

IME ANNUAL RESEARCH IN MEDICAL ETHICS COMPETITION 2021

The Research Committee of the IME is inviting submissions to our new funding scheme, 'Research in Medical Ethics' for small projects in medical ethics (defined broadly to include all areas of biomedical ethics). This funding stream extends our Annual Seminar Competition by broadening its remit to include small research projects, research collaborations and pump priming initiatives.

The closing date for applications is **14th December 2020 at 5pm**. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission by **22nd January 2021**. All funds must be spent by **31st December 2021**.

What We Offer

We will fund projects in the region of **£2,500-£3,500**, with a ceiling of **£5000** for individual projects. We expect to make approximately 4-5 awards per year. We encourage applicants to consider value for money when costing their proposal, and all costs must be fully justified. Applications will not be considered where the amount of support required from the IME is less than £500, or where the event is targeted at staff or students from a single institution.

We are happy receive applications for co-funded projects, so long as the IME is fully acknowledged in any outputs and events associated with the award (e.g. publications, reports, conference papers etc.), and the applicant is able to demonstrate the benefit of the project to the wider IME community.

Eligibility

Applications will only be accepted from current IME members, but no restrictions are placed on the professional background of the lead applicant (e.g. academia, research, clinical practice). **Whilst early career researchers are encouraged to apply, applications led by, or solely aimed at postgraduate students (including doctoral students) are not permitted via this scheme.** Postgraduate students may be listed as co-applicants for this scheme, but are otherwise encouraged to contact the IME's Postgraduate Committee for alternative funding opportunities.

What We Fund

The funds can be used to support the **delivery of small research projects, pump priming initiatives, individual seminars, workshop or short conferences, or to support a series of events.** Provided that applicants can show relevance to the aims and objectives of the IME, there are no restrictions concerning the subject matter, although applicants should be able to demonstrate clear benefits of the proposed activity to the wider biomedical ethics community in the UK. For example, this may be through the identification of new areas for inter-disciplinary scholarship, developments in methodology or theory, or through broader

research/scholarship capacity building activities. Innovation in activity, content and design, as well as collaboration with clinical practitioners is encouraged. Participants must also be able to demonstrate wide-reaching dissemination plans for the outcomes of their project or event in order to maximise the impact and benefit for the wider biomedical ethics community.

We will fund:

- Small research projects
- Support groups to work together to develop a larger research grant application
- Seminars, events or workshops
- Collaboration development (i.e. short visits to other institutions, exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, strengthening existing networks and fostering research collaborations between researchers)
- Pump priming for medical ethics research projects, this could include those that fostered collaboration between clinicians and medical ethics academics.

If you are considering an application, please ensure that your proposal accords with the published guidance, available from the IME website:

<http://www.instituteofmedicalethics.org/website/>

If you have any queries, contact **Phil Greenwood philg@instituteofmedicalethics.org**
copying in: **contact@instituteofmedicalethics.org**

Please note: If you do not receive an email confirming safe receipt of your application within one week, please telephone us on 01925-299733 to check it has been received.

RESEARCH COMPETITION GUIDANCE

The Research Committee of the IME invites applications for the annual Research In Medical Ethics Competition, intended to support the delivery of events or small research projects. The total fund available will be £20,500 in any one year. We will fund projects in the region of £2,500-£3,500, with a ceiling of £5000 for individual projects. We expect to make approximately 4-5 awards per year.

Applications

- Must be received by **14th December 2020 at 5pm**
- Will be acknowledged by email (applicants are requested to provide an email address for this purpose)
- Applicants are invited to set out the details, rationale and budget of their proposal using the relevant form.
- The full rules and guidance for applicants are presented below.

Rules and Guidance

1. Eligibility

1.1. Subject to para 1.2, applications will only be considered from current IME members.

1.2. Where an application is made by a number of individuals, a lead applicant must be identified. All named applicants must be fully paid-up members of the IME at the time that the application is submitted.

1.3. Applications will not be considered where the total amount of support sought from the IME is less than £500.

1.4. Applications for partial or joint funding will be considered (see also para 4.5).

1.5. Applications are encouraged from all sections of the biomedical ethics community, including early-career researchers and those involved with biomedical ethics in practice. However, post-graduate students may not lead applications to this stream and must instead apply as co-applicants. PhD students should refer to the activities of the relevant IME committee and the annual postgraduate conference before applying to this scheme. Events restricted to doctoral students will not be considered under this scheme (see 3.4).

1.6. All events funded through this year's competition must be scheduled for completion by the **31st December 2021**.

1.7 Awards will be made in a manner that is consistent with the aims of the IME, as defined by its mission statement and charter.

2. Criteria

The Competition will be judged on the following criteria. It should not be assumed that successful applications will necessarily meet all the criteria.

