Pathways to Impact
Rebecca Leithall
Pathways to Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Primary resource for enabling engagement with potential beneficiaries of research</strong></th>
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<td>Available since 2009</td>
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<td>Pathways to impact should be part of the earliest consideration for a research grant</td>
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<td>Consideration of potential impact should be core to developing the proposal</td>
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A clearly thought through and acceptable pathways to impact is an essential component of a research proposal and a condition of funding.
Pathways to Impact

How do I include a request on my grant?

- The Pathways to Impact is an attachment on Je-S of a maximum of two A4 sides
- describe potential beneficiaries and how your research may impact them and how you will facilitate this.

What can I ask for?

- Any eligible project-specific resources but not general activities funded centrally
- Eligible costs include secondments, investigator time allocated to impact project activities, training (including for research assistants) and employment of specialist staff.
Pathways to Impact

**Do**

- Identify **realistic** and **achievable** impacts
- Make sure the activities and resources are as **effective** as possible
- Incorporate beneficiaries that are **relevant** and **appropriate**
- Include **clear** and **convincing** plans for impact activity

**Don’t**

- Include **unproductive** activities just to ‘tick boxes’
- Be **impractical** or **over-optimistic** about what can be achieved
- Give **vague** summaries – we expect thorough thought to have been applied and understand that plans can change
- Choose **inappropriate** or **unrelated** beneficiaries

Approximately 2.6% of our funding through responsive mode goes towards Pathways to Impact.
Since 1st April 2015, the following principle applies to all RCUK research proposals:

“A clearly thought through and acceptable Pathways to Impact is an essential component of a research proposal and a condition of funding. Grants will not be allowed to start until a clearly thought through and acceptable Pathways to Impact statement is received.”

Guidance to applicants on what a carefully considered PtI statement should include is available on our website.
Proposals will be reviewed by postal peer review to take account of updated guidance on what an acceptable Pathway to Impact (PtI) should contain.

At panel, introducers should comment on the proposals as usual providing a score for impact which reflects the reviewer comments. The third introducer will comment on the acceptability of the PtI. The panel will decide if the PtI is acceptable and this will be recorded by EPSRC attendees.

Ranking of proposals should continue as usual using secondary criteria where two proposals are ranked with equal quality/excellence of research.
Responsible Innovation

David Mulligan
What is Responsible Innovation?

Responsible innovation seeks to promote creativity and opportunities for science and innovation that are:

- Socially desirable
- Undertaken in the public interest

Responsible innovation acknowledges that research and innovation can:

- Raise questions and dilemmas
- Sometimes can be ambiguous in terms of motivation and purpose
- Be unpredictable in terms of impacts, beneficial or otherwise

As a public funder of research we have responsibility to ensure that our activities are aligned with core principles, creating value for society in an ethical and responsible way.
Promote reflection about responsible innovation approaches within the wider research community.

Welcome funding requests within EPSRC research grant proposals that seek to explore aspects of responsible innovation as an integral part of that research endeavour.

Be vigilant to potential ethical and regulatory challenges which arise from new research.

Ensure that responsible innovation is prominent in our strategic thinking and funding plans.

Alert policy makers in Government and regulators to emerging issues about potential impacts of new research areas as soon as they become apparent.
Those in receipt of EPSRC funding to acknowledge and adhere to the policies, regulations and **codes of practice** that accompany EPSRC funds:

- Conduct work in an **ethical and legal** manner

- **Anticipate, reflect and deliberate** on the wider ethical and societal implications of their work;

- **Flag up concerns** or dilemmas to their own research organisations and EPSRC about potential impacts when they become apparent;

- Reflect on their own personal **motivations** for conducting their research and to **respect the views of others** about its potential direction and impacts.
It is our collective responsibility to:

- acknowledge and explore the potential impacts
- prevent harm as a result of research wherever possible

