**Background**

With the support of an unrestricted grant from Vifor Pharma, the University of Oxford Translational Gastroenterology Unit has driven the development of HIRO, an initiative serving to link clinicians and scientists with an interest in iron research across the Oxford campus.

Iron is implicated in a broad range of disorders, including anaemia and cancer, inflammation and infection, gastrointestinal and endocrine diseases, nutrition and the microbiome, and HIRO will promote and facilitate translational iron research in these areas.

The HIRO internal fund will support projects that meet the remit and scope of this Initiative. There will be two funding calls in the first year, then annual calls according to funds, aiming to support a range of projects from across the University. We expect to support up to 10 projects per year. The Management Committee, comprising members of the Translational Gastroenterology Unit, Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, Immunology Network and the NHS, will be responsible for allocating the funding.

**Remit and scope**

Projects will need to demonstrate a fit with one or more of the following HIRO strategic priorities:

1. Excellent, novel, human-focussed translational iron research
2. Cross-disciplinary and cross-departmental research
3. Research for patient benefit

Projects can aim to generate preliminary data or build on existing research. Projects should be no longer than 12 months duration. Applications from early-stage career researchers are particularly welcomed. Staff costs are not eligible.

Awards are limited to a maximum of £15,000.

**Eligibility**

Researchers at all levels within the University of Oxford are encouraged to apply.

**Costing and match funding**

Applications will need to demonstrate a clear case for how HIRO support will provide significant insight to a research question and by doing so, generate impactful research output. Matching funding is especially encouraged. Projects are expected to be between 6 and 12 months in duration and awards made in October 2018 will start on 1st January 2019. This will allow rapid assessment of the benefit of HIRO to aid future sustainability.

**How to apply**

Please email a completed application form to Georgina Kerr ([georgina.kerr@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:georgina.kerr@medsci.ox.ac.uk)) before the deadline. The application should include information about the lead applicant and any co-applicants or editors, a lay summary, a financial breakdown of your proposal and a case for support. The requested elements of the case for support are as follows;

* A 250-word abstract of the proposal requesting HIRO funding.
* Research objectives and proposed outcomes**,**including information about proposed development milestones and potential next steps following completion of the project to include, for example, sources of follow on funding, plans for commercialisation.
* Please append a one-page CV for each applicant and co-applicant

**Management Committee**

John Ryan

Hal Drakesmith

Simon Travis

Paul Klenerman

Georgina Kerr

5 October 2018