COVID-19_URGENT CALLS_ RESEARCH FUNDING/CHALLENGES_RESEARCH SUPPORT_08/04/20

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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/ANNOUNCEMENTS (Listed by deadline)

UEA Development Office - Philanthropic support for COVID-19 projects

The Development Office leads fundraising at UEA and is offering a service for NRP scientists seeking access to philanthropic support for COVID-19 projects.

Contact David Ellis, Director of Development, (d.ellis1@uea.ac.uk) to discuss philanthropy from donors, charities, trusts and foundations.

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.

[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/INITIATIVES (Listed by deadline)

[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

[EIT Health: Headstart for COVID-19 solutions](#)

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology invites applications for headstart funding for COVID-19 solutions under its health accelerator programme. They are calling digital health start-ups with valuable COVID-19 solutions. Through Headstart, EIT Health will award up to €50,000 to companies with the potential to enable the community and health systems to fill in the gap until COVID-19 vaccines are ready. They are looking for products or services with technology readiness level 8. **Deadline**: April 14th

[European Commission - Horizon Impact Award](#)

This award recognises and celebrates societal advancements through research and innovation. This award is the European Commission's initiative to recognise and celebrate outstanding projects that have used their results to provide value for society.

These projects must have been funded by FP7 and/or Horizon 2020 funding programmes and they must be closed by the time of application. **Deadline:** April 15th

[European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) - Mobilisation of funding for COVID-19 research in sub-Saharan Africa](#)

EDCTP invites expressions of interest proposals to support research activities in sub-Saharan Africa to manage and/or prevent the spread of the current COVID-19 outbreak. Proposals must demonstrate the following: (i) Addressing urgent research questions in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak, in line with the research priorities of the Global Research Roadmap and the [WHO R&D Blueprint](#) for rapid activation of R&D activities during epidemics, (ii) Strengthening of national and local research capacity, (iii) Coordination and collaboration with other research and/or humanitarian activities operational in the countries affected, following principles of good participatory practice for emerging and re-emerging pathogens, (iv) Compliance with International Council on Harmonisation – Good Clinical Practice (ICH-GCP), regulatory and ethical standards, (v) Commitment to open access and data sharing principles. The total budget for this call is €4.75 million. It is expected that between five and 10 grants of up to €500,000 will be awarded. Grants will cover 100% of project costs. **Deadline:** April 17th

[Innovate UK - Business-led innovation in response to global disruption](#)

Innovate UK, as part of UK Research and Innovation, will invest up to £20 million in innovation projects. The aim of this competition is to support UK businesses to focus on emerging or increasing needs of society and industries during and following the Covid-19 pandemic. By fast-tracking innovation, the UK will be better placed to maintain employment levels, a competitive position in global markets and make the UK more resilient to similar disruption. **Deadline:** April 17th (12PM)

[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

[ECH Alliance - A virtual hackathon bringing together Biomedical and data scientists to explore ways to combat CoronaVirus](#)

High-profile hackathon designed to accelerate approaches to monitoring, diagnosing and controlling the CoronaVirus.This event will shortly go virtual through a platform with full access to covid-19 datasets and other technology. You will work collaboratively with top data scientists, biomedical researchers, vaccine specialists, startup founders and investors to developing innovative approaches to the current crisis. **Deadline:** Register now for April 18th event

[Diabetes UK - research into COVID-19 and diabetes](#)

Diabetes UK calls for applications that will further the understanding of COVID-19 in relation to people living with diabetes

There is no restriction on the type of research that will be accepted through this call but proposals should: (i) Support collaboration and multidisciplinary thinking where possible, (ii) Be feasible and able to start as soon as possible, (iii) Have clear potential benefit to people living with diabetes (iv) Not exceed a total cost of £100,000 and a duration of 24 months. **Deadline:** April 20th

[European Space Agency: Space in response to COVID-19 outbreak](#)

European Space Agency, together with the Italian Minister for Technological Innovation and Digitalisation, invites tenders from companies for its 'space in response to COVID-19 outbreak' call. The tenderer will deploy and demonstrate services to respond to the emergency that Europe, and especially Italy, is facing because of the spread of the coronavirus. The main objectives of this call are: (i) Help citizens and health or educational professionals living in Italy to deal with the challenges of the coronavirus outbreak, (ii) Support the development and the adoption of services in healthcare and education to sustain the Italian community in reacting to the coronavirus outbreak, (iii) Demonstrate the benefit provided by the utilization of space-assets integrated with other innovative technologies in these extraordinary circumstances, (iv) Offer the opportunity to economic operators to deploy and demonstrate application solutions based on space for the benefit of

citizens, local authorities and enterprises. Note, ESA will bear up to 50% of the acceptable cost (up to a max. estimated price of 1,000,000 Euro). The remainder must be financed by the Tenderer through private sector direct and/or indirect co-funding and/or by the users based on terms and conditions to be agreed upon. To the extent that activities are performed by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, said activities are funded up to 80 % by the Agency, depending on the funding level authorised by the related National Delegation(s). **Deadline:** April 20th

