**Sir Jules Thorn Award for Biomedical Research 2024/25**

**Summary of Guidelines (full guidelines can be found** [**here**](https://julesthorntrust.org.uk/programmes/medical-research/the-sir-jules-thorn-award-for-biomedical-research/)**):**

***General information***

* Only **one** bid can be selected by internal competition. The project must include research involving patients.
* The Award has a value of up to £1.7 million to support a five-year original programme of translational biomedical research. The Award enables successful applicants to pursue their own independent research programme.

***Eligibility***

* The proposal must be led by a single, clearly identified Principal Applicant of outstanding quality in the early years of an established research and academic career. The Trust is flexible in defining this and acknowledges that exceptional researchers may not follow a conventional career path or may have taken time away from research for professional or personal reasons.
* Not prescriptive, but the focus of the Award means shortlisted candidates have typically:
  + Held posts at Senior Lecturer or Reader level or, in some cases, have recently been appointed to a professorial post.
  + Have held fellowships or comparable awards supported by similarly competitive funders at an earlier stage in their careers.
  + Established a strong track record of independent research, previously supported by competitive, peer-reviewed fellowships from funders such as Wellcome Trust, UKRI, or NIHR.
* There may only be one Principal Applicant per application.
* The work set out in the proposal must be a major commitment for the Principal Applicant; **comprising at least 50% of their research time**.
* The award may not be used to meet the salary costs of the Principal Applicant who should be in institutionally funded posts for the duration of the grant. There is no NHS support and no FEC.
* There must be visible strategic commitment to the research by the host institution.

***Scope***

* Applications, which meet the eligibility criteria, may be in any discipline or disease area. Studies may, for example, include:
  + significant proposals which could lead to improved diagnosis and/or prognostic methods and to new treatments.
  + concept validation
  + intervention trials
* The following types of proposal do well at review:
  + A research programme that will be transformative and will make a very distinctive contribution.
  + A clear timescale and trajectory in terms of how the research will benefit patients – this can be longer than the 5 years that is covered by the Award but the pathway must be clear.
  + The project should address a defined unmet need in a clinical group for which there will be a practical outcome.
  + The Sir Jules Thorn Trist accepts projects with an element of risk if it is well planned for, in order to reach ground-breaking outcomes.
* Applicants should avoid the following:
  + A research programme that focuses only on clinical application (i.e., clinical trial) or only mechanistic/pre-clinical work.
* There must be a clear specification of the hypothesis based on pre-clinical experimental data supporting the rationale of the clinical study, arising from the applicant’s own work (not derivative of someone else’s observations). Further work to support the hypothesis in the early phase of the grant or to substantiate questions arising from clinical experiments may be supported by experimental animal models.
* Applications must cover the following points (for full list see guidelines):
  + All proposal must be based on appropriate bio-statistical analysis.
  + The project **must include research involving patients.**
  + It must set out a clear strategy defining how the research will translate into benefits for patients and the timescale within which this will take place.

**Expressions of Interest**

Nominated candidates are asked to submit the following:

* **2000-word** summary of the proposed research, explaining why it would be suitable for a translational study, the timescale for clinical applicability, the unmet need which is to be investigated and how the research will meet that need.  The summary should include a word count.
* **250-word** abstract of the proposed project.
* Short statements (150 words each) explaining how the Principal Applicant meets the person specification and how they will meet the required time commitment.
* A short statement (400 words max.) providing evidence of the impact of the Principal Applicant’s previous work, and the institutional resources supporting the research.
* Key references (maximum of 30) supporting the proposed research.  Each reference to include PubMed ID number, title, name of first author and number of citations to date.
* A short CV of the Principal Applicant, including major publications relevant to the application, a list of current grant awards and a list of grant applications awaiting decision.  **The CV, publications list and grant list not to exceed 3 pages in total.**
* A single page appendix containing figures/diagrams may also be included.
* Projected costs completed on Worktribe. A copy of the Worktribe summary statement will suffice.
* An email from the Head of Department confirming their support.