

Emerging Leaders Prize 2024

Impact of Climate Change on Health

Guidelines for Panel Review

Background to the Funder

The Medical Research Foundation is an independent charitable foundation. Formed by the Medical Research Council (MRC), we grow and nurture people and ideas wherever we see research opportunities with great potential. The Medical Research Foundation (and its predecessor charities) have been funding research for almost 100 years.

The research supported in this competition is possible thanks to the support of our generous donors.

The Prize

The Medical Research Foundation Emerging Leaders Prize is an annual scheme that aims to recognise outstanding researchers in the early stages of their independent careers who are making an impact in their field and have demonstrated their potential to be the research leaders of the future.

The prize is intended to celebrate the achievements of these individuals and provide them with the resources to elevate them towards becoming an internationally recognised leader in their field.

Prizes are awarded annually with a focus on a different field of scientific research each year. The Emerging Leaders prizes are intended to have a high impact on the winners.

Funding Available

The Medical Research Foundation will award up to £200,000. A top prize of £100,000 will be awarded and smaller prizes of various amounts for second place and runners-up.

Prizes are awarded annually with a focus on a different field of scientific research each year. The Emerging Leaders Prizes are intended to have a high impact on the winners. The prize is not a project grant and winners will be able to use the prize money flexibly to support their professional research career development. Examples of our previous emerging research leaders can be found on our [website](#).

It can be used to support career development activities such as personalised leadership training, collaboration development, and flexible working opportunities. The usual direct costs of research such as salaries of support staff, consumables and equipment can be included; however, applicants are encouraged to think creatively about the use of the prize. The prize cannot be used to pay the salary of the winner, nor can it be used to meet directly allocated or indirect costs of the winner's research.

Scientific Theme

The 2024 Emerging Leaders Prize will recognise and celebrate UK based researchers who have made a significant impact into understanding how health outcomes in the UK are being impacted by climate change. This may include developing knowledge or contributing to impact in the follow areas:

- understanding of the biological mechanisms underpinning the impact of climate change on UK human health, both non-infectious health outcomes and infectious disease
- research in UK health policy and health systems in response to climate change
- the epidemiology of health conditions impacted by climate change in the UK
- the development and implementation of treatments for climate-change related health conditions
- understanding and reducing the impact of climate change on mental health and well-being.

This is not an exhaustive list and all areas related to the impact of climate change on health will be considered. Applicants can apply from a wide range of methodological backgrounds/fields. Applications from researchers whose work has not been focused solely on UK contexts will be considered if it is relevant or can be applied to UK health.

Researchers who have contributed to advances in understanding of climate change but without considering the impacts on health outcomes are not eligible for this prize.

The prize will support career development and enable the recipient to take their work further. Applicants will be required to demonstrate their track record in research on the impact of climate change on health. Applicants should continue to make an impact for years to come and have the potential to become a leader in their field in the future.

Who can apply?

The prize is open to anyone at the relevant career stage who is doing research on the impact of climate change on health e.g. clinicians, lab-based scientists, allied health professionals etc. Applicants must be UK-based researchers at eligible institutions (UK HEIs, Research Council research institutes, hospitals, GP practices and other clinics and other independent research organisations). Applicants must hold a PhD, DPhil or MD and be conducting their research at an eligible institution. Applicants may be a citizen of any country but must already have an employment contract at an eligible institution within the UK that covers the duration of the prize award.

Applicants must be in the process of transitioning (or have recently transitioned) to an independent research position. They should demonstrate productivity across their past career and an upward trajectory, as well as be able to demonstrate a track record of nationally competitive research, an ability to manage their own independent research group currently or in the near future and have clear plans to develop into an internationally recognised leader in the field.

Applicants should be starting to show evidence of recognition and leadership in the community, have a strong track record of original and productive independent research with impact in the field (for example evidenced by senior author publication(s)), and success at securing research funding (such as previous small/medium project grants or early career/intermediate fellowships) to establish their research niche or independence. Broadly, the impact they have made may include generation of new knowledge, developing capacity in the field, contribution to policy development and implementation, developing new methodologies and skills for the research and medical community in the field, and more.

