**MRC National Mouse Genetics Network – Research Cluster Leader - Expression of Interest**

**Introduction**

This Expression of Interest (EOI) is divided into the following sections:

1. **Summary Information**
2. **Cluster organization**
3. **Cluster challenge**

Applicants must complete and return the Expression of Interest form to MouseGeneticsNetwork@mrc.ukri.org by 16:00 (UK time) 24 March 2021. You must complete all sections of the form for your EOI to be eligible.

**Overview**

The National Mouse Genetics Network is being established to accelerate our understanding of human disease and improving diagnosis and treatments, through driving integration of mouse and human/clinical genetics and pathology and will involve a number of research clusters closely linked to the Mary Lyon Centre.

Clusters will be identified and funded through a two-stage process:

1. Expression of Interest – to select competitive ideas
2. Full proposals – to decide which clusters will be funded

In order to ensure the Network achieves impact and provides the optimal coverage and focus to support the wider research community, applicants selected through the EOI stage will be encouraged to take stock of the ideas within the shortlisted bids and make partnerships or connections where appropriate, potentially leading to evolution of the original submissions.

**If your EOI is successfully invited to the full proposal stage, you will be asked to attend a pre-submission workshop in April 2021, with all participants to have access to summaries of the EOIs (sections 1, 2 and 3.1 below) selected at this first stage**, as well as a list of the EOIs submitted for consideration of associated membership.

We will also publish details of the Principle Investigator (Cluster Leader) and the proposal title and summary outlined in your EOI **(sections 1.1, 1.2 and 2.1 below)** following the workshop to provide a refined set of information to ensure the wider community has a view of the developments. This activity will be guided by the MRC’s expert review Panel.

***We will require a contact point, in case of further interested partners, that will be published. Please identify in section 2.1 who this will be, if not yourself.***

**Use of Information Agreement**

By submitting this EOI, **you** **confirm your agreement to the use of this data in the way outlined above**.

***All ‘required’ sections should be completed, paying attention to word / page limits.***

**Section 1 - Summary Information**

1.1. **Title (Max. 150 Characters with spaces)** *\*Required* ***This information will be published***

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| *Please provide a title for the proposed Cluster* |
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1.2. **Summary (Max. 200 Words).** *\*Required. Please use language intelligible to an informed layperson*. ***This information will be published***

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| *Please summarize the knowledge gap and research challenge that the Cluster will address* |
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**Section 2 – Cluster Organisation (max. half page)**

2.1. **Principle Investigator (Cluster Leader)** *\*Required* ***This information will be published***

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| *Please provide Title and Name; current Post Held and Department; current Research Organisation / Institute and Email Address of the Cluster Leader who will drive the research challenge.**Please indicate where you plan to lead the Cluster if this is different from the above.**We require a contact point, in case of further interested partners, that will be published. Please identify who this will be, if not yourself.* |
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2.2. **Cluster** **Co-Investigators** *\*Required*

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| *Please provide Title and Name and Research Organisation / Institute of all Co-Investigators who will assist in the management and leadership of the proposed Cluster, with the expectation of bringing in the right expertise for the proposed challenge.**Cluster Co-Investigators would normally be expected to be cross institutional from the Cluster Leader’s research organisation, though links to other departments within the same HEI can be considered where this brings novel connectivity.* |
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2.3. **Cluster Partners** *\*Optional*

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| *As relevant, please provide Title, Name; Institute/Organisation/Company of key Partners (industrial and non-industrial) who may contribute to the Cluster and help deliver the proposed research challenge.*  |
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**Section 3 – Cluster challenge**

3.1 **Aims and Objectives of the Challenge (Max. 300 words).** *\*Required*

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| *Please summarise the proposed challenge that the Cluster will address. Please describe how the Cluster ambitions will take forward a bold and innovative vision, building on the existing national research portfolio, and leveraging the opportunities presented by the new national network and the Mary Lyon Centre. Please briefly outline what difference the Cluster will make, and why this needs support through the National Mouse Genetics Network investment, rather than through existing funding routes?* |
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3.2. **Key deliverables (Max. 100 Words).** *\*Required*

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| *Please identify the key deliverables and/or outputs that the Cluster would expect to achieve over 5 years* |
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3.3. **Cluster Team. (Max. 150 Words).** *\*Required*

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| *Please explain why the proposed individuals, research organizations, and the critical relevant expertise, as detailed in section 2, are best placed to address the aims and objectives of the research Cluster challenge detailed in section 3.1.**Please indicate any existing funding (for the Cluster Leader, Cluster Co-Investigators, or Cluster Partners), including Award amount, Funder name, Title of project / programme funded, Duration, that is relevant to addressing the research challenge.* |
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3.4 **Mary Lyon Centre connectivity (Max. 150 Words).** *\*Required*

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| *Considering key capabilities (including mouse model development, technologies, data management training etc.),* *please outline what level of partnership the proposed Cluster is seeking with the Mary Lyon Centre, and why, and what is the added value to be provided.*  |
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3.5 **Network Value to the Cluster (Max. 150 Words).** *\*Required*

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| *Indicate* *how the overall network could support the aims and objectives in section 3.1 of the Cluster challenge. For example, where might synergies and/or efficiencies be realised, and what might be best delivered through a centralized approach? Please also describe your broader expectations of the network, and what opportunities this presents, (e.g. data management / sharing, communications etc.).* |
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3.6 **Added Value to the Network (Max. 150 Words).** *\*Required*

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| *What will the proposed Cluster offer to the network and to other Clusters? How will the Cluster benefit the national research community – for example, how will it be attractive to national researchers beyond the network; what opportunities might be realised through connecting with major UK Institutes?; what contribution might be made for training and skills development?; what connections might be envisaged with industry (e.g. bio-Pharma, SMEs etc.).* |
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3.7 **Wider infrastructure and data needs (Max. 150 Words).** *\*Optional*

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| *A key intention of the Network is to establish a national infrastructure to support mouse-based research and open-science, including data platforms (e.g. for improved data access, model refinement, reproducibility and reliability) and technical infrastructure (to provide national capability and share methodologies and best practice).* *Please consider ways in which the proposed Cluster could contribute to this, and what potential data and infrastructure needs could enhance the proposed Cluster, for example if new funding opportunities were to become available.* |
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**Keeping up to date with the National Mouse Genetics Network activities**

Please confirm whether you would like to be added to the National Mouse Genetics Network mailing list

[ ]  YES, PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR MAILING LIST

[ ]  NO THANK YOU

Your Name

Your Email Address

**Submitting the Expression of Interest**

Applicants must complete and return the Research Cluster Leader Expression of interest form to MouseGeneticsNetwork@mrc.ukri.org by 16:00 (UK time) 24 March 2021.

***You must complete all ‘required’ sections of the form for your EOI to be eligible.***

**Key dates**

* **24-March 2021 –** EOI deadline
* **end March / beginning April 2021 –** EOI Panel assessment
* **April 2021 –** Invitation for EOIs in scope to submit full Cluster proposals
* **April 2021 –** applicant workshop for invited EOI leads
* **July 2021 –** full proposals deadline
* **September 2021 –** Cluster Panel Assessment
* **March 2022** **–** planned start for Cluster 5-year investments