

# Innovate UK

**Results of Competition: Biomedical Catalyst 2017 Round 1 - CRD**

**Competition Code: 1701\_CRD\_HEAL\_BMC2017\_R1**

**Total available funding is £8m**

**Note: These proposals have succeeded in the assessment stage of this competition. All are subject to grant offer and conditions being met.**

<b>Participant organisation names</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Proposed project costs</b>	<b>Proposed project grant</b>
<b>PhoreMost Ltd</b>	A novel small molecule approach to enhance cancer immunotherapy	£1,456,824	£1,019,777
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>A new approach to cancer therapy called 'immuno-therapy' has recently emerged that is now providing unheralded responses in certain cancer types. It is based on the concept that as tumours arise through sequential mutations in their genomes, this also creates 'foreign' antigens that can be recognised and attacked by the immune system. However, tumours also find ways to hide from immune-surveillance and a key advance has been to define, and now reverse, these mechanisms using immuno-therapies. While this is a significant step forward, unfortunately, only a few tumour types, such as melanoma and lung cancer, which possess hyper-mutated genomes (due to high levels of UV or cigarette smoke, respectively) are inherently sensitive to novel drugs that augment immune recognition. Removing the 'cloak of invisibility' is therefore not enough alone in most cancers to be effective. However, if one can find a way to accelerate or boost mutation levels in these non-sensitive cancer types, for example using a second drug that targets a DNA-repair mechanism, all cancers should now become hyper-responsive to immuno-therapy. To this end, we are developing small-molecule drugs that will target a well validated, yet safe to inhibit, DNA-repair gene called 'MLH1', which genetic knock-out studies have recently shown dramatically increase the sensitivity of a wide range of cancer types to powerful new immuno-therapies. In this project, we will be optimising their efficacy and performing key in vivo tumour response studies to facilitate their rapid progression into further clinical development with a Pharma company.</p>			

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SIRAKOSS Ltd	Development of a synthetic alternative to autograft bone - osteo3	£1,305,906	£914,134
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>The major outcome of this project will be the development by SIRAKOSS Ltd of a bone graft substitute product that will replace the need for surgeons to harvest bone from a patient to act as a graft to repair diseased or damaged bone. Currently surgeons who are repairing fractured bones after traumatic injury, or filling a bone defect after removal of diseased bone, or fusing vertebrae in the spine to alleviate back pain have limited options for obtaining a bone graft to aid effective and fast bone repair in these surgeries. The clinical 'standard'™ has been to harvest bone from the patient's own body (an autograft) but this needs a second operation, results in significant pain at the harvest site, has a limited supply, and may not be possible in some patients. The reasons that a patient's own bone is the clinical 'standard'™ is that it offers a unique combination of bone forming properties that supports bone to repair. A number of synthetic materials have been produced as bone graft substitutes but these do not provide the range of bone forming properties that autograft does. INNOVATE UK Biomedical Catalyst funding of 70% of a total project cost of approximately £1,300,000 gives SIRAKOSS the opportunity to develop, approximately 2 years ahead of current timescales, a new synthetic bone graft substitute that combines SIRAKOSS'™ patented technology with collagen to form an implant that the surgeon can use straight from a sterile package, offering the properties of autograft but without the disadvantages to the patient that the use of autograft brings.</p>			

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
<b>Biomoti Limited</b>	Immunomodulation and sustained treatment of CD95L stratified tumours by precision targeting	£211,717	£148,202
Pharmidex Pharmaceutical Services Ltd		£544,181	£380,927
Queen Mary University Of London		£133,094	£133,094
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>Cancer is the second leading cause of global mortality with over 8,000,000 deaths worldwide (WHO, 2015) and 163,444 in the UK (CRUK, 2014). Interventions that leverage the immune system, including antibodies and cell-based therapies, promise to revolutionise cancer treatment with cures seen in previously untreatable patients. However, many obstacles remain such as difficulties penetrating solid tumours, depleted immunity, serious side effects, logistics and high costs. Consequently, there is large unmet clinical need for patients with certain cancers, especially ovarian and pancreatic, where improvement in 5-year survival rates has been very limited. BioMoti, in a new alliance with Pharmidex, is developing the Oncojan platform to overcome current limitations. Oncojans are a new class of precision sustained therapeutics that target CD95L on tumours. CD95L is overexpressed on cells of the tumour bulk and vasculature (but not on healthy tissue) where it promotes proliferation, metastasis and immune evasion. This proposal aims to build on exciting pilot data showing that Oncojan formulation results in remarkable preclinical activity; 65-fold reduction in tumour burden, doubling of median survival and loss of toxicity compared to the Taxol® standard-of-care in ovarian cancer. Our main focus will be on the seriously unmet medical need in ovarian cancer with complimentary studies in the deadly triple negative breast and pancreatic cancer indications. This will enable commercial investment to support formal development.</p>			

