, pathogenesis, epidemiology, social sciences and ethics. Level of funding up to 2 million. **Deadline:** Due to the high level of interest, this scheme is currently closed to new expressions of interest until proposals received are assessed.

3. RESEARCH SUPPORT

[NIHR single point of entry for prioritising COVID-19 studies](#)

COVID-19 Urgent Public Health Research is being prioritised to gather the necessary clinical and epidemiological evidence that will inform national policy and enable new diagnostic tests, treatments and vaccines to be developed and tested for COVID-19.

Government support is available to prioritise, coordinate and deliver these studies, regardless of sponsorship and funding source. This support includes expedited identification of sites to ensure

appropriate geographical distribution of Urgent Public Health Research to maximise recruitment and minimise over-commitment of resource.

[TRANSVAC: Support to development of vaccines against COVID19](#)

TRANSVAC is a collaborative infrastructure project funded by the European Commission. It is a joint effort of leading European groups working in the field of vaccine development and is coordinated by the European Vaccine Initiative (EVI). TRANSVAC2 is encouraging researchers working on COVID19 to apply for the high-quality technical vaccine development services offered by the infrastructure.

With a few exceptions, services are free-of-charge. Some of the services COVID19 researchers may benefit from are:

- Animal models
- Adjuvant formulation
- Clinical trial support
- Regulatory support

Deadline: April 15th

[UK's Central Laser Facility (CLF) - A Covid-19 Rapid Call for Access to the Octopus Facility](#)

The UK's Central Laser Facility (CLF) is inviting rapid access proposals to its Octopus imaging facility for research relevant to the SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19. The Octopus facility offers a comprehensive range of optical microscopy instruments and techniques including super-resolution (PALM/STORM, SIM, and STED, including STORM at cryogenic temperatures), single molecule imaging and tracking, light sheet microscopy, FRET-FLIM, and optical trapping/tweezers. They also offer a Zeiss Crossbeam cryo FIB-SEM with "slice and view" capability. **Deadline:** May 1st (possibility of extension).

[Partnership for Advanced Computing Europe (PRACE) - Support to mitigate impact of COVID-19 pandemic](#)

PRACE is welcoming project proposals requesting computing resources to contribute to the mitigation of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This applies, without being exhaustive, to the following topics: (i) Biomolecular research to understand the mechanisms of the virus infection, (ii) Bioinformatics research to understand mutations, evolution, etc, (ii) Bio-simulations to develop therapeutics and/or vaccines, (iv) Epidemiologic analysis to understand and forecast the spread of the disease, (v) Other analyses to understand and mitigate the impact of the pandemic. **Deadline:** OPEN CALL