

Criteria for Assessing Funding Applications

The UK Stem Cell Foundation focuses on funding late basic research projects, phase I and II clinical trials that contribute **enabling technologies** and/or **translational** research in stem cells that could ultimately lead to a phase III clinical trial endpoint.

The definition of '**enabling technology**' or '**translational**' research has been left open, as a range of studies could be defined under these terms, e.g. use of stem cells in animal models, expansion of cells or routes of delivery of stem cells.

The Foundation welcomes applications from universities, hospitals or recognised academic institutions in the UK.

Applications that focus on basic aspects, such as differentiation of stem cells, should be submitted to other funding mechanisms.

Applications will be assessed in response to the following questions:

1. Is the research at a stage where, realistically, it can lead to a proof of clinical concept within 2 years?
2. Does the research address an important unmet clinical need for :
a) a rare disorder b) a disorder in a widespread population c) a condition essentially prevalent in the developing world

3. Is the research based on sound scientific principles?
4. Is the research unique? If not, what potential advantage does it have when compared to other “competitive” activities ... whether stem cell or more conventional therapies ?
5. Is the proposed project funded from any other source and if so what is the basis for the Principal Investigator to request additional resources from UKSCF?
6. What proportion of the research will be conducted in the UK?
7. Is there any Intellectual Property currently associated with the research, who owns the IPR and will that be a hindrance to the future of the project?
8. Is there a project plan with targets and timings and is it realistic?
9. Are the identified staffing requirements adequate and achievable?
10. Is the research institution(s) viable for the duration of the project and does it endorse the project proposal?
11. Are the proposed financial estimates realistic for the proposed duration of the project?