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MiNA Alpha Limited	Development of liver targeted gene activation for liver disease	£311,206	£217,844
Link Technologies Ltd		£271,446	£190,012
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
The project is developing an innovative drug for advanced liver disease including non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) where there are limited existing treatment options. The drug is designed to be administered subcutaneously, selectively target to the liver and increase the expression of a protein in the liver which is down-regulated in disease. Increasing expression of the target protein should both improve the function of normal liver cells impacted by the disease and inhibit the disease itself and thus restore normal liver function. The outcome of the proposed work, if successful, will be a clinical candidate that can be progressed to testing in liver diseases such as NASH as well as a selective delivery platform that can be used with chemically related drugs to treat a range of liver diseases.			

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JRI Orthopaedics Ltd	SWIFT: Innovative Arthroscopic Approach for Regenerative Treatment of the Hip	£616,631	£369,979
Salthaus Limited		£193,409	£135,386
University of Sheffield		£101,534	£101,534
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>This exciting business-led project brings together industry and academia, with two commercial partners, JRI Orthopaedics (lead) and Salthaus, and the University of Sheffield. They will open new opportunities to treat hip diseases. Today there are treatments that can regrow the joint surface (known as regenerative medicine); these are only used in the knee because accessing the hip is surgically more difficult. Using a technology that JRI has patented, a surgeon can use a key-hole approach to access the hip; prepare the joint surface accurately (critical to final success of the treatment) and then rapidly inject the implant directly into the prepared area. This is part of a larger programme of work in which JRI is developing implants specifically for this approach as many existing implants would not survive the delivery process. This project will validate the technology and ensure that it can be manufactured at a price that makes it viable in today's™ healthcare market. JRI has many years'™ experience of getting regulatory approval for similar products and then taking to the clinic through a full market launch. JRI will take this to its major markets, which currently include: Europe, Brazil, Australia and China. This technology will enable treatments for hip diseases at an early-stage that will delay (or even remove) the need for total hip replacement, resulting in cartilage being regenerated or regrown rather than replaced. This will reduce costs much needed by modern health systems as well as diminishing the suffering of the individual patient.</p>			

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<b>Participant organisation names</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Proposed project costs</b>	<b>Proposed project grant</b>
<b>Centauri Therapeutics Ltd</b>	Optimisation of Antibody Recruiting Molecules as Immunotherapeutics	£1,350,055	£945,039
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
Antibiotics have revolutionised healthcare but bacteria continually evolve to resist new medicines. The lack of new antibiotics combined with increasing incidence of resistance in the clinic has been termed "the perfect storm"™ and there is an urgent need for new therapies. Our project will deliver a novel treatment for patients suffering from infections caused by resistant bacterial strains. Our 'Alphamer' drug mechanism elicits an immune response to the bacteria by coating the outside of the bug and attracting pre-existing antibodies present in everyone. These antibodies then mediate rapid and effective killing of bacteria. This approach will work immediately in patients already infected (unlike a traditional vaccine) and has the potential to elicit a broader immune response than a monoclonal antibody. With a distinct mechanism of action, the Alphamer will help clear the infection rapidly, work in conjunction with existing antibiotics to reduce the dose and duration of therapy and demonstrate efficacy against resistant strains.			

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<b>Participant organisation names</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Proposed project costs</b>	<b>Proposed project grant</b>
F2G Ltd	Development of a broad spectrum antifungal series	£1,014,109	£709,876
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>Invasive fungal infections kill 1.5 million people worldwide per year. New antifungal drugs are urgently needed to combat the increasing mortality from these diseases and to supplement the limited therapeutic options. In particular new antifungals with novel mechanisms of action are required to address the worrying rise in resistance to current therapies. This project will continue the development of a broad spectrum antifungal series discovered by F2G - named the F6-series. This series has a mechanism of action different to current drugs and has been shown to be active against strains of fungi that are resistant to the leading azole class of antifungals together with certain hard to treat fungi such as <i>Scedosporium prolificans</i> which is resistant to all known classes of antifungal. Innovative approaches will be taken in this project, including structure based drug design employing newly developed models of the protein target of the F6-series. As the potency and efficacy of the series improves we aim to identify a preclinical drug candidate ready for final toxicological assessment prior to clinical studies.</p>			