[European Culture of Solidarity Fund](#)

The Fund supports imaginative cultural initiatives that, in the midst of the global pandemic crisis reinforce European solidarity and the idea of Europe as a shared public space. The Fund - set up in partnership with other foundations - is looking to support imaginative cultural initiatives - big or small - that reinforce solidarity and the notion of Europe as a shared public space in response to the current crisis and its aftershocks. It is open to individuals, collectives and organisations from all sectors and civil society at large. The Fund has grants available in three amounts: €5.000 – 15.000 (5 - 10 awarded projects per submission round), €15.000 – 30.000 (2 - 3 awarded projects per submission round), €30.000 – 50.000 (1 - 2 awarded projects per submission round). **Deadline:** April 27th

[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

European Commission LIFE - 2020 Call for proposals for Integrated Projects

The Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, under the LIFE programme, invites applications for its integrated projects call. This supports the implementation of large territorial scale environmental and climate plans or strategies within the EU. Integrated projects should aim towards the full implementation of the targeted plan or strategy. All applicants are encouraged to look at their project idea and identify any element that could potentially improve the collective ability to avoid a crisis similar to COVID-19 outbreak in the future. Projects can financially support small, local initiatives. Applications are invited from public bodies, private commercial organisations and private non-commercial organisations including NGOs located in the EU. Projects must take place in the territory of EU member states. UK-based legal persons are eligible to participate under this call. **Deadline:** October 6th

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

Harrington Discovery Institute: COVID-19 initiative

The Harrington Discovery Institute at University Hospitals in Cleveland, Ohio, has announced a new initiative to accelerate promising, near-term therapies to treat COVID-19 and its complications and battle future pandemic threats. Initiative includes: (i) Allocating Harrington Discovery Institute operating and grant making capital towards near-term COVID-19-related treatment efforts, (ii) Accelerating programmes in its current portfolio that may target coronavirus and its clinical ramifications – this entails advancing treatments that may enter clinical trials right away, (iii) Issuing a transatlantic call for proposals for novel therapies that target coronavirus and its clinical impact, particularly on the lungs and heart, (iv) Aggressively seeking broad spectrum antivirals that may avert the next viral pandemic, supporting the well-accepted position in public health that future viral pandemics, whether coronavirus-related or otherwise, are likely (v) Raising new capital targeted specifically at advanced and breakthrough treatments for pandemic viruses. Details on the call will be released soon. Visit HarringtonDiscovery.org for more information.

Mozilla - COVID-19 Solutions Fund

The COVID-19 Solutions Fund is part of the Mozilla Open Source Support Program (MOSS). The fund will provide awards of up to $50,000 each for open source technology projects which are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in some way. **Deadline:** OPEN CALL

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. **NOTE UPDATE:** Proposals within NERCs remit will be considered by NERC but should initially be submitted to UKRI using the UKRI form and based on the UKRI rules. **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

[European Spallation Source: Deuteration and macromolecular crystallisation platform access for COVID-19 research](#)

The European Spallation Source invites proposals for its deuteration and crystallisation platform access for COVID-19 research. This enables scientists and researchers working on COVID-19-related research projects to access laboratory services through the deuteration and macromolecular crystallisation platform (DEMAX) at ESS.

[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

4. WEBSITE LINKS WITH USEFUL COVID RESEARCH/FUNDING INFO

[Citizen science resources related to the COVID19 pandemic - Share, initiate and learn](#)

This is a selection of resources related to the current COVID19 pandemic. It contains links to citizen science and crowdsourcing projects that might be of interest.

[Research Connect](#)

RESEARCHconnect is closely monitoring all the relevant news about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the consequences for the research funding landscape. This dedicated page will report on the funding and support announced to help assist organisations through this difficult period.

[Global Research Collaboration for infectious disease preparedness](#)

GloPID-R is a unique international network of major research funding organizations. Together, we facilitate a rapid and effective response to infectious disease outbreaks.

[European Commission Coronavirus research and innovation](#)

The European Commission has been at the forefront of supporting research and coordination European and global research efforts, including preparedness for pandemics.

In addition to a number of past and ongoing research actions related to coronaviruses and outbreaks, the Commission launched several special actions in 2020 which the link details.

[BIA webinar "COVID-19 update: what the UK life sciences are doing to battle against it and how to support"](#)

Steve Bates and Michael Warren from the BIA were joined by Ian McCubbin and Jane Osbourn for this webinar. The webinar included updates on emergency equipment development, testing capability ramp up, vaccine, antibody, and digital health developments from the UK innovation scene and how we are linking into global collaborations. To view key information on the COVID-19 situation for BIA member companies and the life sciences sector please visit our dedicated microsite: www.biacovid19.org

[UKRI – Corona Virus Hub](#)

The UKRI Coronavirus Hub gives you the latest information on the vital work of UKRI including grants and awards made, and continuing calls to fund your ideas to limit the outbreak and protect life.