

**Research Grant Guideline Policy for Thrombosis UK Trustees and Grant Committee members when considering a proposal, request or application for grant support and/or funding, from Thrombosis UK.**

This policy is intended to outline the core principles by which Thrombosis UK will consider and allocate grant funding.

Thrombosis UK research grant funding is intended to encourage research and project activities of the highest quality, carried out to the highest standards.

**NIHR Non-commercial partner**

Thrombosis UK is an NIHR Non-commercial partner.

Being an NIHR non-commercial partner brings a number of benefits including faster access to the full range of services offered by the NIHR Study Support Service, this helps researchers to plan, setup and deliver clinical research. Association of Medical Research Charities members also benefit from the provision of Research Part B costs as defined by AcoRD.

For a researcher to access this support, their study has to fully meet the NIHR Clinical Research Network eligibility criteria which is set by the Department of Health and Social Care.

By being an NIHR non-commercial partner, we have confirmed that the way in which our organisation administers funding satisfies some of the eligibility criteria, which speeds up the overall eligibility decision process.

As a result, studies Thrombosis UK funds will be included in the NIHR Clinical Research Network Portfolio and will have access to their research delivery infrastructure, essential training and ISRCTN registration.

NIHR non-commercial partners also have access to a suite of resources to help the charity and grant applicants and are recipients of the Study Support Service.

There is also access to the NIHR funder resource pack, which was developed with funders to enable non-commercial partners to promote the benefits of the support offered NIHR Clinical Research Network. It includes some 'top tips' for funders on how to get the best out of the relationship with NIHR Clinical Research Network.

**The principles of receiving support/research funding from Thrombosis UK**

No request for a research grant from Thrombosis UK can be considered until:

- (i) Formal application has been made.
- (ii) The application has been reviewed and considered by the appointed Thrombosis UK grant funding committee.
- (iii) Confirmation of a successful grant application has been sent and, written acceptance of the terms upon which the grant is made, has been received by Thrombosis UK.

**The principles which Thrombosis UK consider essential in any research proposal or application:**

An application for research grant funding will evidence:

1. Demonstration of the likely impact of work arising from the research project or rigorous Quality Improvement programme, on VTE related practice, VTE patient care and VTE patient outcome.
2. If funding requests are related to Quality Improvement projects, there must be clear evidence that (i) there has been patient and public involvement and (ii) learning can be 'scaled up' and disseminated across the NHS.
3. Demonstration that practice, as a result a grant received from Thrombosis UK, can be scaled-up and benefit a significant number of VTE related patients.
4. Clarity on the route such work will follow to positively impact on patient care/experience/outcomes.
5. Scientific rigor.
6. From design, an inclusive committee that includes *at least* one patient representative and one lay representative.
7. External and internal peer review which includes at least two clinicians and one non-clinician.
8. Evidence that either the lead, mentor or supervisor has previous success in completing research studies.
9. The grant may provide an extended element of work within an already funded study, to be undertaken that would not otherwise be possible but would bring valuable learning which would benefit patients / patient care.

**Requests for research grant support will not be considered if:**

1. The grant includes funding of salaries if the funding grant available is less than £50,000.
2. The grant requested will be used in part or whole to supplement an already funded project.
3. Points in the above '*Principles which Thrombosis UK consider essential in any research proposal or application*' are not met.

**Funding request applications  
(dates)**

Thrombosis UK will issue one research funding call per year. This will be advertised on the Thrombosis UK website and via linked research groups, professional groups, social media and similar communication channels.

The annual call will detail funds available for application and key areas of interest that the charity is seeking to support and where they are keen to encourage research work.

Details of the application process and required forms will be available on the Thrombosis UK website:  
<https://thrombosisuk.org/thrombosis-for-health-care-professionals/research/research-grants/>

There will be a closing date by which all applications must be submitted.

Grants may vary annually at may include pilot study grants, research bursaries and research based Masters in VTE grants.

**The principles which Thrombosis UK consider essential in any research support proposal (not grant funding)**

1. Evidence that a request to support Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) is built into the development and design of the study from concept.
2. Training is provided or secured for any PPI representative.
3. The degree of PPI requested.
4. Policy on the time and commitment that will be expected by a PPI member.
5. Policy on reimbursement of PPI representatives.
6. Role descriptor for a PPI representative including experience, skills and if important to the study, geographical location, gender, age etc.

**Recommendations:**

Thrombosis UK develop a diverse PPI network of individuals and in selecting representatives, provide an introduction to involvement on clinical studies, access to peer support network and training in being a PPI representative on clinical trials.

**References with website links:**

- NIHR non-commercial partner list:

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-rdn-non-commercial-partner-list>

- AcoRD [Attributing the costs of health and social care research]:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-attributing-the-costs-of-health-and-social-care-research>

- NIHR Clinical Research Network eligibility criteria:

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/eligibility-nihr-research-delivery-network-support>

- ISRCTN registration:

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/isrctn-registration>