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and Innovation

Welcome

HUNTERS

Today's webinar

- Duration: 1.5 hours

- Webinar recording and Q&A will be uploaded onto funding page

- Please use Q&A function to ask questions

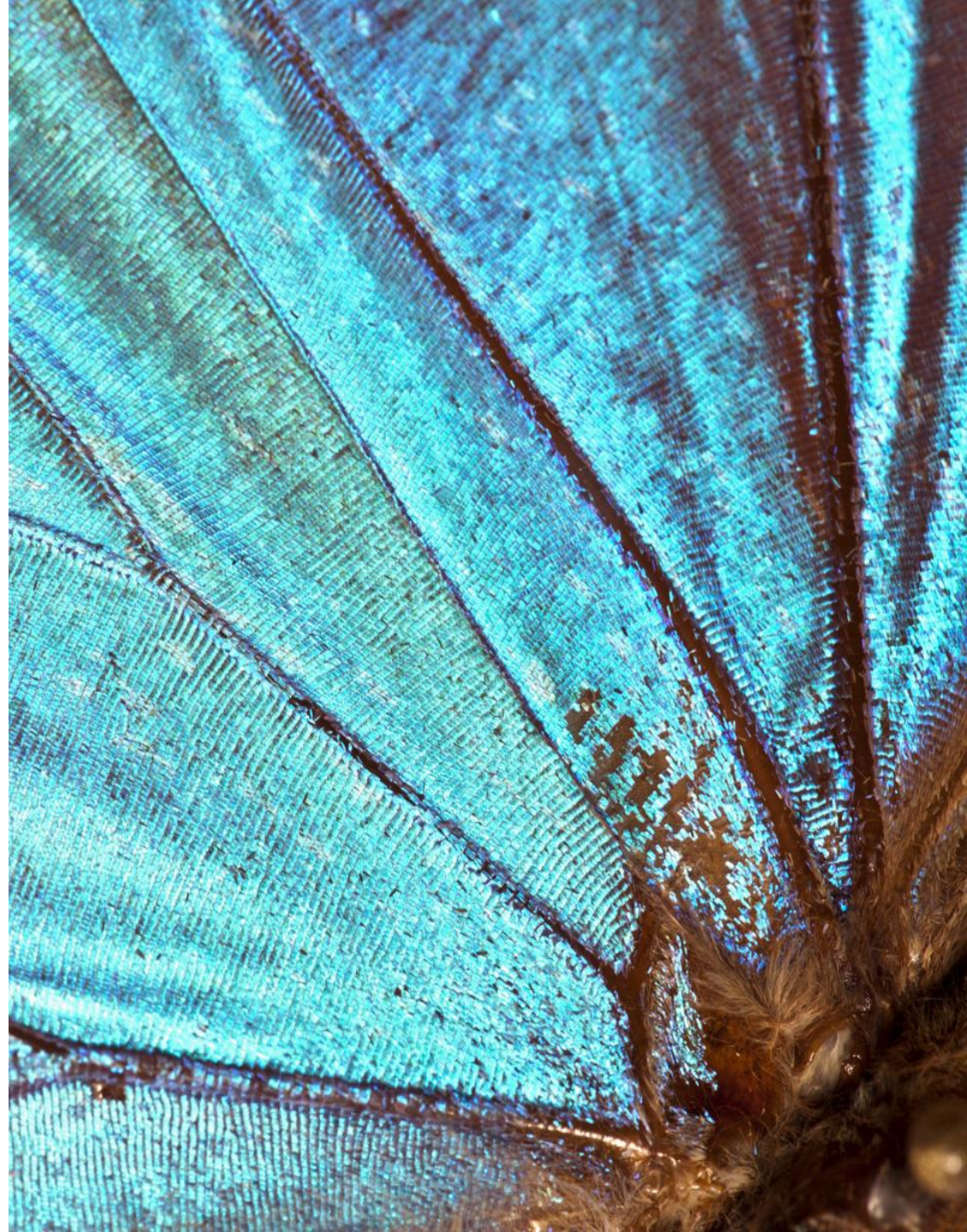- For further information, e-mail aiforhealth@ukri.org

