



Apply for a grant

## Grant Applications

### Do you need a grant to fund your next Spinal Cord Injury research project?

***Our next grant call will go live on Monday 6th January 2025.***

*We now support proposals across a wider range of topics related to quality of life in Spinal Cord Injury.*

*For more information on any aspect of our grant awards, please contact Derek Cutler, Research Grants Manager [derek.cutler@smsr.org.uk](mailto:derek.cutler@smsr.org.uk)*

Stoke Mandeville Spinal Research is an independent charity dedicated to funding research that will help to improve quality of life for people living with a spinal cord injury (SCI).

Up to half a million people worldwide will sustain a spinal cord injury every year and many will experience debilitating complications from their injury. Our Research Grants Programme is focussed on preventing or improving the management of the medical complications of SCI to improve these individuals' quality of life.

We support research that will lead to new treatments and therapies, deepening of understanding, and dissemination of best practice in SCI quality of life issues. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Bladder management (including treatment and prevention of Urinary Tract Infections)
- Bowel management
- Pressure ulcers

- Respiratory care
- Neuropathic pain
- Upper limb function
- Psychological health

We provide grants of up to £150,000 for projects of up to 3 years, but also welcome applications for smaller projects. Applications for feasibility studies and seed funding projects will be considered, particularly if initial results could support larger subsequent studies. You should be realistic and request a level and duration of funding that is appropriate to your proposed activities.

We place a strong emphasis on proposals that will have short-to-medium term clinical impact and a demonstrable impact on quality of life for people with SCI. Furthermore, our emphasis is on the treatment and management of people with non-progressive spinal cord injuries and we expect proposals to have this as their primary focus. We will consider proposals where SCI represents one cohort within broader studies.

We welcome applications from institutions around the world but require that at least one UK-based clinical or academic centre be involved in the work.

All applications will be assessed on scientific quality, clinical impact, and feasibility by our independent [Scientific Advisory Board](#).

SMSR is a proud member of the [Association of Medical Research Charities \(AMRC\)](#) and follows its best practice standards for peer review, ensuring that decisions on research funding are made in a fair and transparent way.



## Timeline - 2025 grant call

- Call live: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- Deadline for preliminary applications: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025
- Shortlisted applicants will be notified in the week of 10th March 2025 and invited to submit a full proposal.
- Deadline for full proposals: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025
- We expect to make final funding decisions in the second half of July 2025

## Background documents

*These documents are from our most recent grant round and are provided for information. They are subject to change to future rounds.*

[Preliminary application form](#)

[Guidance for applicants](#)

[Standard terms and conditions of grant award](#)

[Appeals policy and process](#)

## Success rates

In our first grant call in 2019, we awarded a total of £317,111 across 4 projects. We received 21 applications, giving a success rate of 19%.

In our September 2021 call we received 12 applications. No grants were awarded. Our Scientific Advisory Board were impressed by many of the applications that were put forward. However, following the peer-review process, the board concluded that none of the projects were sufficiently strong across **all** criteria to recommend funding. We are hopeful that some of the projects, which came close to the high standards set by the charity, will reapply in a future call and be successful following improvements to the proposals.

In a call in September 2022 we received 14 applications of which 2 were awarded grants, giving a success rate of 14%.

In our September 2023 call we received 7 application and awarded 1 grant, for a success rate of 14%.

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