

# 2022 Emerging Leaders Prize Lupus Research

Guidelines for Applicants

## 2022 Emerging Leaders Prize

Supporting life-changing lupus research

## Summary

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This document guides you through the preparation and submission of an application for the 2022 Emerging Leaders Prize.

This prize is intended to celebrate the achievements of outstanding researchers who are making an impact in the field of lupus research, and who have demonstrated their potential to be a research leader of the future. The statements within the application should be used to describe the contributions that the applicant has made to their field as well as their expected future contributions. The 2022 Emerging Leaders Prize application form can be downloaded from:

<https://www.medicalresearchfoundation.org.uk/grants/emergingleadersprize>

## Deadline for Submission is 12:00 Wednesday 20 April 2022

Applications must be submitted and approved by all signatories and the application received in its entirety, by this deadline. You will not be able to submit applications after this deadline. We recommend that you submit your application in advance of the deadline so that any technical issues can be resolved in good time.

The Medical Research Foundation is committed to making this application accessible to all by offering assistance where needed. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Research Team if you have any questions or concerns about the application or interview processes:

[research@medicalresearchfoundation.org.uk](mailto:research@medicalresearchfoundation.org.uk) Tel: 0207 395 2405.

## Overview

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### The Funder

The Medical Research Foundation is an independent charitable foundation. Formed by the Medical Research Council (MRC) over 90 years ago, 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 over 100 years.

The research that will be supported in this competition was made possible by a generous gift in the Will of the late Erina Herrick.

### The Prize

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 or fellowship and winners will be able to use the prize money flexibly to support their professional research career development. Details 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 supported; 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, or indirect costs of the winner's research.

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## The Funding

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 highly commended candidates.

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## Scientific Theme

The 2022 Emerging Leaders Prize will recognise and celebrate researchers who have made an impact in lupus research. This could include but is not limited to:

- significant understanding of the biological mechanisms involved in lupus
- the development and implementation of treatments for lupus
- improving the clinical prognosis of patients

The competition is open to researchers working directly on lupus and related conditions such as myositis, Sjögren's syndrome, autoimmune thyroid disease and serositis.

The prize will support the career development and enable the recipient to take their work further. Applicants will be required to demonstrate their track record in the field of lupus research. 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.

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## Who can apply

The prize is open to anyone at the relevant career stage who is doing research on lupus 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, 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 on an international scale, have a strong track record of original and productive independent research with impact in the field (for example evidenced by senior author publication(s)), success at securing research funding such as previous intermediate fellowships to establish independence, and have standing/influence within the field and the community.

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## Key dates

- Deadline for submission: 12:00 Wednesday 20 April 2022
- Shortlisting notification: July 2022
- Interview Panel decision Meeting: Tuesday 6 September 2022
- Funding decision: September 2022
- Feedback on funding decision: September 2022
- Prize giving event: Wednesday 23 November 2022

## Review and selection

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Applications will be reviewed and shortlisted by a panel of independent scientific experts. The shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview, where they will be asked to deliver a 10-minute presentation on their impact on the research field, their future career development and research plans, and their plans for use of the prize funds. This will be followed by 20 minutes of Q&A from the Interview Panel.

Applications will be assessed against three core criteria:

### 1. Contribution to the research field:

- Scientific quality of the applicant's contributions to research on lupus.
- Significance and level of impact of their research on the field of lupus research or patients.
- The unique role the applicant has played in delivering the research findings.

### 2. Potential as an Emerging Leader:

- Demonstration of transition to research leadership in research area.
- Demonstration of maximising potential in others.
- Demonstration of excellent communication and interpersonal skills across different audiences.

### 3. Plans for use of the prize funds:

- Impact the prize money will have on developing and progressing the research career and research of the applicant.

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## Application process and deadlines

To apply, applicants must provide the following information:

- A completed application form that includes a summary statement of no more than two pages of A4, describing their research accomplishment(s) and the significance and/or impact of their research on lupus
- Summary outlining their plan for the use of the prize money focusing on the impact the funding will have on progressing their professional research career development and research.
- Two letters of support, one from a senior member of the employing institution (e.g. supervisor or Head of Department) and one from a person external to the employing institute, (e.g. an expert in the field or mentor)
- A CV, including a list of most relevant publications (up to a maximum of 10).

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## Confidentiality

The proposal and any associated papers submitted will be forwarded 'in confidence' to reviewers and the Expert Review Panel. While assessing proposals, our experts may sometimes need to consult with colleagues, in confidence, about individual applications.

All panel members are asked to keep secure documents that come to them in their official capacity and, when their term of office has come to an end, to make sure that all documents are destroyed.

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## Conflicts of interest

If a proposal presents a potential conflict of interest for any of the reviewers, Expert Review Panel or Medical Research Foundation Board of Trustees, the individual with a conflict will not be involved in the discussion of the application and in the decision-making process.

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## Prize-giving event

Prize winners will be required to attend an awards ceremony on **Wednesday 23 November 2022** where they will be presented with their award. This will take place in central London and will be a celebration of UK emerging talent in lupus research. If the Foundation consider that this event cannot safely go ahead an alternative prize-giving will be arranged.

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## Queries

Any queries on the prize, competition, application process, or eligibility should be sent to the Research Team at [research@medicalresearchfoundation.org.uk](mailto:research@medicalresearchfoundation.org.uk), or 0207 395 2405.

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## Terms and Conditions of Award

Prize awards made through this competition will follow standard Medical Research Foundation terms and conditions. The Medical Research Foundation terms and conditions spell out the responsibilities of the Principal Investigator and the Lead Research Organisation. The Principal Investigator and the Lead Research Organisation are required to indicate their formal acceptance of the application, their acceptance of the terms and conditions of a Medical Research Foundation award, and the approval of the salaries and resources sought in the application. The Medical Research Foundation may add additional conditions to a prize award to reflect the particular circumstances and requirements of the funding, or the nature of a particular award. Acceptance of an award constitutes acceptance of both the core conditions and any additional conditions. The Medical Research Foundation reserves the right to vary these terms and conditions.

