

## **BIA Research Strategy**

### **Overall aim**

The British Infection Association aims to foster excellence in all aspects of clinical infection-related research by supporting patient-facing researchers-in-training to achieve high-quality clinical and basic science research in the field of infection via competitive award of funding and career-development support for awardees.

### **Grant applicant eligibility**

The BIA's main priority for supporting infection research in the UK is via the promotion of early career clinical researchers to achieve high impact research outputs and thus advance their careers as future leaders in academic medicine. The BIA therefore focuses on pre-doctoral applicants in the UK with clinical backgrounds (including doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other patient-facing specialties), who have yet to complete their professional training (i.e. pre-CCT or permanent senior position).

### **Number and types of grant awards**

The number and type of grant awards is flexible and decided by BIA Council annually based on available funding, with grants to be awarded each calendar year decided prior to opening of the grant call. BIA recognises the particular need for flexible funding to cover consumables and therefore prioritises pump-priming research project grants along with travel awards to present high impact findings at top national and international conferences.

### **Scope of research**

The BIA does not restrict the types of research that it funds; both basic and clinical research projects are eligible. Research can be conducted in the UK or internationally, but applicants must be able to demonstrate relevance of the research to patients in the UK. Strategic uplift may be given to topics of importance as decided by BIA Council and Scientific Advisory Committee; if approved, this will be announced when each grant call opens.

### **Grant selection panel**

The BIA Scientific Advisory Committee also acts as the grant selection panel. It should comprise at least 5 members with senior academic positions in an infection-related field.

The Scientific and Research Secretary will chair the panel and recruit its membership ensuring

- at least 5 members with senior academic positions in an infection-related field;
- at least one member is a senior non-academic NHS clinician (whether doctor, nurse, pharmacist or other patient-facing specialty) to ensure clinical perspective; and
- at least one member of the committee is a Principal Officer of the BIA.

The chair will seek to ensure diversity of representation on the panel with respect to gender, professional and ethnic background, and national geography. A Conflicts of Interest declaration from each member will be made available on the BIA website.

### **Outputs of funded projects**

The Scientific and Research Secretary will be responsible for reviewing end-of-project reports and following up on successful project outputs. These will include publications in peer-reviewed journals, poster and oral presentations at national and international meetings, and invited talks. All successful research funding applicants will be offered an oral presentation at a BIA meeting on completion of their project.

### **Review of grants and career development programmes**

The BIA is committed to continued enhancement of the support it provides to the research community and will develop programmes designed to support awardees in their research careers. The number and types of award, as well as the value and direction of awardee-support programmes, will be re-assessed as necessary by the BIA Scientific Advisory Committee with ratification by BIA Council and at least every 5 years.