

NIHR Imperial Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics (ITMAT)

CALL FOR EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE PROPOSALS

Frequently Asked Questions

Q) What is ITMAT?

The Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics (ITMAT) at NIHR Imperial Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) is virtual institute built upon core facilities across the College and Trust. Its aim is to support the acceleration of fundamental discoveries into improvements in human health and economic benefit. ITMAT includes platforms in genomic (and metagenomic), metabonomic and imaging technologies and health informatics, as well as the NIHR Wellcome Trust Imperial Clinical Research Facility (ICRF) and one of the largest tissue collections in Europe. ITMAT offers BRC co-funding for proof-of-concept studies across the translational divide, and postgraduate programmes at the interface of basic and clinical sciences. The Institute particularly promotes multidisciplinary research, pulling through biomedical applications from engineering and physical sciences discovery science, and strategic commercial partnerships. More information about the core platforms of ITMAT is detailed in Annex 1 of the call text.

Q) If ITMAT runs calls for proposals, is there an ITMAT Committee? And where does this lie in the overall Imperial College and Trust structure?

Yes, there is an ITMAT Management Committee which reports into the AHSC Research Committee. The Committee membership includes leads for each of the core technology platforms, directors of key NIHR/DH infrastructure within the Imperial AHSC, and representatives from the Faculties of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

Q) Is the £1M for this call deducted from the Themes' yearly budget?

No. The budget for ITMAT represents an additional funding opportunity offered to Themes.

Q) What does ITMAT constitute as experimental medicine?

It's important to remember that the NIHR Imperial BRC exists to drive translation of research findings into clinical benefits for patients. The experimental medicine studies you propose to this call are to take place within Imperial College London and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust. Applications may seek to identify, characterise or qualify potential therapeutic targets or candidate diagnostic markers, or to provide proof-of-principal data for efficacy of intervention through a particular target, but it is not mandatory for an application to include work to identify a tractable lead compound.

Q) Can I include co-applicants from outside of Imperial?

Only applicants with a substantive contract of employment with either Imperial College London or Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust (ICHNT) may be Principal Investigators. Applicants who have an Imperial College substantive employment contract, but who may also have a clinical appointment with the Royal Brompton & Harefield or Chelsea & Westminster Hospitals are eligible. Please consult the BRC Office if you have any questions about affiliation, eligibility or use of funds.

Q) Do I have to use one or more of the ITMAT facilities in this application?

Yes, this call for projects is specifically designed to facilitate access to those facilities and to make best use of BRC investment in these core platforms.

Q) Is it necessary to speak with the relevant ITMAT facility managers before I submit?

Yes, we strongly advise you to consult with the relevant ITMAT facility leads/managers before submitting, to obtain clarification in terms of project feasibility, capacity and capability of existing technologies, support and expertise that will be provided by the facilities, and delivery within the proposed timescale. These are listed in Annex 1 of the call guidance document.

Q) Can I include animal research in my proposal?

No. As these projects will be supported only by NIHR Imperial BRC funds the projects cannot include animal research.

Q) Who reviews my application?

The ITMAT Management Committee will review your application and their funding recommendations will be ratified at the AHSC Research Committee.

Q) Will there be further calls for proposals?

Yes, the aim is to have similar calls for proposals every year.

Please don't hesitate to contact brcofficer@imperial.ac.uk if you have any questions about this call.