

ABS/NIHR Surgical MedTech Innovation Challenge – 2018/19

Awa Business School (ABS) in collaboration with the NIHR Surgical MedTech Co-operative invites researchers and entrepreneurs to apply for seed funding to support research and technology development.

The **Surgical Innovation Challenge** seeks inspiring and cutting-edge surgical technology solutions that will benefit patients undergoing surgery. This can include technology for the early detection, prevention, and management of post-operative complications, colorectal/liver/pancreatic cancers, bowel disease, and vascular conditions.

This Challenge envisions a wide range of possible solutions across many scientific disciplines such as (and not limited to) cell-based therapies, artificial intelligence, augmented and virtual reality, smart/wearable technologies, imaging, as well as mechanical based solutions.

Background

Surgery plays a central role in the management of many medical conditions. It restores function following trauma and disability, palliates chronic disease, and is central to the treatment of many cancers. Around 4.7 million hospital admissions involve surgical care every year in the NHS, on average one every 7 seconds, and account for 11.2 million hospital bed-days. The number of surgical procedures performed each year has risen by 27% over the past decade – a trend that is set to continue as the population ages.

General Surgery, including colorectal, vascular, and HPB, accounts for the highest level of activity (1.3 million procedures per year). “Safer Surgery” is a priority area of national (UK National Patient Safety Agency) and international (WHO Safer Surgery Saves Lives) importance. 30% – 50% of patients undergoing major abdominal surgery suffer a complication, inflating the cost of care by ~6-fold and causing long-term physical, psychological, and financial consequences. Surgical site infection and anti-microbial resistance are high on the national agenda, and there is a real need to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable patients undergoing emergency surgery.

The NIHR Surgical MedTech Co-operative supports the development of medical technologies in the fields of colorectal, vascular and hepatopancreaticobiliary (liver, gall bladder, and pancreas) surgery to improve healthcare and quality of life for patients.

The Challenge – Important Information

The aim of this Challenge is to support innovators and entrepreneurs with unique ideas that will transform the healthcare industry and address unmet NHS needs. Shortlisted candidates will be asked to pitch their ideas at the Surgical MedTech Innovation Awards in London. The full judging panel will be announced closer to the event.

Key Dates

Challenge opens – Wednesday 7th November 2018

Challenge closes – Friday 4th January 2019 (11:59pm)

Applicants notified – Friday 25th January 2019

Awards ceremony – Friday 22nd February 2019

Estimated project start – Tuesday 19th March 2019 (Winners are expected to begin using allocated support by this date)

There are 2 Surgical MedTech Innovation Awards, and an additional applicant will receive recognition for The People’s Choice.

- Outstanding Innovation Award (Financial Award)
- NHS/NIHR Collaboration Award (Research and Development)
- The People’s Choice Recognition (NIHR Research Support)

The winning candidates will receive £5,000 in research and development funds to translate their idea into reality, in collaboration with the NIHR Surgical MedTech Co-operative and its network to successfully prototype and demonstrate proof-of-concept.

Application Review

All applications will be considered by the NIHR Surgical MIC Management Team and the ABS Executive Management Team.

Guidelines

Applications must demonstrate:

- Unique and innovative idea
- Clear business plan illustrating value proposition, clinical need, and clear route to market
- Practical timelines and financial plans, with potential to develop the idea into a more substantial project that will attract further funding
- Clear plan to deliver impact in surgery and healthcare, with strong emphasis on patient benefit

The Challenge aims to support candidates who have a unique idea for surgical and medical technology. The aim is to help innovators overcome barriers to achieving commercial success.

Send completed application forms to: surgicalawards@nihr.ac.uk

Confidentiality

Information supplied as part of applications will be treated as confidential and used only for the purpose of the Awards. Applicants should not disclose any confidential information or aspects of their business/idea that may be governed by intellectual property or similar legislation.

About Awa Business School

Dedicated to the advancement of practice-focused learning, Awa Business School (ABS) was established to make business, management, and strategy programmes more accessible to individuals across the world. The institution focuses on the real-world application of knowledge to solve problems, through a flexible and blended learning system.

ABS is built on the combined expertise of academics, innovation consultants, and industry practitioners from some of the UK's best universities, including the University of Cambridge, London School of Economics and Political Science, King's College London, and University of Glasgow.

As part of the collaboration with the Surgical MedTech Co-operative, ABS will provide the funding, in addition to support in the form of business development, commercialisation plans, access to potential industry partners, and market analysis.

Keep up to date with news and activities

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