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<b>Chromition Limited</b>	Automated Cancer Prognosis and	£251,307	£175,915
University of Manchester	Diagnosis Using MultiColoured Luminspheres™	£202,735	£202,735
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>The project will develop and validate a method for automatically analysing cellular patterns, labelled by immunohistochemistry. Currently, pathologists visually assess tissue samples in order to diagnose diseases such as cancer and provide a prognosis. Currently a maximum of three biomarkers can be analysed at one time. Analysing multiple biomarkers provides a more detailed picture of disease status and progression and enables physicians to provide personalised and more effective treatments. The method that will be developed and validated through this project will facilitate the analysis of multiple biomarkers in a shortened space of time by using innovative software to complete the analysis. Initial testing has shown the method to be successful. Further development through this project will result in a method which has been validated for the prognosis and diagnosis of cancer. The success of the project will enable a reduction in the economic cost of disease, eliminating human subjectivity, enabling rigorous cross-validation to minimise the chance of identifying erroneous patterns via more precise diagnosis and treatment selection, better patient outcome, and improved service efficiency via automation.</p>			

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<b>Participant organisation names</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Proposed project costs</b>	<b>Proposed project grant</b>
<b>GyroGear Ltd</b>	GyroGlove for Parkinson's: Improving consistency and usability; testing disease tracking potential	£684,319	£479,023
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>GyroGlove is a wearable active device based on miniaturised gyroscopes, designed to suppress the hand tremor commonly seen in people suffering from Parkinson's™ Disease (PD) or Essential Tremor (ET). With the help of a Smart Proof of Concept (PoC) grant we have taken the idea from very early lab simulators through to functional prototypes. These were tested on PD and ET patients in lab conditions. We were able to demonstrate a 50% reduction in tremor in half of the tests and as much as 95% in one case. However, in these tests we found that the prototypes gave inconsistent results. The reasons for this variability were investigated to a limited extent during the PoC by modelling. We now know the general source of the inconsistencies, and we have devised a programme for addressing them in this project. This entails further systematic study and modelling of tremor suppression across a sample of individuals so we can scientifically understand the full range of variabilities and address these causes through engineering. The GyroGear user panel (named 'GyroCircle'), combined with our analysis of the competitive landscape, has shown that GyroGlove has to address tremor suppression in combination with 1) a well-designed user experience based on a understanding of disease-specific user and carer interactions with the product, and 2) the capability to be used for disease tracking and proactive management. This will create a sustainable product. The outputs from the project should enable us to commence design for manufacture, testing and clinical evaluation with the objective of launching in early 2019.</p>			

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<b>Locate Therapeutics Limited</b>	CellFuse: A Regenerative Medicine Product for Enhanced Spinal Fusion in Diabetic Patients	£878,503	£614,952
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>This project aims to develop a new surgical product that will cure diabetic patients of a specific type of severe back pain. When the backbone is damaged or deteriorates due to disease and aging, chronic pain can result due to a loss of elasticity and protection in the disc structure. One clinical treatment that is offered is to fuse the affected segments of the backbone to restrict movement and stop the pain. This fusion requires the surgeon to implant a material close to the main back bone. The material encourages new bone to form, and that bone creates a permanent bridge that stabilises the backbone in one specific segment. The most common treatment option is to move living bone from the patient's own hip into the area next to the backbone. This is called autografting. This is a very successful procedure for most patients but is far less successful for patients with diabetes (both insulin dependent and independent). The process appears to be less successful for diabetics because the bone tissue forming stem cells are less active. Our company has technologies to overcome these problems. The product is called CellFuse and it includes a method of priming the stem cells to grow faster and to create bone more quickly. This is combined with a simple to use administration system that ensures these primed cells stay at the site of action. We will aim to prove that our new concept works for diabetic patient cells and within 2 years we will be ready for clinical trials in humans using a medicine manufactured in the UK.</p>			