# Application form

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Please refer to the sections below to complete your application form. If you have any questions about any of the application process, please contact a member of the Medical Research Foundation Research Team [research@medicalresearchfoundation.org.uk](mailto:research@medicalresearchfoundation.org.uk) 0207 395 2405.

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### Section 1: Lay summary of research achievements and impact to date

This section should be written in a form understandable to those who are not specialists in the field of lupus research. Please provide a summary of your research accomplishment(s), highlighting the significance and impact of your research to date. Please indicate the key scientific objectives and challenges of the research and any potential medical/clinical implications.

We may use this section for external communications associated with the Emerging Leaders Prize and we aim to publish the lay summary of successful applicants on our website. The text style should be suitable to a lay audience and not contain specific details of any sensitive information.

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### Section 2: Research achievements and impact to date

This section should be written in a form suitable to an academic audience. This section should include details on your research career to date, including but not limited to:

- Scientific accomplishments and their impact on field
- Conference invitations (e.g. keynote presentations, posters etc.), early career prizes/awards etc.
- Contributions as a leader, role model, mentor or capacity-builder.
- Service on national and international panels, advisory groups, working groups, patient groups.
- Evidence of transition to research independence and leadership.

Please see above “review and selection” section for further information on assessment criteria.

You may make reference to any relevant publications within the text. Up to two additional pages of appendices can accompany the statement and are not included in the word limit. Please attach these pages to the end of the application with the heading “Section 2 Appendix”.

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### **Section 3: Plans for use of the prize funds**

The prize is intended to have a high impact on the winners. Please describe how the prize funds will be used to develop your professional research career and progress your research.

If relevant, indicate any funding you are currently receiving or for which you have made an application which will be used in conjunction with the prize.

Please describe what the prize money would enable you to achieve that would not otherwise be possible. The prize cannot be used to pay the salary of the winner or used for directly allocated or indirect costs of research. The prize can be used to meet the usual direct costs of research such as salaries of support staff, consumables, equipment, as well as dissemination activities, travel and career development activities. The prize 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 and contact the Research Team (details below) with any questions or queries

The timeframe for use of the prize is 18 months; a plan for use of the prize should be included in this section.

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### **Section 4: Applicant personal statement**

Please include any additional supporting information you wish to be considered; describe your reasons for applying for this prize and the impact it could have on your career progression. If you have not stated it elsewhere in the application, please describe how the prize will enable you to further develop your research and contribute to your career; and, if relevant, specify how it will help you overcome any obstacles or barriers that may have impeded your progress to date.

Please provide details of any career breaks, unconventional career stages, clinical/other duties etc. Career breaks will be taken into account in assessing the application. If necessary, please provide additional information on a separate document as a supplement to the application.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant and variable impact on researchers' careers. The Foundation is committed to helping mitigate this as much as possible through our grant-making policies and practices. If applicable, please provide details of how your career progression has been impacted by COVID-19.

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### **Section 5: Letters of support**

The letters of support should be written by a senior academic at your host institution and/or an expert in your field of research. At least one referee must be from outside your host institution.

These letters are intended to supplement your application and explain why you merit consideration for an Emerging Leaders Prize, your contribution to the scientific field and how the prize would offer a unique opportunity to advance your research and career. Referees should state their relationship to you and include their opinion of your research independence, the importance of your contribution to the research field to date and your career potential. The referee might also comment on the originality and

appropriateness of your research, its relationship to other work on-going within the field of study as well as beyond, and, if appropriate, the facilities available in your host institution (or partner organisation) to carry out your future research.

The letter of support should be included with the application. Please ensure that all letters of support refer to the 2022 Emerging Leaders Prize and that your name is clearly legible.

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## Section 6: Authorisation of host institution

Please provide the details of the person at the lead Research Organisation responsible for the administration of funds. Should you be successful and win grant support, we will need to know who to contact about the financial arrangements and other contractual agreements.

All declarations should be signed by the appropriate persons prior to the submission of the application.

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## Section 7: Applicant's CV and publications

We have adopted the Résumé for Researchers in place of a CV in order for applicants to evidence a wider range of activities and contributions than a traditional CV. Please download and complete the Résumé for Researchers template from our [website](#).

Please provide a list of a maximum of ten publications relevant to the application.

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## Assessment criteria

Applications will be shortlisted and assessed against three criteria, please highlight as clearly as possible within your application evidence of support for the following points:

- Applicant's contribution to research field - Scientific quality of the applicant's contributions to research on lupus; significance and level of impact of their research on the field of lupus research or patients; the unique role the applicant has played in delivering the research findings.
- Applicant's potential as an emerging research leader - Demonstration of transition to leadership; success at securing personal/research funding; track record of previous grants/awards; conference and other presentation experience; dissemination/communication of research outcomes beyond scientific community; mentoring and management of staff and junior team members, ability to continue to make an impact in lupus for years to come.
- Plans for use of the prize funds - Suitable plans for the progression of lupus research; likely to have a large impact on the development of the applicant's research career.

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## Application checklist

Please ensure that you have included the following documentation before submitting your application:

- Completed 2022 Emerging Leaders Prize application form
- Application appendix
- Résumé for Researchers
- Publication list (maximum 10 publications)
- Letter of support 1
- Letter of support 2

**Applications must be submitted electronically to [research@medicalresearchfoundation.org.uk](mailto:research@medicalresearchfoundation.org.uk) prior to the closing date. We will acknowledge receipt of your application within two days of the submission deadline.**