



ACB COVID Scientific Committee Scholarships 2020 supported by Abbott

Guidance for applicants

1.0 Document Control information

Date	Initials	Changes	Accepted

2.0 Purpose of scholarships

- 2.1 The purpose of the scholarships is to support high-quality, original, ethical research and innovation in Clinical Biochemistry, Microbiology or Immunology.
- 2.2 Although scholarships are mainly aimed at Trainees in Clinical Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology, any member-in-good-standing of the Association may apply.
- 2.3 Scholarships will be most likely to be awarded to projects with the greatest potential for positive impact on patient outcomes in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2.4 The committee also wishes to recognise and support projects where there is a high likelihood that there will be high-quality

publication or publications to underpin the generalisability of results and make the benefits of the research available to a wider population of patients.

- 2.5 The Committee will also look favourably on research that encourages collaboration between the public and the private sector.

3.0 Eligibility

- 3.1 Eligibility is restricted to members of the Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine
- 3.2 Non-members of the Association may not apply
- 3.3 Applications from members with unpaid membership fees at the time of application or consideration by the Scientific Committee will be rejected without further consideration

Enquiries relating to membership should be directed to the ACB Member Services & IT Administrator, Mike Lester (mike@acb.org.uk)

4.0 Amount of support available

- 4.1 Funds of up to £50,000 are currently available with a limit of £20,000 for each application. It is anticipated that 3 to 5 projects will receive a scholarship. The final number of projects supported is dependent on the amount of support requested and is the responsibility of the Scientific Committee.
- 4.2 Grants must be claimed within 3 calendar months of the date on the letter from the ACB Office confirming the award offer.
- 4.3 The decision of the Scientific Committee is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

5.0 Approved uses for financial support

- 5.1 Support may be used for necessary equipment, reagents, calibrators, controls and consumables
- 5.2 Support is **not** available for salaries or staffing or labour costs
- 5.3 Support is **not** available for travel, accommodation or subsistence costs- however a separate application to the CP Stewart award would be considered for this purpose if required to aid the project.

6.0 Criteria against which applications will be judged

- 6.1 Surviving applications will be judged primarily according to the following criteria:
 - 6.1.1 Does the study address an important clinical problem relating to COVID-19 or SARS-CoV-2?
 - 6.1.2 Has the applicant clearly explained the knowledge gap that this research will address?
 - 6.1.3 Are the aims clear?
 - 6.1.4 Are the aims realistic?
 - 6.1.5 Is the methodology capable of answering the questions posed? this is the most important section and most clearly state how the project will answer the questions posed.
 - 6.1.6 You may wish to consider where appropriate
 - 6.1.6.1 Statistical Methods
 - 6.1.6.2 Clinical Material
 - 6.1.6.3 Technical procedures
 - 6.1.6.4 Ethical approval matters
 - 6.1.7 Are there other compelling reasons why the study should / should not be supported? For example, the study may be multi-disciplinary or across multiple centres. If you are seeking or have secured additional funding, please explain clearly what proportion of the study this Scholarship will cover.
 - 6.1.8 Have the applicants described and justified the likely impact of their study on patient outcomes and/or patient experience relating to COVID-19 or SARS-CoV-2

7.0 Timelines

- 7.1 Applications will be sent for consideration independently by all members of the scientific committee in the month following the deadline.
- 7.2 The aim is to inform applicants of the funding outcome shortly after this date.
- 7.3 The project should be able to report finding- or initial findings for follow up within 12 months of commencement.

8.0 Acknowledgement

- 8.1 Successful applicants are required to acknowledge ACB funding in any spoken or written presentation and may be invited to present Data at the ACB national meetings.
- 8.2 Applicant should inform the Scientific committee on progress of the work, with a formal update at 6 months and at completion.
- 8.3 Applicants should be prepared to work with the ACB and its commercial partner in this scholarship on the promotion and publication of findings.