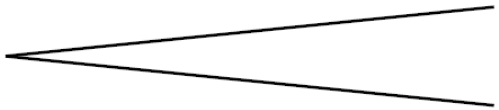
The UK-Malaysian Joint Health Research Call for NCDs: Sharing of information from 10 UK universities

A Rahman A Jamal
MD (UKM), MRCP (Ire), PhD (Lond), GDHM (Spore), PJN, DPNS, ANS,
UKM Medical Molecular Biology Institute (UMBI)
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
rahmanj@ppukm.ukm.edu.my

The Newton Fund promotes international partnerships

Capacity and Capability building within partner country

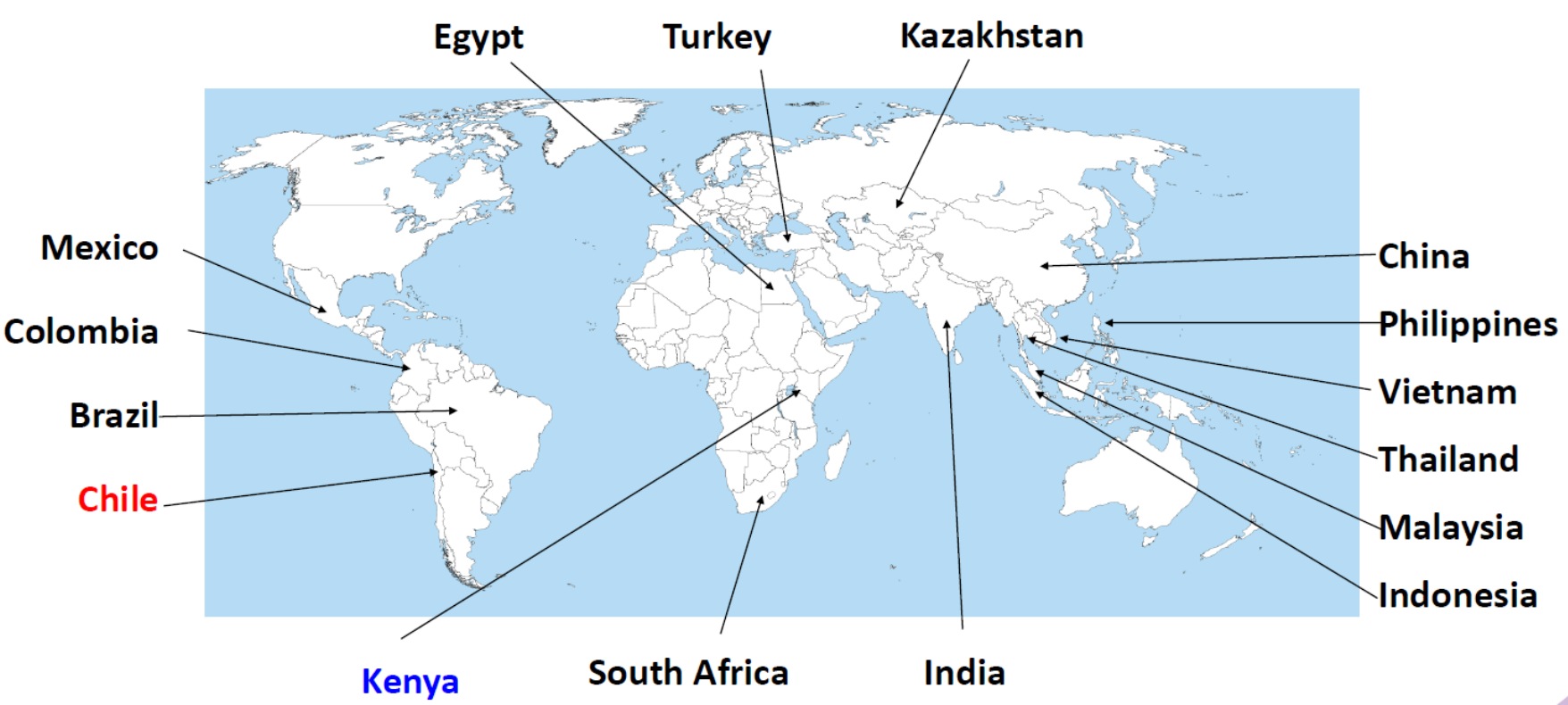
Single issue
eg Education
and Training



Large scale
with multiple components

Newton Fund

The Newton Fund partner countries



- £735m UK government contribution over 5 years, 2014-2021
- part of UK's 0.7% GNI spend on aid to other countries

