



Humanimal Trust One Medicine Cancer Discovery Fund 2024

Up to £250,000

Please note this call is a 2-stage process:

- Expression of Interest (Eoi): Now open; Closing date: 5pm 29th December 2024
- Full Application: Shortlisted Eoi applicants will be invited to submit a full stage application in January 2025 (Closing date: 5pm 11th April 2025)

This guidance document covers both stages of the process.

About Humanimal Trust

[Humanimal Trust](#) is a UK-based charity established in 2014 by orthopaedic-neuro veterinary surgeon Professor Noel Fitzpatrick.

We believe that better alignment between human and veterinary clinical research could bring huge advances for healthcare of all species, while also helping to reduce the need for animal testing.

Our purpose is to drive collaboration between human and animal medical professionals, researchers and allied professions, so that all humans and animals should benefit from sustainable and equal medical progress, but not at the expense of an animal's life. This is [One Medicine](#).

We deliver our objectives through six pillars of work, termed I-CARE:

- Influence
- Collaboration
- Awareness
- Research
- Education

The Research we Fund

As part of our remit, we fund research through several key programmes, including our Connection awards, Student connection awards, small project awards, and Fellowships.

We use these projects to build collaboration and connections between human and veterinary professionals, to improve research links between the two disciplines, and to push forward the ethos of One Medicine. Our existing research programmes broadly cover the following key areas:

- Infectious diseases (prevention, treatment and control) & AMR
- Oncology
- Musculoskeletal Disorders
- Neurology and Neurosurgery
- Regenerative medicine

- Use of new approach methods (NAMs) in human and veterinary medical collaboration
- Potentially other projects which support the concept of One Medicine (e.g. cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive health etc.)

Our new **One Medicine Cancer Discovery Fund** will sit alongside and complement our existing research programmes, helping us to achieve our overarching objective.

Rationale for the Humanimal Trust One Medicine Cancer Discovery Fund

Cancer does not discriminate between species. Approximately 1 in 4 dogs, 1 in 3 cats, and as many as 1 in 2 humans will develop cancer during their lifetime¹.

Tumour biology, development, and prognosis can be remarkably similar between humans and animals for some types of cancer. Additionally, humans and companion animals also live in the same environments, and may share similar lifestyles. These and other factors open up huge opportunities for cross-discipline knowledge sharing and learning between human and veterinary researchers and clinicians in cancer research.

The integration of 'natural' or 'spontaneous' disease data from companion animals into clinical development programmes has the potential to accelerate clinical and drug development research for all species². These incentives have already been recognised in the field of comparative oncology, and with initiatives such as the [NIH Comparative Oncology Programme](#) and the [Integrated Canine Data Commons](#).

Yet despite the success of these initiatives, the concept of One Medicine is not yet routinely used to progress cancer research. Thus, we have launched the **One Medicine Cancer Discovery Fund (OMCDF)** to encourage positive change in this area.

Call Details and Scope

The aim of the One Medicine Cancer Discovery Fund is to create collaborative multi-disciplinary partnerships and projects that can change landscape of cancer research.

The call is a 2-stage process that consists of an initial Expression of Interest (EoI), with shortlisted applicants being invited to the full application stage. The EoI submissions will be reviewed by the Humanimal Trust Science Committee, and successful applicants will be notified in January 2025, and invited to submit a full application. Please read this guidance carefully prior to making your submission.

We particularly wish to use this programme to facilitate a move toward maximising the potential of using data from naturally occurring cancers in patients of different species and New Approach Methodologies (NAMs), as associated pre-clinical methods of discovery.

The OMCDF of up to £250,000 is partly modelled on the [NIH Comparative Oncology Programme](#), with extended emphasis on reciprocity. Awarded projects must ensure that both human and veterinary patients can benefit.

The scope of the fund is broad, and we encourage high-quality research across any type of cancer, covering a wide-range of scientific and clinical fields.

We will especially consider applications for funding covering the following areas:

- Research aiming to improve early cancer diagnosis
- Research aiming to improve understanding of cancer disease biology
- Research aiming to develop new cancer treatments or improve existing treatments

- Research aiming to improve quality of life for humans and animals with cancer.

Applications will be assessed for scientific quality, value for money and achievability by our [Science Committee](#), and also for clear relevance to both human and animal patients affected by cancer.

It is important to emphasise that applications must clearly meet the One Medicine principle: the research must benefit patients in both human and veterinary clinical settings. The proposed partnerships and potential for future ongoing collaborations will also be assessed as part of the review process. All applications must have a real-world impact, and bring together a multi-disciplinary mix of professionals (human and animal health professionals must be included in all applications).

Humanimal Trust will be willing to support collaborative workshops as part of the project. If you are interested in engaging in such workshop, please use the contact e-mail below.

The 2024 funding round is focused on UK applicants only, but an international advisory partner can be included within the application. Please contact us if you wish to utilise this option.

Funding Criteria

Humanimal Trust is aware that readily available collaborations of this sort may not exist in the UK, and as such, we envisage that a proportion of the funds could be utilised on building effective collaborative partnerships/networks (up to 6 months of the total duration). Research assistant work can also be included within the fund.

