

# US-Ireland R&D Partnership

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***Guidance Notes for  
applicants from  
Northern Ireland for  
US-Ireland  
Partnership Awards***

**These Guidance Notes  
supplement guidance  
on the US-Ireland  
Partnership available  
from the R&D Office**

**April 2007**

## **Guidance Notes for applicants from Northern Ireland for US-Ireland Partnership Awards**

The US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership arose out of a US-Ireland business summit which took place in September 2002. The US-Ireland R&D taskforce was established to explore high level, world class research collaborations between centres of excellence in Ireland (North and South) and the United States. The taskforce agreed that based on the research strengths and priorities in the island of Ireland and the United States, the priorities emerging as part of the knowledge based global economy and the potential for knowledge and technology transfer in support of public good and economic development, it would be appropriate to focus on the broad areas of information and communication technology. The R&D Office leads the Northern Ireland contribution in biotechnology. It was agreed that in biotechnology, potential and existing synergies exist in diabetes and cystic fibrosis. Further items may be added at a later stage.

The potential benefits of the proposed US-Ireland collaboration identified by taskforce are:

- The bringing together of world class scientists on both parts of the island of Ireland in a shared vision on collaboration that has previously been lacking.
- An increased focus on research areas which all parties have identified as strategic priorities.
- The opportunity for the best scientific researchers in Ireland (North and South) to collaborate with their counterparts in the United States through linkages with the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the best facilities in the world. This opportunity will extend to research students and scientists embarking upon research careers.
- Access to the more fully developed technology on knowledge transfer programmes in the US, linking the research base with its exploitation for economic and public good.
- The opportunity for government agencies, businesses and academics in the island of Ireland to work with their leading counterparts in the US to protect and exploit the outcomes of joint research, leading to joint business ventures between Ireland (North and South) and the US and to enhancements in health promotion disease prevention and healthcare.
- The establishment of a small scale facilitated mechanism in Ireland (North and South), attached perhaps to an existing organisation, to organise and support the interaction of researchers and the social and commercial exploitation of research in the priority areas.

Resulting from discussions at the Steering Group meetings and workshops that have been held, it has been decided to proceed with joint applications on Diabetes and Cystic Fibrosis. Joint proposals involving leading researchers from the three jurisdictions will be submitted under the existing RO1 process to the NIH for funding (see NIH website). NIH will process them through its usual peer review and evaluation systems and if they are recommended for funding, each jurisdiction will fund its own part of the research. For Northern Ireland, this will be the R&D Office.

### **Process in Northern Ireland**

The R&D Office will support the Northern Ireland (NI) components of collaborative bids in clinical and translational research in diabetes and cystic fibrosis. It is expected that applicants will be Principal Investigators in existing R&D Office schemes, including those associated with the Recognised Research Groups. Applicants will have already had

contact with potential collaborators in Ireland and the United States (who must be NIH supported researchers) and have well advanced ideas on collaborative bids. These bids should have significant contributions from each of the three jurisdictions and the collaboration must add significant value to proposals above what would come from one partner alone. The US partner will submit the application to NIH.

### **Planning Grants**

The R&D Office will provide funding to allow NI researchers to attend meetings between the potential collaborators to prepare joint applications. These will only be provided where there is serious intent to submit a joint bid and not for speculative or early exploratory meetings. Potential applicants should enquire directly from the R&D Office.

### **Final Submissions**

NI applicants must contact the R&D Office at least two weeks in advance of the closing date to discuss their proposed programme of research and its funding implications and to obtain R&D Office Authorisation. Tel: 028 90553617, Fax: 028 90553674 or email ([enquiry@rdo.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiry@rdo.n-i.nhs.uk)). They will not be subject to scientific peer review but will be validated to ensure that they comply with the terms of the scheme from the R&D Office point of view.

### **Closing Dates**

The closing dates for NIH applications are on the NIH website (<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>). Applicants must comply with the requirement for pre-notification to NIH not less than 6 weeks before submission of applications for more than a total of \$500,000 in any year (<http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>).

### **Decision**

Funding decisions will be taken in parallel in the three jurisdictions. The R&D Office will notify NI applicants.

### **Funding**

The R&D Office is prepared to fund up to £200,000 per project per year for up to five years.

### **Further Information**

National Institutes of Health – Guidance for US-Ireland Northern Ireland Applications under the US-Ireland R&D Partnership

NIH websites