

## Translational Research Grant

The RNID Translational Grant aims to support and accelerate the translation of research discoveries into potential new treatments to protect and regenerate hearing and/or silence tinnitus. It funds projects at both academic institutions and small/medium enterprises in any country.

### **Why supporting the development of treatments for hearing loss and tinnitus is important**

There are almost half a billion people in the world with disabling hearing loss and 1.1 billion young people (aged between 12 to 35 years old) are at risk of losing their hearing due to recreational noise ([WHO, 2018 \(https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/deafness-and-hearing-loss\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/deafness-and-hearing-loss))).

The evidence for the link between hearing loss and debilitating conditions like dementia is strengthening (Livingston, G et al (2017) [The Lancet \(https://www.thelancet.com/commissions/dementia2017\)](https://www.thelancet.com/commissions/dementia2017))).

1 in 7 adults have tinnitus. However, there are currently no registered treatments that protect and/or restore hearing or silence tinnitus.

We request translational research proposals that will advance the development of small molecule, gene or cell-based therapeutics for

the treatment of hearing disorders, including tinnitus.

We want to support:

- research with a strong commercial potential that is likely to attract follow-on funding at the conclusion of the grant
- studies that will facilitate and enable the progression of promising basic research towards testing in clinical trials

### Research we have funded

- [Development of a genetic therapy for DFNA9 adult-onset hearing loss](https://rnid.org.uk/hearing-research/preventing-hearing-loss/development-of-a-genetic-therapy-for-dfna9-adult-onset-hearing-loss/) (<https://rnid.org.uk/hearing-research/preventing-hearing-loss/development-of-a-genetic-therapy-for-dfna9-adult-onset-hearing-loss/>) at Radboud University Medical Centre, Netherlands – co-funded by RNID and Fondation Pour l'Audition
- [Chronic pain – how it might help us find a treatment for tinnitus](https://rnid.org.uk/hearing-research/silencing-tinnitus/chronic-pain-how-it-might-help-us-find-a-treatment-for-tinnitus/) (<https://rnid.org.uk/hearing-research/silencing-tinnitus/chronic-pain-how-it-might-help-us-find-a-treatment-for-tinnitus/>) at King's College London, UK.
- [Developing a new therapeutic approach to treating chronic ear infections](https://rnid.org.uk/hearing-research/restoring-hearing/development-of-a-new-approach-to-treating-chronic-ear-infections/) (<https://rnid.org.uk/hearing-research/restoring-hearing/development-of-a-new-approach-to-treating-chronic-ear-infections/>) at Stanford University, USA – co-funded by RNID and Fondation Pour l'Audition
- [In vivo testing of candidate compounds for protection from aminoglycoside ototoxicity](https://europepmc.org/grantfinder/grantdetails?query=pi%3A%22%7BProfessor%7D%7BKros%7D%7BCorn%C3%A9%7D%7BC%7D%22%20gid%3A%22T6%22%20ga%3A%22RNID%22&cat=) (<https://europepmc.org/grantfinder/grantdetails?query=pi%3A%22%7BProfessor%7D%7BKros%7D%7BCorn%C3%A9%7D%7BC%7D%22%20gid%3A%22T6%22%20ga%3A%22RNID%22&cat=>) to University of Sussex, UK
- [AP-001 for the prevention of hearing loss](https://europepmc.org/grantfinder/grantdetails?query=pi%3A%22%7BDr%7D%7BGjorstrup%7D%7BPer%7D%7BP%7D%22%20gid%3A%22T11%22%20ga%3A%22RNID%22&cat=) (<https://europepmc.org/grantfinder/grantdetails?query=pi%3A%22%7BDr%7D%7BGjorstrup%7D%7BPer%7D%7BP%7D%22%20gid%3A%22T11%22%20ga%3A%22RNID%22&cat=>) to Anida Pharma, USA – co-funded by RNID and Fondation Pour l'Audition
- [Allosteric modulation of metabotropic glutamate receptor type 7 \(mGlu7\) for the treatment of hearing loss \(noise-induced and age-related hearing loss\)](https://europepmc.org/grantfinder/grantdetails?) (<https://europepmc.org/grantfinder/grantdetails?>

[query=pi%3A%22%7BDr%7D%7BCelanire%7D%7BSylvain%7D%7BS%7D%22%20gid%3A%22T5%22%20ga%3A%22RNID%22&cat=\)](#) to Pragma Therapeutics, France

## Summary of grant

### Deadline for expression of interest

Friday 31 March 2023

### Full application

16 June 2023 – by invitation only

### Duration

Up to 3 years

### Eligibility

Applicants may be from any country and may be from academic institutions and small/medium enterprises (SMEs)

### Value

Up to £300K in total, funding will not exceed £100K in one year

In the 2021 funding round, we received 16 Expressions of Interest. 8 applicants were invited to submit a full application and 2 grants were awarded.

