

BMA Research Grants



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The BMA was among the first of the professional bodies to award grants and prizes to encourage and further medical research. Today, approximately 10 research grants totalling £500,000 are awarded each year under the auspices of the Board of Science, all funded by past bequests to the BMA. SciEd has the responsibility for day-to-day administration of the research grants (including financial and grant investments) on behalf of the Board and the BMA.

The grants are advertised each year and applications are invited from medical practitioners and/or research scientists. Adverts indicating which grants are available for the coming year are placed in the *British Medical Journal* and also on the BMA website (www.bma.org.uk/researchgrants) from September each year. The online application system opens in December, and the deadline for submitting applications is early-March. All grants fund basic or clinical medical research and cover diverse research areas from heart disease to schizophrenia to cancer.

Full details of these awards, subject specifications and application timetables can be found on the BMA website or by contacting info.sciencegrants@bma.org.uk



“I cannot overestimate the help that this award was able to contribute in the progress of our work... It allowed me to go on and obtain further grants... resulted in two publications and led to many others.”



Professor Jill Belch, previous winner of the Doris Hillier Grant

Interesting fact

In the 19th and early part of the 20th century, the most common grant requests were for the purchase of scientific equipment such as microscopes. More unusual equipment purchases included, in 1876, £40 to Dr William Rutherford to purchase a small steam engine for use in artificial respiration.

The BMA Science and Education Department (SciEd)

The professional work of the BMA is managed through the Directorate of Professional Activities and its Board. The work we do is designed to make it easier for doctors to get on with being the best doctors they can be, providing excellence in care to their patients and through health promotion/ill-health protection to the population at large.

SciEd sits with the Directorate of Professional Activities and is responsible for the following areas:

- **Board of Science**
- **Equality and Diversity Committee**
- **Patient Liaison Group**
- **BMA Research Grants**

Our committees maintain an influential role in forming public and government opinion on a range of health-related topics. We analyse and review critical matters of interest to the profession, and to the public, and seek to influence government policy makers with evidence-based recommendations for action. We monitor government legislation and consultations, and lobby for changes to

address inequalities in health and healthcare, as well as doctors' training and career opportunities.

We produce information resources and guidance notes for members and every year we award grants under the auspices of the Board of Science for ongoing or prospective medical research.

Policy reports are usually available as PDF files on the BMA website and published hard copy.

Information resources and guidance for members are primarily web-based and include extensive signposting to other sources of information.

How to contact us

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“The rhinovirus studies led to the identification of viruses being a major cause of asthma exacerbations and the identification of a defect in interferon-beta production, thereby reducing the innate immune system response to viruses. This discovery has led to the development of inhaled beta-interferon as a new treatment for virus induced exacerbations.”

Professor S Holgate, previous winner of the HC Roscoe Overseas Fellowship

The project funded by Margaret Temple represented one of the most important milestones in my career so far. It allowed me to train alongside distinguished world-class clinical academics in an extremely stimulating, motivating scientific environment.

Dr Mie Rizig, previous winner of the Margaret Temple grant

Scientifically novel and extremely interesting data were obtained that have been published in the highest ranking nephrology journals. I have been invited to give talks at international meetings. Our data is quoted in international policy documents on the management of children with chronic kidney disease... I have set up three further research studies and successfully obtained two more grants on the basis of the original work.

Dr Rukshana Shroff, previous winner of the Eyck and Strutt Grant

The findings from this project have directly resulted in me being able to continue with research and have contributed towards my current academic post... I have since obtained a research fellowship from the British Lung Foundation and a further research fellowship from The Wellcome Trust.

Dr Sejal Saglani, previous winner of the James Trust



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