**BACKGROUND**

The Wellcome Trust Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health Research aims to contribute towards improving the health of some of the world’s poorest people by equipping high-calibre researchers to undertake excellent research that will impact on important, locally relevant global health problems.

We work towards overcoming difficulties in conducting research in low- and middle income countries by providing supervision, mentorship and support to young, bright and ambitious researchers wishing to strengthen their research skills and improving their track record.

The Centre promotes and facilitates research within and across traditional disciplines to enable interdisciplinary research programmes by providing support for activities ranging from sandpits, through pump-priming activities to investments in research capacity.

**PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME**

The Research Development Fund is designed to develop activities enabling substantive external research proposals. The scheme is intentionally flexible, especially in its first, experimental, year of operation, recognising that different disciplines have different requirements for research development. The scheme will therefore fund activities potentially ranging from the gathering of data to support for a specific funding proposal to develop projects within the Centre. This initiative is not intended to underwrite conference hosting, attendance or dissemination, nor should it be used as a bridging fund for current staff on short-term contracts.

Projects would normally be expected to begin within 2 months of notification and run for a maximum of 12 months. Applicants can apply for projects for up to £10K but given the limited funds available, projects towards the higher end of this scale would have to have an especially compelling rationale to be successful. Cost sharing with other institutes is encouraged. Funds could be used for example to support lab based work, work related to clinical trials, archival research, literature searches, scoping activities, or web based research. Interdisciplinarity is not a requirement but interdisciplinary applications are highly encouraged.

**This initiative is for early career researchers to develop their research career to enable them to enhance their track record and allow for competitive grant applications in the future.**

**Please note that this scheme is intended to support research that will lead to further research proposals. A proposal has to be made within 18 months of approval for this grant.**

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applications from all faculty are encouraged but a single Principal Applicant should be identified. Applicants are encouraged to be as concise as possible and not exceed the maximum page limits specified. Any material beyond these page limits will not be considered. Margins should be set at 2cm and font should be 11pt Arial. Single line spacing can be used. The application form must be used - continuation sheets will not be accepted. Applications have to include the following:

Part 1: Cover sheet

Part 2: Project description and methodology. This should be written so as to be accessible to the entire panel, not all of whom will be experts in your field.

Part 3: Expected outcomes and milestones

Part 4: Budget

Part 5: Statement of support from applicant’s Director of Research

**REVIEW PROCEDURE**

Applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of academics working in global health and are experts in the field from different parts of the world. The committee will use the following criteria to review the proposals:

* Project’s ability to generate innovative research resulting in substantive external funding application
* Importance and originality of research questions
* Clarity of objectives and methodology
* Viability of programme of activities
* Plan for delivery
* The extent to which the proposed outcomes justify the costs

Applications are considered all year-round with no specific deadlines. Application will be reviewed by the panel within 4 weeks of submission (unless informed otherwise).

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

A short CV (max 2 pages) of all applicants should be included in the application form, clearly stating their experience, education and relevant track record in the field.

Successful principal applicants will be expected to submit two brief reports per year detailing progress and outcomes to date.

Reports should address the following:

* Progress towards anticipated outcomes.
* Priorities/planned activities for next period.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

If you would like to discuss your application please contact:

* Dr Leena Al-Hassan, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Wellcome Trust Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health Research - BSMS l.al-hassan@bsms.ac.uk
* Professor Melanie Newport, Director of Wellcome Trust Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health Research – BSMS m.j.newport@bsms.ac.uk
* Professor Gail Davey, co-director of Wellcome Trust Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health Research, Professor of Global Health Epidemiology – BSMS g.davey@bsms.ac.uk
* Professor Muntaser Ibrahim, co-director of Wellcome Trust Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health Research, Professor of Genetics, Institute of Endemic Diseases, University of Khartoum mibrahim@iend.com
* Professor Abraham Aseffa, co-director of Wellcome Trust Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health Research, Director of The Armauer Hansen Research Institute aseffa@gmail.com
* Tewodros Tariku, PhD Student and Centre Fellow, Armauer Hansen Research Institute tewodrosta@gmail.com
* Professor Samuel Wanji, co-director of Wellcome Trust Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health Research, Director of The Research Foundation in Tropical Diseases and Environment (REFTDE), samwanji@gmail.com

**FELLOW CRITERIA**

* Early career researcher
* Ideally within 3 years of obtaining degree (BSc or equivalent)
* Completed or is enrolled in a Masters or PhD program
* Early stage of postdoctoral training (<2 years since PhD degree was obtained)
* Aspire to becoming a research/group leader
* Masters or PhD thesis graded as good or above
* Show evidence of successful engagement in research
* Have a clear idea of research proposal, with clear aims and objectives in locally-relevant global health issues
* Affiliation to partner research centres: AHRI (Ethiopia), The Research Foundation in Tropical Diseases and Environment (REFTDE) – University of Buea (Cameroon) , and Institute of Endemic Diseases - University of Khartoum (Sudan)
* Ability (and willingness) to participate in successful grant applications
* Flexibility in conducting research – travel if necessary
* Desirable: evidence of publications in peer-reviewed journals
* Desirable: research project include collaboration with other research institutes (particularly from partner centres)
* Enthusiastic, ability to work under pressure and to deadlines
* Self-motivated and able to work individually with minimal supervision, as well as part of a team.
* Good proficiency of English
	+ Ability to communicate science verbally and in writing