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What we will cover today

Introduction to the funding opportunity

Funding opportunity scope and aims

Funding opportunity details

Q&A

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UKRI Panel

BBSRC
Pete Burlinson   Head of Sector Rules of Life
Sadhana Sharma   Head of Strategy Bioscience for Health

ESRC
David Bowkett   Head of Productivity and Growth

EPSRC
Katherine Freeman   Senior Portfolio Manager
Zuzana Hlásková   Research Portfolio Manager

MRC
Mike Ball   Head of Theme for Data Science
Paul Colville-Nash   Programme Manager
Yan Yip   Programme Manager

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Introduction to the funding opportunity

Why this funding opportunity

- AI has significant transformative potential for health across a huge range of areas, from improving our understanding of the fundamentals of human health and human diseases, to enabling significant socio-economical impact of good wellbeing

- Barriers in the environment for AI research and innovation, e.g.
  - health data access, storage, and use
  - understanding societal acceptance of the use of AI in health
  - professional skills to enable this potential

- Different health areas present particular challenges that require solutions tailored to a specific context e.g. requirements for solutions to tackle health inequality are vastly different to what is required to develop a diagnostic tool

- Require collaboration between multidisciplinary expertise who can develop suitable solutions and build new capability at the intersection between health research and AI

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What are we looking for?

- We aim to support projects that:
  - will generate real world impact
  - are co-created with stakeholders

- You must identify a clear health challenge that will be tackled.

- You should focus on how the technology or methodologies will be developed. This may include (but is not restricted to):
  - technical development
  - broadening application from outside a new technology's initial use to health research
  - consideration of responsible AI approaches by design

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What are we looking for?

- Innovation in AI can tackle a range of health, social, scientific as well as technical issues. For example:
    - use of AI within important or underexplored (from the perspective of AI) areas of health research, or both
    - need for new or improved AI approaches and ways of applying AI in health research
    - understanding and tackling pertinent data issues needed to progress health AI research
    - ensuring AI is fit for use. Addressing issues of responsibility, bias, end user needs, and similar areas by incorporating these approaches, or redesigning existing tools taking into account responsibility, bias, end user needs to ensure they are fit-for-purpose

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What are we looking for?

- Projects are expected to:
  - work across the nexus of the challenge spaces rather than solely within 1 area to ensure the benefits of this investment reaches as widely into the UK AI research and innovation landscape as possible

  - comprise of cross-disciplinary teams with expertise. For example, but not limited to:
    - technical knowledge of AI, data science and health and wellbeing
    - those who understand how to develop projects that are trusted and responsible, particularly in respect of personal and protected data
    - inclusion of experts on industry adoption and diffusion of innovation taken into consideration

  - take into consideration how the AI tools developed will act as a platform for future applications in health research e.g. underpinning future research, infrastructure, or informing wider health programmes or initiatives

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Funding opportunity details

Funding details

- Total funding = up to £13m

- Funding for this opportunity is subject to business case approval by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and HM Treasury.

- Maximum funding value per project £750,000 (80% fEC)

- Funding duration 18 months

- Projects must start by the 2nd October 2023

- No further spend beyond 31st March 2025

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Eligibility

This call follows standard EPSRC eligibility criteria

Research grants are open to these research organisations:
- UK higher education institutions
- research council institutes
- UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)-approved independent research organisations
- eligible public sector research establishments
- NHS bodies with research capacity.

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Eligibility

- Investigators must be employees – lecturer or equivalent – of an eligible organisation and must be resident in the UK
- Principal investigators can lead on one application only but can be named as co-investigators on other proposals
- Any fellows holding fellowships aimed primarily at the postdoctoral level are not eligible to apply
- Post-doctoral (or equivalent) research assistants who are not eligible to apply for a grant, but who merit appropriate recognition for making a significant contribution to developing the grant proposal, may be identified as a researcher co-investigator.
- Support for international collaboration can be included for research staff to visit or have extended work placements to a partner's laboratory overseas, including travel, subsistence and consumables.
- Industrial collaborations are eligible but industrial applicants are not eligible as investigators.

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How to apply

Intent to submit stage

- The 'intent to submit' form is mandatory and must be submitted by **16:00 on 28 February 2023**.

