HRB-TMRN Study within a Trial (SWAT) FUNDING 2017

Guidance Notes

Opening Date: 12th January 2017

Closing Date: 02nd March 2017 at 1pm

Background
Where randomisation is possible, randomised trials are regarded as the most effective means of evaluating the effects of health care interventions. They have the potential to provide reliable and robust estimates of the effects of healthcare interventions to help people make well-informed decisions about care options. However, there is relatively little work being done on how to improve how randomised trials are designed, conducted, analysed, reported and disseminated. The Studies Within A Trial (SWAT) programme is one approach to providing evidence to improve the efficiency of trials. The SWAT programme involves embedding into bigger trials smaller studies focused on trying to find better ways to do trials.

Since September 2014, the HRB-TMRN has been working to strengthen the methodology and reporting of trials in health and social care on the island of Ireland so that they become more relevant, accessible and influential for patients and other service users, practitioners, policy makers and the public. This is being achieved through a programme of work relating to the methodology of trials and focussed on (i) support (ii) training and education and (iii) research and innovation.

Scope of the current call
The scope of the current call is to facilitate the embedding of a study within an ongoing trial. The SWAT should address an independent methodology research question on either the design, conduct, analysis, reporting or dissemination of trials, for which there is current uncertainty.

Number of awards
One award of up to €10,000 (overhead not applicable) for up to 12 months in duration will be awarded in 2017 to each of three institutions; NUI Galway, UCC and UCD.

Who should apply
Trial investigator teams working on an ongoing randomised trial are invited to apply. Approval for the SWAT application must be obtained from the Principal Investigator for the host trial.
Eligibility criteria

- Applicants must be registered members of the HRB-TMRN Clinical Trial Expertise Database (C-TED);
- Applicants must provide evidence from host institution of provision for funding for the ongoing trial (letter from research office).
- Applicants must provide evidence of mentoring arrangements (where appropriate) to provide academic and clinical/practice-based support.
- Applicants who are not currently employed by an eligible host institution (NUI Galway, UCD, UCC) may apply through collaborative links (Co-applicant or Collaborator) with a representative from a host institution who is also involved in the main randomised trial.

Budget

Allowable costs include:

Salary (salary, PRSI, pension contribution)
Applicants should use the IUA website scales for the most up-to-date recommended salary scales for academic researchers [http://www.iua.ie/iua-activities/research.html](http://www.iua.ie/iua-activities/research.html). Please note employee pension contribution of 5% has already been incorporated into the IUA gross salary figure. Please state the pay scale used and the level and point on the scale. This should be justified accordingly.

The HRB does not provide funding for the salary or benefits of academic staff within research institutions who are already in receipt of salary or benefits. The HRB does not provide salary or buy out time for collaborators.

Employer’s contributions to PRSI and/or national insurance at the appropriate rates (e.g. PRSI is calculated at 10.75% of gross salary in RoI).

Pension provision up to a maximum of 20% of gross salary will be paid to the host institution to enable compliance with the Employment Control Framework (an additional 5% employee contribution are part of the salary). The level of employer contribution should be in accordance with the model adopted by the host institution.

Running costs
For all costs required to carry out the activities. Access to necessary special facilities or services which are not available in the host academic institutions. Funding for small items of equipment can be included in this section. Standalone computers will not be funded. All costs must be inclusive of VAT, where applicable.

Dissemination and knowledge exchange costs
This covers costs associated with the Dissemination and Knowledge Exchange Plan – i.e. Seminar/conference attendance (provide details of name and location, where possible) and any other means of communicating outcomes or engaging with stakeholders.
**Deadline**
The deadline for submission of complete applications is 02\textsuperscript{nd} March 2017 at 1pm.

Queries relating to this application can be sent at hrb-tmrn@nuigalway.ie.

All application forms must be submitted as a PDF by email, along with relevant documentation to hrb-tmrn@nuigalway.ie by the deadline listed above with SWAT AWARD in the subject line.

**Peer Review Process**
Applications will be subject to external peer review. Successful applicants will be notified by May 12\textsuperscript{th} 2017 at the latest.