

## DEFENCE MEDICAL SERVICES RESEARCH STEERING GROUP & HIGHER DEGREE BOARD

### CALLING NOTICE

Defence Medical Services Research Steering Group (DMSRSG) is the primary mechanism through which the DMS endorses and funds research activity. The research project must be of military relevance, scientifically robust, and offer value for money.

#### What we support

DMSRSG supports military-relevant medical research. Projects are not restricted to a particular methodological approach or technology readiness level (TRL). We will support foundational science through to applied research. Where foundational science / early TRL activity is proposed there must be a feasible pathway to impact on clinical delivery or operational capability. Research must be predominantly medical or healthcare focused. Human performance research is within remit only where there is a clear implication for human health, for example where increased performance leads directly to reduced rates of injury and illness.

We welcome qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research.

There is no limit on the amount of funding that can be requested per application. However, the overall commitment budget at any one DMSRSG meeting is approximately £500k and we support multiple proposals at each round. Funding requests should always be commensurate with the activity proposed. At the expression of interest stage a rough estimate of costs is permitted. Costs should be calculated using the TRAC methodology at the full submission stage and will be reimbursed at 80% FEC.

#### Highlight notices

##### Priority Areas

DMSRSG particularly welcomes research proposals that address the following priority topics:

- The prevention of musculoskeletal injury, particularly lower limb, via effective prehabilitation programmes tailored for, and targeted at, specific high-risk groups (e.g. those undertaking initial training).
- Development of tools to aid Defence ability to manage mass casualty scenarios where medical resource is overmatched.
- Increased understanding of the burden of physical and mental comorbidity and novel management / treatment approaches.
- Improved ability to recognise and diagnose biothreat agents within a deployed medical facility through enhanced surveillance and field deployed diagnostic capability.
- Better understanding of the psychological burden of operating in a high-CBRN-threat environment and how best to reduce it.
- Better understanding of the effects of extreme temperatures (both low and high) and extended shelf-life on the safety and efficacy of medicinal products commonly used in deployed settings.

In addition to these specific topics DMS have overarching priority research themes. Applications falling within the following themes are also encouraged:

- Optimising mental health
- Preventing and treating musculoskeletal injury
- Delivering a workforce that is 'ready and able'
- Tackling endemic, epidemic, and environmental threats
- Closing the sophistication gap between hospital-based and far forward care
- Combat Casualty Care – pushing the envelope of care far forward

### **Who can apply**

DMSRSG is open to applications from researchers within Defence and researchers based at universities. If the project is led by a Principal Investigator (PI) at a university, it must be conducted in collaboration with a member of service personnel who is named as a Co-Investigator on the full application. At the expression of interest stage there is no need to have a Defence collaborator. If your proposal is invited to the full submission stage you will be linked up with a relevant Defence expert at that stage.

Industry collaborators can be named on proposals, but PIs are strongly encouraged to contact DMS Research in advance of submitting a proposal if this is the case. This will allow early communication with Intellectual Property and Commercial colleagues to pre-empt any issues that may arise should the project receive DMSRSG endorsement.

University costs should be calculated using the Transparent Approach to Research Costing (TRAC) methodology. They will be supported at 80% FEC and must be approved by the university's research office prior to submission.

### **How to apply**

Expressions of Interest should be emailed to [UKStratCom-DMS-RCI-DMSRSG@mod.gov.uk](mailto:UKStratCom-DMS-RCI-DMSRSG@mod.gov.uk). If a full application is invited this will be reviewed at DMSRSG either in March or September. You will be required to attend the meeting and present your proposal and response to reviewer comments.