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
Medical Wireless Sensing Ltd	A compact portable non-invasive glucose sensor	£841,200	£588,840
King's College London		£431,662	£431,662
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>We are developing GlucoWise: the first accurate, non-invasive, wireless glucose monitoring system. The device comprises a wearable sensor which can be pressed against the ear lobe or the hand (between the index and thumb fingers), a mobile unit for receiving and displaying the glucose data, and a cloud-based software platform which interfaces with existing electronic health systems to store and provide data access to patients, carers, or medical professionals. The sensor includes a transceiver system with integrated wearable nano-composite metamaterial films. These films enable the transparency of the skin tissue to the radio waves, therefore improving the overall accuracy of the sensor. An integrated environmental sensor system will be incorporated to read temperature, pressure, and motion during readings. In addition, a calibration mechanism will be integrated with the transceiver that will detect the environmental factors and skin conditions. The main objectives of this system are to provide a pain-free, more affordable and more hygienic option to the current blood glucose monitors, while at the same time providing the users with the additional tools they need to effectively manage their diabetes condition.</p>			

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**Results of Competition: Biomedical Catalyst 2017 Round 1 - CRD**

**Competition Code: 1701\_CRD1\_HEAL\_BMC2017\_ISCF**

**Total available funding is £2,878,016**

**Note: These proposals have succeeded in the assessment stage of this competition. All are subject to grant offer and conditions being met.**

Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
<b>Exploristics Limited</b>	Development of a data repository for simulation of precision medicine studies	£644,023	£450,816
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>The project aims to develop a demonstrator of a cloud-based software and storage platform for high-dimensional biological marker (biomarker) data for use in simulating precision medicine studies. Precision medicine is a current research strategy used by the pharmaceutical industry to improve the targeting of new treatments to patients most likely to benefit. This approach requires large quantities of patient information to be collected and analysed to identify potential biomarkers which can help to distinguish patients who may respond well to treatment. For the best design of precision medicine studies in the real world it is helpful to examine many possible study designs and their potential outcomes by conducting virtual studies using computer simulation. This involves using a mathematical model to simulate large numbers of virtual studies to predict potential patient outcomes under different biological conditions. In this way, researchers can investigate many possible outcomes in a virtual space before committing to further studies in the real world, helping to bring down costs and plan the best clinical studies in real world trials. Here, a user-controlled data storage facility will provide a valuable new resource in providing a single secure space for storing large amounts of real world biomarker data for use as inputs into simulations. This will create a unique library of data templates for simulating the most realistic precision medicine studies yet, helping to ensure that real studies will have the best design and analysis to deliver successful outcomes for biomarker research bringing about safer, more effective treatments.</p>			

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<b>Participant organisation names</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Proposed project costs</b>	<b>Proposed project grant</b>
<b>Cambridge Cognition Limited</b>	Objective assessment of pain from human voice	£490,472	£343,330
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
Chronic pain (pain lasting at least 3 months) affects around 1 in 3 people. While many painkillers are available, they do not work for everyone and often have undesirable side effects, including a risk of addiction. One reason it is difficult to develop better pain treatments is because there is no external way of measuring pain, other than by asking the person how much pain they feel. This is not always accurate, in part because things like mood and being distracted can affect how much pain you notice at any time. This project will develop a new method for externally measuring pain, based on signals in the rate and tone of a person's speech. In it we will develop a computerised system that asks a patient to verbally respond to some questions and puzzles, and then analyses their speech to provide an automated score of how much pain they are in. This system will be useful during the development of new pain treatments, and ultimately may help doctors to more effectively manage pain by helping them assess more accurately whether or not a particular medicine is helping a particular patient.			

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<b>Participant organisation names</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Proposed project costs</b>	<b>Proposed project grant</b>
Vision Technologies Ltd	Proof of concept and technical evaluation of innovative, wearable	£407,387	£285,171
Aston University	Vision Enhancement device	£129,632	£129,632
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>Visual impairments are a growing concern in society, with especially age contributing to an increasing number of people unable to see sufficiently in order to live independently. Visual impairments can make it difficult or impossible to perform simple daily activities such as reading, watching television or even see facial expressions in a conversation and may even prohibit sufferers from going outside safely without support. At present, there are a range of - often costly - solutions to help perform individual activities, such as magnifiers that help with reading. However, there is a lack of multi-purpose solutions which allow to perform mobile tasks such as hobbies or movement and where a single device helps with all activities from reading to television viewing and enhancement of facial features. In this project, we will develop such a device, which has the look of regular spectacles but uses cutting edge technology to project an enhanced rendering of what someone is looking at in front of their eyes. This solution hence does not interfere with normal perception (which current enclosed head mounted solutions do by for example preventing peripheral vision), but it rather augments the natural image in front of the viewer according to his/her preference. We believe that this device will in the future offer a single solution to a large variety of problems and enable the visually impaired to regain independent lives with improved sight.</p>			

