

THE FREE FOUNDATION

MAKING A WORLD WITHOUT SCARS A REALITY



**CONFLICT WOUND RESEARCH
SMALL PROJECT GRANT CALL**

APPLICATION PACK



The Scar Free Foundation is pleased to offer 'small grant' funding, for early stage, preliminary or exploratory research that could lead to major grant applications, in priority areas of Conflict Wound Research. A total of £150,000 is available.

This call is funded by the Chancellor using LIBOR Funds.

INTRODUCTION

The Scar Free Foundation is a medical research charity whose mission is to achieve scar free healing within a generation and transform the lives of those affected by disfiguring conditions. Founded in 1999 as the Healing Foundation, we have supported over £20 million of life-changing research into wound healing.

Conflict Wound Research is one of several areas, including burns and cleft lip/palate research which the Foundation invests in to deliver its Scar Free Strategy.

BACKGROUND TO THE CALL

In Spring 2019, The Scar Free Foundation Centre for Conflict Wound Research hosted an international Research Symposium, the purpose of which was to shape future research priorities, which if addressed, will help improve the lives of retired, serving and future Armed Forces personnel affected by conflict wounds.

Attendees at the symposium included clinicians, scientists, representatives from Armed Forces support charities and members of the CASEVAC Club, a combat wounded community who are currently supporting studies conducted at The Scar Free Foundation Centre for Conflict Wound Research.

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PRIORITY AREAS

Following presentations and facilitated discussion the following priority areas emerged:

THEME 1: Acute wound care and diagnosis

- What tools or protocols could be developed to assist the objective assessment, rapid diagnosis and categorisation of conflict wounds?
- What steps can be taken to mitigate secondary injury prior to casualty recovery from conflict zones, for example tools to aid the detection of sepsis?
- What treatments, such as 'magic ingredient' wound dressings, should be developed for use in austere conflict and humanitarian environments?
- Considering the possible nature and environment of future conflicts, which models would best inform acute wound care research?

THEME 2: The biology of scarring

- What is the best suite of models to investigate high energy complex injuries? How can we make the best use of humans as models including the preparedness for future conflict/events? (How can the research community engage with the regulatory community to facilitate this work?)
- What can we learn from other fields either for therapeutics or the understanding/monitoring of biology, for example imaging and bioengineering?
- What work should be undertaken to develop our understanding of the wound microbiome?
- How can we understand the long-term effects of relevant injuries for example accelerated aging and the influence of psychology on biology?

THEME 3: Life-long scar impact, revision and rehabilitation

- How do we ensure the best psychosocial outcomes for military personnel with conflict injuries that have altered their appearance, and their families?
- What is the physiological, life-long impact of limb amputation and prosthetic use?
- What is the role of physiotherapy and other treatments such as laser therapy in breaking down disabling, internal scar tissue and supporting return to function?

We are now seeking applications for small projects which address the symposium priorities. Applications which do not address any of the above areas will not be considered.





HOW TO APPLY

We are specifically looking for short-term, small-scale projects which could generate data to underpin more substantial research projects/programmes, funded in the future by The Scar Free Foundation or other funding bodies. Projects may include systematic reviews, pilot, feasibility or other studies.

Funding can be used to cover salaries, equipment, travel, consumables, open access publication, dissemination and public involvement costs.

Applicants are asked to complete a Scar Free Foundation Project Grant Application Form, available to download at scarfree.org.uk/research.

We will consider grants of between £10,000-£50,000.

Projects should be of up to 24 months in duration and must take place in the UK.

Projects that could lead to significant research that addresses the longer-term, physiological and psychological impact of conflict wounds and scarring upon current and future military veterans will be especially welcomed in this round.

Applicants are asked to submit a project grant application form to Eleanor Carden, Research Officer eleanor@scarfree.org.uk by 8 May 2020 by 5pm

TIMETABLE

Call for Applications Opens	9 March 2020
Deadline	8 May 2020 by 5pm
Peer Review	11 May-19 June 2020
Review Recommendations Ratified by Scar Free Foundation Board of Trustees	2 July 2020
Applicants Notified	W/c 6 July 2020

If you have any questions regarding the call, please contact Charlotte Coates, Head of Research Funds, Charlotte@scarfree.org.uk

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