2.1. *Within the remit of the IME and raises the profile of the IME:* The proposal should show how it is relevant to the aims and objectives of the IME, and demonstrate clear benefits of the proposed activity to the wider biomedical ethics community in the UK. Please indicate how your bid incorporates opportunities to raise the profile of the IME (e.g. internationally, with government, policy-makers, the healthcare professions, research funders or users of research) or to recruit new members.

2.2. *Importance and relevance:* applicants should identify the particular relevance of their projects or event(s) to the biomedical ethics community. For this purpose the biomedical ethics community may include funders and users of research in biomedical ethics. Projects or events which support capacity building within biomedical ethics, both research and scholarship will be particularly welcomed. 'Capacity building' includes activities designed to introduce research and scholarship in biomedical ethics to new audiences, to increase awareness of new theoretical or methodological approaches within the target community, and otherwise to enhance the capacity to use, undertake or deliver research in biomedical ethics. Applicants are encouraged to be innovative in their design and/or approach to content.

2.3. *Clarity of methods and/or plan of action and inclusivity:* the projects and events should be as inclusive as possible. Where appropriate, collaboration with those in clinical practice is encouraged. Invitation-only events are not encouraged. Events must not be restricted exclusively to IME members, nor will the IME fund seminars, workshops or training programmes delivered for staff or students of a single department or institution.

2.4. *Outcomes and Dissemination:* it is desirable that that the project or event results in or supports the publication of some paper or electronic (including multimedia) output, or other appropriate form of dissemination beyond those actually attending; the minimum requirement is detailed in 5.4 (below). Plans for how this will be done should be outlined. The IME will assist with publicising the events that are awarded funding.

2.5. *Feasibility* - The proposal should have a clear and deliverable schedule i.e. timescale. It should be clearly and appropriately costed. Where any funding for any elements of the project or event has been obtained or applied for from another body, including the applicant's or host institution, this should be outlined.

3. Eligible costs

3.1. Funds may be sought to meet research support (such as teaching buy out, employing a research assistant, transcription) travel, accommodation and reasonable *per diem* costs for speakers and discussants. Accommodation costs should not normally exceed £100 per night (£120 in London). Funding for postgraduates to attend the event is encouraged. The following table indicates the kinds of costs we expect to cover.

Travel Expenses	Accommodation
Venue Hire	Catering
Additional Subsistence	Bursaries to facilitate attendance

3.2. Fees or honoraria will not be met from the award in respect of any speaker or other participant. Salary or salary-related costs of the organiser or of any administrative or secretarial support person cannot be claimed.

3.3. Other reasonable costs of the event which may be included are: catering, room hire, copying and prior circulation of papers, publicity and advertising, including postage costs. Any other items will only be considered where they are expressly identified and the applicant can make a case that such items are essential to the event.

3.4. Awards will not be made under this scheme to fund activities that are exclusively or primarily postgraduate training events.

3.5. The IME will not include in its award any element of overhead or profit for any institution hosting or otherwise supporting the event.

3.6. The IME in its discretion may exclude any specific items of expenditure from the award to a successful applicant. Any such exclusion(s) will be expressly notified to the applicant at the time the award is made.

4. Applications

4.1. Application must be submitted on the application form available on the IME website. Applications should be submitted by e-mail. Arrangements can be made for the receipt of applications sent by post. Fax applications will not be accepted.

4.2. Applications must include (a) the title of the proposed project or event(s), (b) the themes or topics to be addressed, (c) any collaborators, (d) outline of what is proposed and the rationale, (e) where there is more than one event, the number of events and the timescale of the series, (f) a list of agreed speakers or an indication of those who have been approached and those who have indicated an intention to participate.

4.3. The application must include a clear budget statement identifying the main heads of eligible expenditure, the amount of funding sought under each head and the overall amount sought. Where any funding for any elements of the project or event has been obtained or applied for from another body, including the applicant's or host institution, this must be disclosed in the application.

4.4. All applications must be accompanied by a letter from an authorised person within the applicant's institution undertaking to administer any award in accordance with that institution's approved financial procedures. Where an application is made by a number of individuals or a consortium, the administering institution should normally be the lead applicant's home institution.

5. Acceptance of an award

5.1. The IME will require that written confirmation of acceptance is received from the applicant(s) within 14 days of receiving notification of the IME's offer of an award.

5.2. If such confirmation is not received within 14 days the offer will be deemed to have lapsed and the IME may thereafter offer funding to an alternative bid.

5.3. The IME reserves the right to offer funding subject to the fulfilment of specified conditions. In such a case any acceptance will become binding on the IME only once it is satisfied that such conditions have been or will be met.

5.4. In all cases it will be a condition of acceptance that the applicant(s) will submit a final report of the project or event for publication in the IME's newsletter and/or website.