

Criteria for research grants awarded by CARE

Underlying principles:

1. Research supported is in field of rheumatic diseases, including their extra-articular complications and associated diseases
2. The research is carried out within Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust and under its requirements for research studies including, where required, ethical approval
3. Whilst recognizing the importance of animal studies and models in medical research, CARE is focused on studies of disease and treatments in human subjects and does not support animal studies

Practical concerns:

1. The research which can be supported at any given time will depend on the financial resources available to the Charity at that time and its existing commitments
2. CARE does not have the extensive infrastructure which would be needed for comprehensive peer review, or for a major competition for grant funding
 - Therefore, CARE is best placed to provide additional support to research projects which have already secured peer-reviewed support. Examples would include: additional studies by an applicant who has already obtained personal peer-reviewed funding (such as a research fellowship); add-on studies to peer-reviewed projects funded by major charities or industry
3. Modern research, whether clinical trials or laboratory studies, is expensive due to the escalating cost of salaries, equipment and consumables. Therefore, it is unlikely that CARE can be the sole funder of major studies.
 - In contrast, CARE can fund pilot studies which would generate data to support major grant applications to government agencies and charitable funds, or support add-on studies as noted in (2)
 - CARE would rarely be able to support a FT salary for the usual duration of a research project (2-3 years). Partial support, or support for a defined, relatively short time is possible either for pilot studies or extensions to allow completion of additional work not anticipated in the original funding awarded. Note that CARE will **not** usually support additional salary funding to allow completion of higher degrees (PhD and MD).

Conclusions:

In summary, CARE will consider support for:

- Projects which have already been peer-reviewed and funded
- Proposals to obtain preliminary data to support a well thought-out and evidence-based hypothesis which Trustees can assess or obtain additional independent review
- Add-on studies to maximise the outcome from research studies (e.g. funding additional blood tests, imaging etc in recruited patient cohorts)
- Contributions to salaries of research staff needed to carry out research – e.g. nurses, physios, lab technicians. These will normally be employed to work on

multiple projects and have a proportion of their salary funded by sponsors of other projects

Support will rarely be for **sums greater than £15,000**.

CARE expects acknowledgement of its support to be made in any publications resulting from research it has sponsored, and requires a report on the outcomes of sponsored research to be submitted **within 6 months** of the end of the funding.