## Applications criteria

Applications can include:

- Studies which will enable lead optimisation and/or candidate selection.

- Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics (PKPD) studies.
- Safety/toxicology studies.
- Drug repositioning/repurposing (applications must contain preliminary data supporting the proposed approach)
- Validation of therapeutic targets for the treatment of hearing loss or tinnitus (applications must contain preliminary data supporting the proposed approach).
- Studies to strengthen confidence that a target or therapeutic approach will be applicable to human hearing loss or tinnitus.
- Identification/validation of methods or outcomes\* that could be used for one or more of the following: Patient selection/stratification for clinical trials; Robust measurement of treatment responses in clinical trials.

\*These studies must support the development of a specific therapeutic. General research into outcome measures not aligned to a specific therapeutic is out of the scope of Translational Grants and should be submitted to other grant schemes offered by RNID (for example [Discovery Research Grant \(https://rnid.org.uk/hearing-research/im-a-researcher-looking-for-funding/discovery-research-grant/\)](https://rnid.org.uk/hearing-research/im-a-researcher-looking-for-funding/discovery-research-grant/)).

Applications will not be accepted in the following areas:

- Basic research into the causes and underpinning biology of hearing loss and tinnitus.
- The development of devices or software.
- The optimization of current clinical protocols.
- Health service studies.

## **Application process**

Please note that the application procedure for the Translational Research Grant has two stages: an open expression of interest stage, followed by an invitation-only full application stage.

All applications should be submitted via our online grants management system, [Flexi-Grant](https://rnid.flexigrant.com/) (<https://rnid.flexigrant.com/>). There is further guidance on Flexi-Grant about how to complete your application.

The call and guidelines for 2023 can be downloaded below:

- [2023 Translational Grant call and guidelines](https://rnid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023_RNID-Translational-Grant_Call-and-Guidelines.pdf) ([https://rnid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023\\_RNID-Translational-Grant\\_Call-and-Guidelines.pdf](https://rnid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023_RNID-Translational-Grant_Call-and-Guidelines.pdf))
- [Flexi-Grant user guide](https://rnid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/RNID-GMS-user-guide.pdf) (<https://rnid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/RNID-GMS-user-guide.pdf>)

Please [contact us](#) for an outline of the standard terms and conditions for RNID grantholders.

## **Selection procedure**

### **1. Expression of interest:**

All applicants are required to submit an Expression of Interest (open entry). The purpose of the Expression of Interest is to obtain enough information on the proposed project to enable us to understand how well the proposal aligns with the criteria of the Translational Grant scheme. These expressions of interest will be assessed by RNID charity staff and select members of the Translational Grant review panel, who will determine which applications to move forward to the full application stage.

### **2. Full application:**

Applications that successfully pass the Expression of Interest stage will be invited to submit a Full Application. All full applications will be subject to external peer review by several experts in the field, who will rate the scientific approach and translational/commercial potential of the project. Applicants will be given the opportunity to respond to external peer review feedback. Full applications, reviews and applicant responses will then be assessed by the Translational Grant Panel, who will make recommendations for funding.

In order to protect the confidentiality of the information shared with us by the applicants everyone involved in the review process of any Translational grant application is

asked to abide by our [code of conduct \(https://rnid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/ConflictOfInterestPolicy2020.pdf\)](https://rnid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/ConflictOfInterestPolicy2020.pdf) and to sign a Reviewer Agreement with confidentiality clauses.

### **2023 Review panel (subject to changes)**

- Dr Adam Babbs – Medical Research Council
- Dr Anna Kenyon – Lived Experience
- Dr Michael Kyriakides – Syncona Investment Management Ltd
- Dr Klaus Mendla – Auditus Business Consulting
- Dr Trevor Perrior – Drug Discovery Consultant
- 4 additional panel members TBC

### **Project management and reporting**

Successful Translational Grants require annual scientific and financial reporting. This ensures that the milestones are met and the project is successfully completed.

### **Europe PubMed Central (Europe PMC) and open access publications**

RNID is a member of the Europe PMC Funders' Group. We support open access publications and require RNID grant holders to make their publications open access.

Read our [open access publication policy \(https://rnid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/OpenAccessPolicy2020.pdf\)](https://rnid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/OpenAccessPolicy2020.pdf) for more information and visit the [Europe PMC website. \(http://europepmc.org/\)](http://europepmc.org/).

### **For more information**

If you would like more information about the Translational Research grant, get in touch:  
[trg@rnid.org.uk](mailto:trg@rnid.org.uk)

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## Contact RNID

If you are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus and need free confidential and impartial information and support, contact RNID.

We're open 8:30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Contact us (<https://rnid.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/>)