



Pre-call announcement: UK-Japan Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research Initiative

The MRC and the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) are pleased to announce they will soon be launching a joint call for research proposals focused on Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research.

This initiative will support collaborative (UK-Japanese) research projects that build upon fundamental insights and initial early-stage discoveries, to advance regenerative approaches towards clinical use in the future and to utilise stem cells as medical research tools.

Support will be available for research that underpins the development of regenerative medicine therapeutic strategies, including by developing scientific knowledge, tools and technologies with the overall goal of progressing regenerative medicine therapies further along the development pipeline.

Applications will be particularly welcome for projects focusing on:

- Human cell engineering, gene editing and cellular reprogramming approaches where a clear future therapeutic goal has been identified
- Investigations into modulation of the human tissue niche, or improving understanding of the niche; this may include for example establishing mechanisms for differentiation in transplanted stem cells or understanding immunological barriers
- Improving efficacy of engraftment and regeneration of transplanted cells
- Developing tools, technologies and methods to enable translational regenerative medicine research including, but not limited to, in-vivo cell imaging approaches or high throughput screening techniques
- Creating novel in-vitro models utilising stem cells which could be used for robust predictive safety testing or as drug screening models

Alternative project outcomes such as therapeutic candidates, medical devices and diagnostic agents may also be supported by this call.

MRC will make up to £5m available to support the UK component of the collaborative research projects. AMED will support the Japanese components of the collaborative projects through its “The Program for Technological Innovation of Regenerative Medicine”. It is anticipated that the available funds will support approximately 8 collaborative projects.

The call for proposals will be launched simultaneously on AMED and MRC’s websites in December 2019.

AMED URL

<https://www.amed.go.jp/koubo/index.html>

MRC URL

<https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/>