- You should prepare and submit your expression of interest using the short web form on the SmartSurvey system. Please see funding opportunity website for link to access this form.

- This stage is not assessed. We will use this information to help UKRI identify reviewers and manage the operation of this funding opportunity.

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How to apply

Full proposal stage

- Please submit your full proposals through Je-S

- When applying:
  - Select 'documents', then 'new document'.
  - Select 'call search'.
  - To find the opportunity, search for: 'Artificial intelligence innovation to accelerate health research'.

- We must receive your full proposal application by **16:00 on 28 March 2023**.

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How to apply – full proposals

- **a case for support** (eight pages: two about your track record and six about the scientific case, addressing what we are looking for in this call)

- **a work plan** (of no more than one page)

- **justification of resources** (of up to two pages)

- **CVs** (of no more than two A4 sides each) for:
  - researcher co-investigators and named postdoctoral staff
  - visiting researchers

- **letters of support from all project partners included in the Je-S form** (they must be on headed paper, signed and dated within six months of the proposal submission date).

- **data management plan**

- For equipment request between £10,000 and £400,000, applicants must attach a letter of support from the research organisation or project partner detailing the proposed contribution to the cost of the equipment.

Assessment process

Sift Panel
- Applications will be assessed against the opportunity specific criteria
- If you are successful at the sift panel you will have the opportunity to respond to sift panel comments in advance of the expert panel meeting.

Expert panel
- Applications will be assessed against all criteria

The decision of the panel is final and will not be open to appeal.

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Assessment criteria – Sift Panel

- The Sift Panel will identify projects that have the best fit to this funding opportunity

- We are looking for applications using innovative, high-quality and leading-edge AI to:
  - address an unmet health need
  - create impact in health
  - develop multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral teams
  - support capacity and capability building for AI in health research
  - fit to current research landscape within and beyond the project's own particular research focus area

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Assessment criteria – Expert Panel

Quality (primary)
- The research excellence of the proposal, that is:
    - the suitability of the approach, relationship to the context, timeliness and relevance to identified stakeholders
    - the ambition, adventure, transformative aspects or potential outcomes of the AI
    - the suitability of the proposed methodology and the appropriateness of the approach to achieving impact

National importance (secondary major)
- How the research contributes to or meets:
    - maintaining the health of this discipline
    - addressing key UK societal challenges
    - future UK economic success and development of emerging industry or industries
    - national needs by establishing or maintaining a unique world-leading activity
    - complementing other UK research funded in the area
    - plans for dissemination and knowledge exchange with potential beneficiaries of the research

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Assessment criteria – Expert Panel

Applicant and partnerships (secondary)
The ability to deliver the proposed project, that is the:
- appropriateness of your track record
- balance of skills of the project team, including collaborators
- engagement with experts outside academia (for example, NHS, third sector, industry), where relevant

Resources and management (secondary)
- The effectiveness of the proposed planning and management and whether the requested resources are appropriate and have been fully justified, such as:
  - any equipment requested, or the viability of the arrangements described to access equipment needed for this project, and particularly on any university or third-party contribution
  - any resources requested for activities to either increase impact, for public engagement or to support responsible innovation

Eligible costs

Directly allocated costs: Investigators, estates and indirect costs, costs for major facilities, costs for use of existing equipment, animal costs.

Directly incurred costs: Staff, visiting researchers, travel and subsistence, other costs e.g. consumables, consultancy fees, computing, recruitment and advertising costs, sub-contracting

NHS costs: UKRI will pay the research costs associated with the NHS component of a proposal. NHS support and NHS treatment costs will not be covered.

https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/costs-you-can-apply-for/#contents-list

This funding cannot be used to support studentships

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Funding for impact

You can request resources for :
- employment of specialist knowledge transfer staff
- consultancy fees, marketing costs
- public engagement activity
- networking activities
- people exchange.

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Timeline

Intent to submit closes	28th February 2023
Full application closes	28th March 2023
Sift Panel	Mid-June 2023
Expert Panel	Mid-July 2023
Outcomes announced	August 2023
Project to start	latest by 2nd October 2023

Queries:
aiforhealth@ukri.org

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Questions?

Thank you

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