

Research Strategy

1. Objectives

The Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability (RHN), as an independent medical charity, is a not-for-profit organisation, which seeks, through research and the provision of specialist services, to meet the needs of people with complex neurological disabilities resulting from damage to the brain or other parts of the nervous system.

The research aims of the RHN are to:

- Develop technological methods together with social and recreational programmes, which enable profoundly disabled people to be as independent as possible.
- Undertake research relevant to profoundly disabled people.
- Communicate with professionals and the public in improving care for profoundly disabled people.

2. Research and Innovation

Research is an important part of the work of the RHN. Only by seeking to advance the science of care for individuals with neuro-disabilities can treatment, and therefore long-term quality of life, be improved. The Institute of Neuropalliative Rehabilitation is situated within the Hospital and its work continues to put the RHN at the cutting edge of research activity, evidence based practice and service delivery in the field of neuro-disability.

3. Strategic objectives

This research strategy has been developed with the following strategic objectives:

- Create synergy between RHN strengths in patient care, clinical practice, technology and science.
- Support and sustain research of the highest value and relevance for RHN patients' group.
- Catalyse the translation of research into clinical practice.
- Strengthen the internal research and collaboration culture.

4. Process

Applications can be made at any time during the year. Applications should be sent to the Research Department. Applications should follow the guideline for research proposal developed by the Research Department (attached).

The application will be reviewed by one or two external peer-reviewers prior to the project being reviewed by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC). The peer-review process is conforming to



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the guidelines of the Association of Medical Research Charities.

The RAC meets three times per year (dates available on the RHN intranet). Upon satisfactory opinion by the RAC, the proposal will then be submitted to the board of management. The board meets five times per year.

The charity will consider funding a range of grants which may include:

- PhD Studentships
- Project grants
- Programme grants
- Unit grant
- Fellowship
- Postgraduate studentship
- Senior personal support

RHN will also consider proposals to co-fund research in partnership with other funding bodies. In these circumstances appropriate peer review processes will continue to be applied

5. Research Themes

Topics for research have been selected on the basis of importance, relevance and alignment with the overall strategy of the charity. These topics are:

1. Assessment and management of disorders of consciousness
2. Outcome measurement development in Huntington's disease
3. Social cognitions in brain injury
4. Families and carers

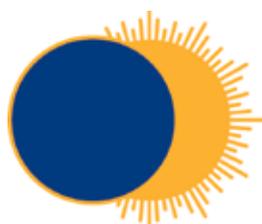
6. Restrictions on Research Applications

RHNs grant funding will be allocated to applicants who are based at, or affiliated with, the Institute of Neuropalliative Rehabilitation at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability, Putney.

7. Administration

The Trustees of RHN determine the budget available for grant making and are ultimately responsible for the research strategy of the charity and for grant making.

The Research Advisory Committee scrutinises all research and fellowship proposals and monitors the progress of the projects throughout the year. In line with the Research Governance Framework for Health & Social Care, it ensures that only studies which are scientifically and ethically sound, and relevant to the aims of the RHN, are carried out.



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