

Call for Proposals for research into Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

Orchard is a charity focusing on developing treatments for patients suffering from obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), a serious mental illness. We work with academia, clinicians, pharmaceutical/biotech companies, government agencies, patients and other charities to fast-track the development of new and innovative treatments for OCD. Our website is www.orchardocd.org.

Previous Call for Proposals 2020

In 2020 we ran our first call for proposals and our scientific panel chose the psilocybin research project as the winner. (<https://www.orchardocd.org/research/calls-for-proposals/>)

We then ran a successful crowdfunding campaign after the winner was chosen and raised over £60,000 over 5-weeks. We received an extra £60,000 from a charitable trust meaning we had the funds to run this pilot study. It is due to start this year.

About the Call for Proposals 2022

Deadline for application: Friday 30th April 2022 at 5pm GMT.

We are seeking hard-to-fund projects that nevertheless have great potential to make a major impact for obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD).

Total budget size for the winning project will be £150,000 + a possible extra £50,000 if our fundraising campaign is successful. This is because we already have £150,000 secured from donors, while the remaining £50,000 will be raised through an international crowdfunding campaign. Hence you should do a budget for £200,000 maximum.

Orchard will prepare and run the crowdfunding campaign with assistance from the winning project's team. Crowdfunding is an innovative way of raising public awareness and money for an issue such as OCD. We have significant experience of doing this with other charities and our 2020 crowdfunding campaign success. Crowdfunding also has a huge potential to increase the visibility of the researchers and is an excellent opportunity for public outreach.

Our independent Scientific Advisory Board will judge projects according to the following criteria and questions:

1. Scientific validity: how strong is the science?
2. Clinical opportunity: does the project have potential to get a treatment for OCD rapidly into the clinic?
3. Team track record: how credible is the team implementing the project?
4. Crowdfundability: is the project suitable for crowdfunding?

Eligibility

All scientific applications will be considered from anywhere in the world. However, the selected project must have approved ethics in place at the time of receiving the grant.

Orchard, AdviceHub, 66 Devonshire Road, Cambridge CB1 2BL, UK. Charity number: 1174480. www.orchardocd.org

This call for proposals is only for OCD research projects of a non-commercial nature.

Submissions

Please submit an application **no more than three pages long**, with the following sections:

1. Summary of the project
2. Key objectives
3. Challenges and how they will be overcome
4. The project team
5. Timeline
6. Budget breakdown

Please email your submissions (three pages max) to research@orchardocd.org.

Shortlisted projects will then be assessed through a phone or Skype call.

Size of grant: the grant will be a maximum of £200,000 and will depend partly on the success of the crowdfunding campaign.

Further information about the call: If you have any questions about the call for proposals, please email Nick Sireau, Chair of Orchard, at nick@orchardocd.org.