



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

The Royal College of Pathologists Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme 2023

Introduction

The Royal College of Pathologists has a critical role to play in raising awareness and understanding of the role of pathologists and aims to achieve this through the delivery of a public engagement programme. The Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme was introduced as a result of feedback from College Fellows, to give financial support for delivery of a range of pathology-related events throughout the UK. Grants of up to £1,000 are available for individuals or organisations to help with the delivery of pathology activities or events.

There is one funding opportunity available each year and applications will close on **1 July 2023**. All projects funded through the 2023 scheme must be completed by **31 July 2024**.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the public engagement team prior to submitting an application. The team will be able to offer practical support in terms of help, advice and resources and will be happy to discuss potential project ideas. They will also be able to put you in touch with pathologists who may be willing to be involved in your project. You can contact the team via email on publicengagement@rcpath.org or by phone on 020 7451 6717.

Objectives

The Innovation Grant Scheme aims to:

- Inspire innovative and creative pathology-related public engagement projects and activities
- Raise public awareness of, and engagement with, pathology, in particular with those who would not normally engage with the topic
- Develop the science communication skills of pathologists and laboratory scientists
- Stimulate discussion about pathology between pathologists and the public in order to motivate, inspire and enthuse both parties about the value of pathology and its role in prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

Eligibility

The Innovation Grant Scheme is open to all who wish to develop pathology-related public engagement activities or events. However, all proposals must include the involvement of pathologists and/or laboratory scientists as a key part of the activity. The College will make every effort to put applicants in touch with practising scientists so that you can collaborate with them on your proposal. Applications from Fellows of the College, researchers in academia or industry, community groups and libraries are particularly welcome.



Criteria

Applications will be judged against the following criteria and should clearly demonstrate:

- That the project is pathology-based and explores underlying concepts and issues, rather than just providing information
- That the project involves the input and involvement of pathologists or laboratory scientists, ideally who are Members of the College. The public engagement team can help identify local pathologists to collaborate with if required
- Awareness of public interest and concerns, including the relevance of the project to the target audience(s). Pathology has an important role in public healthcare. Applications which explore the importance of pathology for the living are encouraged
- Timeliness and relevance. Projects linking pathology to external events in the wider community (e.g. anniversaries, local festivals) are welcome
- Targeting of specific audiences. Projects that target traditionally hard-to-reach groups (e.g. ethnic minorities, geographically isolated communities), secondary school students, medical students and independent adults are encouraged
- Clear project objectives and the potential to make an impact on the target audience. Projects which demonstrate imaginative ways of engaging new audiences with pathology are encouraged
- Evidence of adequate and appropriate publicity to attract the target audience
- Evidence of appropriate evaluation of the project/activity
- Cost effectiveness. Every effort should be made to ensure that the lowest costs possible are achieved. If commercial activities are to be bought in then justification of this need should be evidenced
- Value for money. Applications which use innovative ideas to create effective engagement at low cost are encouraged
- That the activity is dependent on College funding or that it adds a significant element

Exclusions

Grants will not be awarded to:

- Cover the cost for project staff who receive a full-time salary from their organisation or employer
- Cover the cost of projects which are part of an organisation's usual programme of activities
- Cover the cost of general purpose hardware, apparatus or equipment such as digital cameras, computers etc., unless it is shown to be an integral part of the project, will be used beyond the project's lifetime to communicate pathology and does not make up the majority of the project costs

- Cover the cost of development of resources similar to those which are already provided through the College's Public Engagement programme

Conditions

If successful, the awardee of the grant must:

- Undertake the activity by 31 July 2024
- Acknowledge The Royal College of Pathologists on all materials, websites and social media relating to the project/activity as well as at the activity itself
- Communicate with the College regarding the date(s) and plans for the project. The College will work with the awardee, as required, to develop the idea and help ensure that the project is successful and achieves its objectives
- Provide an evaluation report of the project within six weeks of the activity taking place; this should include any press cuttings. A template for writing can be provided from the College public engagement team [on request](#).
- Write an article, to include high res. photos, about the project/activity for inclusion in *The Bulletin*, the College's magazine, or on the College's blog page (guidance on deadlines and writing style will be provided by the public engagement team as soon as possible after grants are awarded).

Application process

Application forms can be downloaded as a Word document from the [RCPath website](#). Completed forms should be submitted electronically. They should be emailed to: publicengagement@rcpath.org with the subject line '**Public Engagement Grant Application**'.

Applications must be received by 23:59 on 1 July 2023.

If you are unable to email your application for some reason please call the public engagement team on 020 7451 6717 to discuss sending your application by post.

Incomplete forms will NOT be considered. Please do not attach any supplementary material with your application.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the application guidelines and contact the public engagement team for informal advice and guidance prior to submitting an application. The team can be contacted on 020 7451 6717 or publicengagement@rcpath.org

Judging process

The panel of judges will review all applications and all applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within one month of the closing date. All activities/projects must be completed by 31 July 2024. Note the judging panel may decide to award shortlisted projects a lower amount than the total requested in their application. Where this is the case the full rationale for the decision on the amount of money being awarded, as well as the offer of a discussion with the College's public engagement manager about the project, will be provided.

The panel of judges will be made up of:

- RCPATH Vice President of Communications
- RCPATH Director of Publishing and Engagement
- Karen Davies, Head of Learning, Science Museum