Integrity of Panel Members: Declarations of Interest

Integrity between the Medical Research Foundation, applicant and reviewer is essential. Panel members are asked to identify any possible conflicts of interest before they begin reviewing an application and to discuss with the Foundation their potential conflicts.

Review Process

For written review:

Reviews will be completed through our online grant management system, Flexi-Grant. You will receive a link to this via email. Once you have clicked the link, you will be prompted to create an account should you not already have one. You will then be assigned and directed to the online review form and the application. To access to the full application, please ensure that you have selected **'accept review'** as shown below.

Project synopsis

Primary Applicant
Demonstration Admin (D.A.S Kenya)

Example project

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur lorem massa, blandit a augue non, bibendum ultrices dolor. Vestibulum dictum odio luctus, finibus tellus eu, scelerisque ligula. Aenean dictum ligula sed erat pulvinar blandit. Vivamus euismod dui tempus ultrices facilisis. Donec malesuada blandit enim, id maximus diam euismod vitae. Fusce hendrerit tempus luctus. Suspendisse placerat turpis quis enim pharetra euismod.

Decline review
Accept review

Assessment forms have been provided for a selection of applications. Panel members are asked to provide comments on the applications under the three assessment criteria listed:

- Applicant's Contribution to Research Field
- Applicant's Potential as an Emerging Research Leader
- Plans for use of the Prize funds

A breakdown of the criteria details can be found below.

Committee Workspace for Panel Meetings:

If you are attending the panel meetings, you will be able to view the full applications with reviews beforehand on our online system unless a conflict of interest has been identified.

Upon logging in using the following link <https://medicalresearchfoundation.flexigrant.com/default.aspx> , please click on Committee Meetings at the top of the page to access the meeting documents and applications.

Assessment Form and Criteria

Assessment forms have been provided for a selection of applications. Panel members are asked to provide comments on the applications under the three assessment criteria listed:

- Applicant's Contribution to Research Field
- Applicant's Potential as an Emerging Research Leader
- Plans for use of the Prize funds

A breakdown of the criteria details can be found below:

Applicant's Contribution to Research Field

- Scientific quality of work
 - Track record of nationally competitive research.
 - Evidence of building and developing excellent national and international collaborations within/between/across disciplines to drive research.
 - Strong track record of original and productive independent research with impact in the field (e.g. senior author publications).
- Significance and impact of the applicant's research on the field and/or for patients
 - Has the outcome from their research led to a paradigm shift (a new way of thinking/a new technique?)
 - Has it or could it lead to significant advancements in the field (details of how piece of research might impact field/patients in future).
 - Has the research impacted on a national/international scale?
- The role of the applicant in the research

- Have they personally driven the work, to what extent?
- What is unique and/or novel about their contributions?

Applicant's Potential as an Emerging Leader

- Demonstration of transition to research leadership
- Success at securing personal/research funding
- Invitations to present at conferences or on national/international platforms
- Track record of management of laboratory staff or research team
 - Maximising potential in others/training and development of staff and or junior team members
 - Supervisory role for PhD, Masters, or undergraduate students
- Dissemination /communication of research outcomes to different audiences within and outside of the research communities.
- Advice or influence of the research agenda
 - Development of research standards or guidelines/committee membership.

Plans for use of Prize funds

- Will the funds be used to develop the applicant as a researcher?
- Will the funds help to inject even greater momentum into their career or to further progress the research they have highlighted?
- Will they use of the prize funds to underpin their future work?
- Will they use the funds to pursue research training opportunities that broaden their development and develop their leaderships skills and/or seek new opportunities to develop their career?
- For example: professional development such as management and leadership training
- Have they thought carefully about the potential impact of these prize funds on their research career trajectory?
- Do their plans for using these funds further demonstrate their leadership potential the future?
- Will their plans for using the prize funds have a contribution to the impact of climate change on UK health research?