Responsible innovation must be applied differently for every research grant

Anticipate

Reflect

Engage

Act
We are committed to ensuring that synthetic biology research is carried out responsibly

SynBiCITE, the Synthetic Biology Innovation and Knowledge Centre promotes responsible innovation:

• via close links with the Department of Social Science, Health and Medicine at King’s College London and their editorship of the PLOS Biology Series on Public Engagement
• through participation in workshops organised by leading scientific and regularity bodies
• through high quality peer reviewed academic publications
• through comments in popular science media outlet

‘creating value in an ethical and responsible way’
Healthcare Technologies Grand Challenge Strategy launched 2015

- Accelerating Impact is a key strategy for EPSRC in particular in Healthcare related grants
- Embed thinking about translation and impact FROM THE OUTSET
- Researchers do not have to do translation
- Its about preparing research for those that may take it up in the future

What is the toolkit?
- A spotlight on:
  - resources available to researchers
  - behaviours we want to encourage

- Healthcare Technologies Strategy
- Toolkit Link
Not all aspects will be relevant to all projects

Encourage researchers to consider all aspects and then pursue the most appropriate actions depending on their projects requirement.
Ethical approvals of research trials:

- Human Involvement? Vulnerable patient groups?
- Animal involvement?
- Issues of privacy and security, arising from data collection / research plans?

What resources can be requested?

- Access to expertise and cost of administration to achieve appropriate approvals
Demonstrate potential benefits to the NHS / DoH / Industry

What resources can be requested?

- Embed a health economist? Pilot health economic studies?
- Other support to evaluate interventions & technologies
Generate public awareness; communicate research outcomes; encourage public engagement and dialogue, disseminate knowledge to non technical audiences

Is this Controversial science?

Public dialogue to inform research direction – what is the public concerned about?

What resources can be requested?

Resource to support engagement activities e.g. workshops, public dialogues, facilitating access to patients
Impact & Translation Toolkit

User Engagement

- Collaboration with users to increase the probability of successful, rapid translation to products and practices.”
- User informed approach - Engage **throughout the project**
  - Clinical, Industrial, Patient involvement
  - Other Stakeholders e.g. charities
- Translation to practice - communicate your Impacts more broadly
- What resources can be requested?
  - Activities to support uptake – feasibility studies
  - Dissemination and user awareness of research outcomes
  - Activities which aim to Inform policy / educate policy makers
Impact & Translation Toolkit
Research Project Design

“consider the future needs of others who may wish to ‘take up’ and translate research”

- Answering *the right* questions, be they clinical, scientific or regulatory
- How can applicants de-risk their research for potential investors in the future?
- Succession planning beyond the project
- What resources can be requested?
  - Employment of specialist knowledge transfer staff to identify and exploit IP
  - Workshops to support early translation efforts
  - Early Proof of Concept (PoC) studies
  - Where relevant - Good Clinical Practice training, and Good Manufacturing Practice training (GMP) to allow integration of considerations into research proposals
Develop an understanding of current regulatory pathways and engage with regulators to help shape future regulation.

What resources can be requested?

- Researchers may request funding to engage with experts or undertake training to improve their awareness of possible regulatory issues.
- Support to access expertise and regulatory guidance / regulatory engagement e.g. with MHRA
We wish to encourage Researchers to bring clinical expertise and engagement into their research project.

Inclusion of clinical (NHS) staff is possible on EPSRC grants but will depend on the exact employment arrangements held by the individual.

Three main routes:

- As an Investigator where they are (part) employed by a University or other eligible independent research organisation. This can include if they hold an honorary position but no salary costs can be requested.
- As a project partner offering their time as an in kind contribution.
- As a consultant, where their time is costed as a subcontract through Directly Incurred – Other (EPSRC will pay this at 80% FEC with no estates or indirect costs).
Thanks for listening

Further questions and enquiries can be sent to:

healthcare@epsrc.ac.uk

Or contact a member of the Healthcare team

see here