

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland National Surgical Research Support Centre (NSRSC) Surgical Trial Embark Award

Aims & Scope of the Call

A key objective of the RCSI-National Surgical Research Support Centre is to develop a portfolio of multicentre surgical trials in Ireland. We are particularly looking to encourage trainee and early career surgeons to conduct surgical research and trials so that it becomes an integral component of their career. We understand the challenges faced by many who wish to participate in research but lack the necessary supports including time and funding and infrastructure to undertake this.

The NSRSC are launching the Surgical Trial Embark Award in order to provide support to trainee and early career surgeons to undertake an Investigator-Led Study.

Applications are encouraged from all surgical disciplines.

Eligibility

The minimum eligibility criteria are:

- Participating sites must have a consultant principal investigator and named trainee investigator(s)
- Minimum of one named surgical trainee per site committed to participant recruitment, consent and data collection
- Feasibility studies-either stand alone or embedded as part of the trial are recommended
- Applicants should provide systematic evidence to support the need for a trial of their specific intervention i.e. a systematic review comprising systematic identification of previous work, critical appraisal, evidence synthesis, interpretation of findings. Simple narrative reviews are not sufficient. The trial should be innovative and not simply a repeat of a trial previously conducted, unless justification is provided.

Desirable

Multiple Irish site and or international site participation is highly encouraged. The RCSI-NSRSC seeks to demonstrate the presence of an all-island active multicentre network partaking in international surgical trials. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to consider including at least two recruitment sites spread regionally throughout the island of Ireland. It is understood that this may not be possible or desirable for trials being conducted in specialties that are only present in a small number of sites on the island. A multidisciplinary research team is highly encouraged.

Support Available

RCSI-NSRSC can arrange sponsorship for the trial and provide support with trial design, ethical applications, data management and analysis. Support is also available to assist with costs such as third-party randomisation, open access publication charges and small equipment charges. Please note salary costs are not available.

Application Process

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the NSRSC to discuss their proposal and budget in advance of submitting an application. Applicants should submit the application form to NSRSC@rcsi.ie by the closing date.

Evaluation Process

Applications will be reviewed by the RCSI-NSRSC Scientific Advisory board

The criteria the board will consider when making recommendations will include:

1. Potential impact on clinical practice and patient care
2. Scientific merit & innovative nature of the trial
3. Demonstration of collaboration across sites in Ireland
4. NSRSC capacity for the support requested

Closing date Friday 28th-April-2023

RCSI-NSRSC Support Contacts

Prof Stewart Walsh, Clinical Lead: stewartredmond.walsh@universityofgalway.ie

Dr Anne-Marie Byrne, Programme Manager: annemariebyrne@rcsi.ie

Completed Applications to NSRSC@rcsi.ie