



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin



Crafting success: Navigating the grant writing and funding landscape in Clinical Research.

Dr Sharee Basdeo

Assistant Professor in TB Immunology

Deputy Director Trinity Translational Medicine Institute

CRF Winter School

10th of December 2025

Funding opportunities

The right grant at the right time

Where are you at?

Where have you been?

What opportunities have peers availed of?

What do you need to do to be ready?

Build relationships, talk to researchers who can help

University Central Supports

TCD Research and Development Office

<https://www.tcd.ie/research/rdo/>

‘Meet our funding specialists’

- **Make an appointment**
- **Mailing list**

- Tech Transfer Office ; Trinity Innovation
- DPO

Research Office can signpost to appropriate grants

Depending on career stage

- **ERC**
- **Wellcome trust**
- **HRB**
- **Research Ireland**
- **Enterprise Ireland**

1. Get a timeline on when the calls are likely to open
2. Get an example of a previously successful application
3. Begin to draft AHEAD of opening

The first cut is the deepest

TCD Local Supports



Research Medicine email: Research.Medicine@tcd.ie

Bridget Gavin

Please can email gavinb1@tcd.ie to arrange a session or book direct on my calendar using this link

[Book time with Bridget Gavin](#)

- **Make an appointment**
- **Get a mentor** – Bridget can link you in with previously successful applicants

Trinity Translational Medicine Institute

Trinity Centre for Health Sciences, St James's Hospital

- **Translational Research Hub space** in clinical medicine (1st floor, side nearest hospital). Hot desks with docking stations and TCD PCs. Access to SJH net available. Code at reception.
- Shared with Bridget Gavin (Research Medicine), Lyn O'Reilly (DPO's office), Lyn Markey (Trinity Innovation).
- Fridays! Research leader's coffee weekly at 10.30 am in milling area.
- Once a month Friday coffee for whole wider TTMI community.
- Make connections with people who are active researchers and writing grants regularly.

Where bench scientists and clinicians work side-by-side



TTMI bridges laboratory discoveries with clinical application, leveraging its unique position to tackle critical challenges and harness emerging opportunities.

Engagement between clinician scientists, bench scientists and industry partners within a framework of excellent core facilities to generate discoveries that impact patient care

Become a TTMI Investigator or researcher

On Boarding pack

Short online application form

Relevant to career stage

Institutional support for grant application and contracts

Getting started

1. **Putting pen to paper!** (use a template from previously successful application before the call opens)
2. **Start with the research proposal**
3. **Don't leave the 'other bits' to the last minute** -crucial to have letters etc drafted and upload, confirmation of collaborators/co-applicants etc. **You need to do the work for them!**

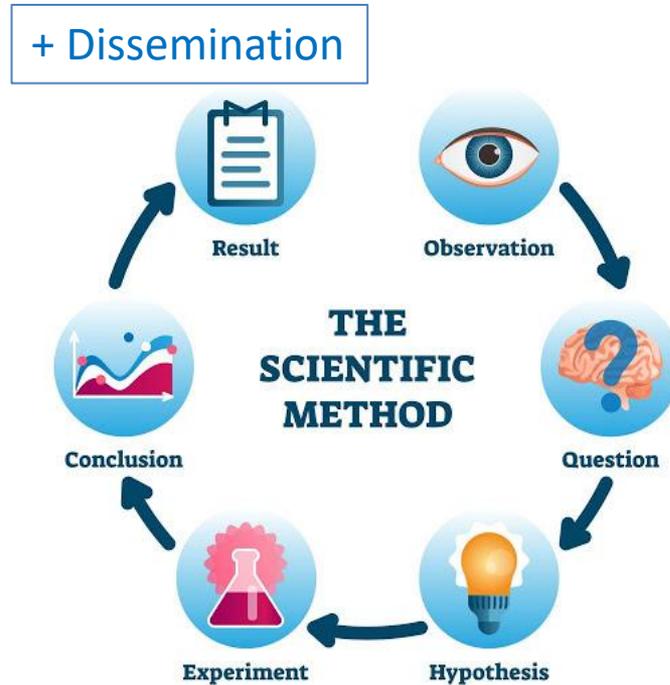
Fill in every box!