Scoring Range for Panel Members

Using the Scoring Range on the next page, the Panel is asked to provide scoring for the selection of applications between 0-10 and state whether each applicant should be invited to interview or not.

These scores will be used to shortlist the applications and the top-ranking applicants will be invited to interview on Monday 16 September 2024.

10	Exceptional
9	Excellent
8	Very High Quality
7	High Quality
6	Very Good Quality
5	Good Quality
4	Good with minor weaknesses

3	Good with major weaknesses
2	Poor quality
1	Unacceptable quality
0	Ineligible for funding/outside scope or remit

Scoring Range for Panel Review

Score Indicators	Score
Exceptional research leadership potential, exceptional contribution to research field	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Applicant’s contribution to research field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exceptionally high achiever with a profound significance and impact on field of research - Leading involvement in design and delivery of work - Leading national and international contribution ■ Applicant’s potential as an emerging research leader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent leadership potential - Very high likelihood of national and international leadership ■ Plans for use of the prize funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent plans with very high likelihood of impacting on candidate’s career trajectory - Very high likelihood of successful delivery 	10
Excellent research leadership potential, competitive and excellent contribution to research field	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Applicant’s contribution to research field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very high achiever with very high impact on field of research - Very high involvement in design and delivery of work - Very high national and/or international impact ■ Applicant’s potential as an emerging research leader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good leadership experience - Significant potential to become an internationally competitive research leader - High likelihood of national and international leadership ■ Plans for use of the prize funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High likelihood of impacting candidate’s career trajectory - High likelihood of successful delivery 	9
Very High Quality – Very high research leadership potential, very high contribution to research field	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Applicant’s contribution to research field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High achiever with high impact on field of research - High involvement in design and delivery of work - High national impact and some international impact ■ Applicant’s potential as an emerging research leader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good leadership experience - Good likelihood of national and international leadership ■ Plans for use of the prize funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good likelihood of impacting on candidate’s career trajectory 	8

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good likelihood of successful delivery 	
High Quality – High research leadership potential, high contribution to research field	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Applicant’s contribution to research field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good level of impact on field of research for career stage - Good involvement in design and delivery of work - National impact, low or no international impact ■ Applicant’s potential as an emerging research leader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate leadership experience - Good likelihood of national leadership ■ Plans for use of the prize funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Likelihood of successful delivery - Likelihood of impacting on candidate’s career trajectory 	7
Very good Quality – Very good research leadership potential, very good contribution to research field	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Applicant’s contribution to research field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some contribution to research field - Some involvement in design and delivery of work ■ Applicant’s potential as an emerging research leader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some leadership experience - Some potential of national leadership ■ Plans for use of the prize funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential to impact on candidate’s career trajectory - Potential for successful delivery 	6
Good Quality – Good research leadership potential, good contribution to research field	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Applicant’s contribution to research field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some contribution to research field - Involvement in design and delivery of work ■ Applicant’s potential as an emerging research leader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some leadership potential, but not yet fully demonstrated ■ Plans for use of the prize funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential to impact on candidate’s career trajectory - Potential for adequate delivery 	5
Potentially useful: with minor weaknesses – some research leadership potential	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Applicant’s contribution to research field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited contribution to research field - Limited involvement in design and delivery of work ■ Applicant’s potential as an emerging research leader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leadership potential not demonstrated, but possibility of potential ■ Plans for use of the prize funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some potential for adequate delivery 	4
Potentially useful: with major weaknesses - low research leadership potential	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Applicant's contribution to research field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited contribution to research field - Limited involvement in design and delivery of work ■ Applicant's potential as an emerging research leader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leadership potential not demonstrated ■ Plans for use of the prize funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little/no potential for adequate delivery 	3
Poor quality – bordering on unacceptable	
Candidate has not demonstrated leadership potential or impact on the research field	2
Unacceptable quality	
Application is of an unacceptable quality	1
Ineligible for funding	
Candidate is not at the appropriate career stage for the emerging leaders prize scheme and is ineligible	0