Project duration: 3 to 5 years (or less)

The following types of cost can be included within the application (please note maximum for specified categories):

- Collaborative partnership development (up to £15,000)
- Research Assistant (up to £100,000)
- Small proportion of academic/PI/CI salary costs (up to £50,000 across the entire grant)
- Consumables/research costs
- Open access fees and dissemination cost (up to £10,000)
- Grant contributions to third-party organisations (max £5,000 to 10,000 per award)
- Travel cost (up to £5,000, overall)

We **do not** fund the following:

- Any project which involves the use of experimental animal models
- Service provision or audit studies
- Higher education fees, unless within the specific criteria for post-doc funding
- Course fees for degrees or subsistence costs
- Medical, dental or veterinary electives
- Indirect costs such as administrative or other overheads imposed by an institution
- Advertising for and recruiting staff
- General appeals from other charities. Specific research funding proposals from charity research teams may be considered as part of the standard peer review process
- Clinical or non-clinical staff training

- Very basic research with little likelihood of clinical impact in the short- to medium-term.
- Large equipment (equipment over £10K, any equipment purchased as part of the grant must have a clear plan for future use and maintenance).

The Expression of Interest (EoI) should include a figure for the total funding amount being requested, but does not require a full cost breakdown. However, applicants are advised to ensure that the figure stated on the EoI is close to any subsequent figures submitted on the full application.

Please note: Although we do not fund research which involves the use of experimental animal models, we will accept proposals from institutions which undertake other work involving the use of experimental animal models. However, in these cases, we do require a guarantee that the work we are being asked to fund is in no way connected to any experimental animal model work in the same institution.

Further Funding Considerations

Research organisations:

- The host research organisation must be a UK-based higher education institution, research institution, NHS organisation or veterinary practice/hospital
- The host institution must be responsible for the entirety of the award, including administration of the award, setting up collaboration agreements and compliance with conditions of the award and all relevant guidance and regulations.

Lead applicant:

- The lead applicant must have an institutional affiliation with a higher education institution in the UK, a veterinary practice, the NHS or a private medical institution/practice based in the UK
- The lead applicant should be able to demonstrate evidence of a strong research record, with experience to drive and lead a research project which addresses your proposed research questions
- The lead applicant must have an ability to lead teams, and manage multidisciplinary collaborations.

All applicants must be employed by the host organisation for the duration of the grant.

Responsibility of Research Organisations

By submitting a proposal to Humanimal Trust, a research organisation indicates their formal acceptance of the proposal, their acceptance of the terms and conditions of Humanimal Trust award, and the approval of the salaries and resources sought.

Submission also signifies that the research organisation accepts the terms and conditions and any award-specific terms and conditions, as specified on the award letter, for the entire life of the award. Administrative authorities have responsibility for ensuring that the salaries and resources cited in the proposals are sufficient to undertake the proposed research, to

attract sufficiently experienced and skilled staff, represent good value for money, and ensure outputs are publicly shared (e.g. via Open Access publication, raw data repositories).

Financial and Justification of Resources

Humanimal Trust will not at this stage fund any indirect costs. Indirect costs are defined by [UK Research and Innovation](#) as:

“Costs that include non-specific costs charged across all projects based on estimates that are not otherwise included as directly allocated costs. They include the costs of the research organisation’s administration such as personnel, finance, library and some departmental services.”

Directly incurred costs (with the exception of salaries) will be accepted, as will directly allocated costs. Salary costs of up to 20% (of total of the application) falling into the directly allocated category will be accepted.

All costs must be justified within the application.

Charity-funded veterinary and medical research in the UK is generally VAT exempt. Should any purchases that would attract VAT be part of the application, the applicant must obtain a VAT Exemption Certificate.

Ethical Considerations

All projects must be set up and conducted in line with relevant regulations and ethical guidelines for conducting research. Where required projects must be approved by relevant ethical committee (e.g. research involving human participants must be at minimum reviewed by the Health Research Authority and Research Ethics committee, depending on the type of research conducted, MHRA authorisation must also be in place as well as required HTA licence and HRA/UREC approval, and institutional review approvals). Detailed ethical considerations must be submitted as part of the application process. No funds will be released until relevant regulatory and ethical approvals are in place.

Patient and Public Involvement

Humanimal Trust would like to encourage both Patient Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) and Public Guardian Involvement and Engagement (PGIE).

We understand that although the PPIE concept is well-established in human medical research, it is not yet fully recognised in veterinary research practice.

Nevertheless, we would encourage applicants to consider the [UK Standards for Public Involvement](#) and where possible provide an additional document on consideration of PPIE and PGIE as part of their application.

How to Apply

Stage 1: Expression of Interest (EOI)

All **EOI applicants** are required to submit the following to iva@humanimaltrust.org.uk by 5pm **29th December 2024**:

- Cover letter (maximum of 2 pages)
- EOI application form
- CV of the lead applicant

Stage 2: Full application

Shortlisted applicants (EoI stage) **will be notified in January 2025** and invited to submit full application by the end of **11 April 2025**.

All invited applicants are required to submit the following to iva@humanimaltrust.org.uk:

- Cover letter (max. of 2 pages), which supports the project and justification for the application
- Application form (includes case for support)
- CV of the lead applicant and all co-applicants
- Gantt chart of projected schedule with milestones and timelines for work
- Any regulatory approvals already in place
- Support letter from the lead institution and any collaborating institutions
- Any declarations of conflict of interest
- Statement of PPIE and PGIE considerations

If you have any questions about the application process or your eligibility to apply, please contact Iva Hauptmannova (iva@humanimaltrust.org.uk)

References

1. Data from the American Veterinary Association and [Cancer Research UK](#) (for UK adults born after 1960), accessed on July.2024
2. Fenger JM, Eward W, Hendricks W, McNiel E, Johannes C, *et al.* (2020). Delivering Innovation to Oncology Drug Development through Cancer Drug DISCO (Development Incentive Strategy Using Comparative Oncology): Perspectives, Gaps and Solutions. *Ann med clin Oncol* 3: 120. DOI: 10.29011/AMCO-120.000120