- PPI – YES! Include honorarium as budget line
- Sex & gender
- IP
- Project management/ Data management; DMP, FAIR
- Safety risks/ethical concerns
- **–and include line items in budget & reflect in GANTT**

- **Address the stuff outlined- use subheadings**
- **Bottom line on top –frontloading**
- **Write based on your own strengths and track record (you are reference 1!)**
- **Get lay input on lay abstract – and record this input/partnership in PPI**
- **Write for your reviewers –preliminary data & schematics**
- **Aligned with funder – use their language (aims, scope, priorities)**

Where to start?

The research proposal



Think about PPI at every stage

Background/rationale

[See my recent example](#)

- **Lots of subheadings which state the take home message** with very little writing underneath

Figures –prelim data & graphical abstract/ exec summary

- Space to explain and make clear point.
- Picture paints a 1000 words.
- Evidence of capacity/feasibility (for everything proposed).
- Graphical abstract/ exec summary uses language of the assessment criteria
- Absolutely required if the call allows for it (beg & borrow)

[See my recent example](#)

Methods/ design

The magic 3

Work package 1-3

Interconnected ideas but not dependent

1. Observational
2. Mechanistic
3. Can we fix it?

Methods/ design

Subheadings to include

- Title **Work package 1**
- Aim
- Research questions
- Supporting work, preliminary data and rationale
- Hypothesis **be concise, clear, testable**
- Design & Overview
- Methods (bullet points) –refer to your prelim data
- Statistical design, feasibility, time to completion
- Risks and contingency plans

Use same structure for Work package 2 & 3

Methods/design

Make sure everything maps to Gantt chart –copy and paste aims/ language

Gantt example –detail depends on funder

Work package	Description	Project year 1				Project year 2				Project year 3			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1	To define myeloid cell memory, phenotype and metabolic reprogramming longitudinally in adults and children with TB												
1.1	Finalise clinical protocol, recruit patients and follow patients with dedicated research phlebotomist												
1.2	Establish workflow for assays over multiple time points with external and internal controls for consistency over time and batch effects.												
1.3	Carry out functional and phenotypic assays												
1.4	Collate clinical data and assess associations												
2	To define if memory monocytes/macrophages from people with latent TBI have differential ability to kill Mtb compared with TBD.												
2.1	CFU assays												
2.2	Determine if metabolic reprogramming is maintained post differentiation												
3	To therapeutically induce metabolic flexibility in myeloid cells from people with TBD as a HDT adjunctive therapy.												
3.1	Establish healthy control model of Mtb myeloid memory in adult buffy coats and neonatal cord blood												
3.2	Target or support metabolic pathways in macrophages from TBD and carry out CFU assays to model HDT adjunctive to antimicrobials												
4	Public and Patient Involvement in Research												
4.1	Invite recruited cohort (and families) to join established Network of People Affected by TB												
4.2	Run PPI meetings with dedicated focus specific to pertinent stage of research cycle												
4.3	PPI partner to co-author press release and disseminate findings at conference												
5	Project and team management												
5.1	Collaborative team meetings with scientific advisors												
5.2	Monthly meeting with postdoc, phlebotomist/nurse, lead applicant and co-applicant												
5.3	Weekly meeting between lead applicant, postdoc, phlebotomist/nurse												
5.4	Data management including preparation of a data management plan for each workpackage and generation of publicly available FAIR datasets												
6	Milestones and deliverables												
6.1	Dissemination of work to academic and lay audiences												
6.2	Liase with TTO regarding potential IP												
6.3	Prepare manuscript for publication, revision, rebuttal & associated press release												
6.4	Submit funding applications to validate findings in larger cohorts in TB endemic regions												

Expected time to completion ■

Completed ■

Letter of Support

-more than just the bare minimum

2 pager with accolades and highlights (reiterated or mentioned if no space elsewhere)

Signed collaboration/mentorship/infrastructure agreement forms

Get them done early!

Some participation requires login to the system! –fill out the bits for them though!

Internal deadlines!

Get help! It takes a village

- Get readers for your project description; is it crystal clear to another academic outside your immediate circle?
- Get a bit of input from data stewards, TTO, Research med on other bits
- **Dissemination and impact statements** tend to be commented on by reviewers





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Any questions?

Let's get started!



Where to start?

The research proposal