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Gripable Limited	GripAble: A mobile therapy tool for hand and brain training	£371,376	£259,963
Imperial College London		£188,644	£188,644
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>Over 500 million people worldwide live with arm disability due to neurological or musculoskeletal disease (e.g. stroke, arthritis). The most effective therapy to regain arm function is repetitive physiotherapy. However, in practice, access to physiotherapy is significantly limited by the number of available therapists. For example, a large UK government audit showed that the NHS provides the recommended intensity of physiotherapy in less than 50% of stroke cases. GripAble is a simple, patented technology, based around mobile-gaming, that enables low-cost self-assessment and training of arm disability in hospitals or home (<a href="http://www.gripAble.co">www.gripAble.co</a>). The system consists of a portable, digital hand-grip, and wearable arm sensors, that connect to a tablet-based assessment and therapy app. Published proof-of-concept studies show that GripAble improves accessibility and performance relative to many existing self-rehabilitation devices. The purpose of the current project is to improve the capabilities, usability and robustness of the GripAble system by developing new features highlighted as necessary by patients and therapists, e.g. wearable arm-torso sensors and an engaging, robust "virtual therapist"™ software. The output of this project will increase the adoption likelihood of the GripAble system by both patients and healthcare services on a widespread and global basis. The project benefits from strong academic collaborations with both bioengineering and clinical experts from the Human Robotics Group (Prof E Burdet) and Clinical Neurorehabilitation Centre (Dr P Bentley) based at Imperial College London.</p>			

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<b>Healthera Limited</b>	Novel Software Solution for Waste Reduction and Optimisation of Dispensing in the Pharmacy Sector	£951,346	£665,942
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>Two innovative healthcare software companies have created a novel digital health concept to increase the level of medical compliance for patients, efficiency of pharmacy clinical services and support pharmacies in becoming first-line clinical providers. The lead applicant has a personal health management solution (Healthera), while the second applicant (not grant recipients due to their company size) provides patient medical records solutions that are used by half of all pharmacies in the UK pharmacy sector (CegeDIM Rx). The teams primary challenge is on the realisation of solutions that support the timely intake of medicine, ordering of prescriptions, and access to pharmacies for clinical advice and support. The challenge, and the subject of this proposal, is to develop an advanced hybrid solution that is able to improve adherence of medication and improve the overall operational efficiency of pharmacy<sup>TM</sup>'s clinical service delivery process. The enclosed project will conduct a pilot study of the novel digital health solution with an aim of generating quantified economic/healthcare savings for dissemination to respective clinical commissioning groups. The proposed pilot study will include test and control arms to ensure the pilot software trial provides the most robust examination of the novel dispensing and medication management solution. Evaluation of the pilot study will be conducted by impartial experts in healthcare operational/organisational efficiency.</p>			

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**Note: These proposals have succeeded in the assessment stage of this competition. All are subject to grant offer and conditions being met.**

<b>Participant organisation names</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Proposed project costs</b>	<b>Proposed project grant</b>
<b>Miotify Limited</b>	Enabling Regulatory Compliance in Development of Digital Health Apps	£792,958	£555,071
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>The Internet of Things has created an explosion of data generating and collecting devices that is transforming all aspects of our lives. Healthcare is no exception, and the opportunity to ensure that whatever data is available can be used to inform the way healthcare is delivered has never been greater. However, the availability of connected clinical data does not necessarily translate into use to inform a clinical decision: any interpretation of this data for a medical purpose falls under strict regulations for software based medical devices, which is designed to protect patient safety, but compliance is currently expensive and complex to achieve. This project demonstrates proof of concept of our software tool kit to enable innovators to harness the potential of connected clinical data, enabling it to be transformed into actionable information to inform clinical decisions. Our platform can be used by many people designing connected apps for specific clinical indications or patient pathway, in a variety of settings, and will guide the inputs and provide the traceability to aid their compliance for regulatory submissions for software classified as a medical device (SaMD), quickly and cost effectively. This will open up new possibilities for service creators to build connected digital health solutions that will be fit for the purpose of enabling remote monitoring and improved self-care; transforming healthcare as we know it.</p>			

**Note: you can see all Innovate UK-funded projects here**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/innovate-uk-funded-projects> Use the Competition Code given above to search for this competition's results