Newton Fund has 3 pillars of activity

People	Research	Translation
• Improving capacity in research and science, individually and institutionally	• Improving research collaborations on critical socio-economic development challenges	• Creating collaborative solutions to socioeconomic development challenges and strengthening innovation systems

The UK-Malaysian Joint Health Research Call for NCDs

(http:///www/mrc.ac.uk/funding/browse/uk-malaysia-joint-health-research-call-in-non-communicable-diseases/)

NCDs of relevance to Malaysia: The 5 areas of interest

- CVD – especially early onset myocardial infarction
- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Cancer
- Co-morbidity of NCDs with infectious diseases

What type of research?

- **Basic** discovery research
- Understanding the **mechanisms of disease**
- Novel detection and diagnosis
- Development of novel preventatives (vaccines) and **therapeutics**
- Investigation of behavioral, social and/or economic determinants of disease
- **Public health** research

Important information

- 2 million pounds from UK and 2 million pounds from Malaysia
- **~10 projects** (maximum for each project **~400,000 pounds**)
- 2 years (1st January 2017 – 31st December 2018)
- One PI from UK and one PI from Malaysia
  - Can have many co-investigators from each country
- Proposals must be compliant with Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding rules (next slide)

Is my project ODA compliant?

- Is the project addressing the **economic development and welfare** of the country in question?
- Are the countries involved on the DAC List of ODA Recipients (the Development Assistant Committee of the OECD)
- Is there a **development need** that my project or activity is addressing?
- Is this credible or is there **evidence** of the need?
- How would this **project or activity be applied** in the country?
- What would the **impact** of my project or activity be, and who would benefit?
- How does my project or activity contribute to **sustainable development**?
- Would this lead to a **reduction in poverty** in a developing country?
- What would **success** for this activity **look like**?
- How would success or **impact be measured**?

Important dates

- **Joint Expression of Interest** to be e-mailed to international@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk by **Wednesday, 20th April** (see Expression of Interest Template on call webpage)

- **Joint application** from the UK and Malaysian researchers by 4pm BST on **Wednesday, 1st June**.

- Assessment by joint committee in October 2016

Ethics

- Any research involving humans/human tissue and/or animals must comply with legislation in both the UK and Malaysia, and must also comply with relevant policies and guidance of the MRC and ASM.

- It is the absolute **responsibility of the PIs** and the ROs to ensure that appropriate ethical approval is granted and adhered to, and that no research requiring ethical approval is initiated until it has been granted.

Principal and co-investigators

- **Each PI** in the UK and Malaysia may submit **only one research grant proposal** for this research initiative.

- However, you may be a Co-Investigator on more than one application

Key assessment criteria

- **Significance and Impact** of the research
- Scientific **Rationale**: novelty, importance and timeliness of the research
- **Design and Feasibility** of the Project Plan
- **Partnership**: including strength and clarity of collaborations and opportunities provided, quality of the project management structure proposed
- **Quality and suitability** of the research **environment** and of the **facilities**
- **Value for money** for International and UK science
- **Ethical** considerations and governance arrangements
- In addition, applicants must describe how the proposed UK funded work is **ODA compliant** [approximately 150 words].

The Malaysian PI

- The Malaysian PI must have been awarded a **doctorate** or have equivalent research experience at the time of application. Applicants working towards a PhD, or awaiting the outcome of their viva/ submission of corrections are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be **Malaysian citizens and hold a permanent or fixed-term contract in an eligible university or research institute** in Malaysia. Applicants with fixed terms contracts finishing before their grant end-date must secure confirmation from their Head of Department, stating that their contract will be extended to cover the duration of the award if their application is successful.
- **Contact between the Malaysian PI and UK PI** prior to the application is essential. This contact should lead to a clearly defined and mutually beneficial research project proposal. Please note that ASM & MRCUK will not be able to assist in locating a Malaysian or UK collaborator.
- Applications cannot be accepted from Principal Investigators in commercial organisations.
- Applicants must be **competent in oral and written English**.
- The Malaysian Applicant's employing organisation must be willing to agree to administer the grant.

Some information from the **10 universities in UK** involved in the UK-Malaysia Bilateral Medical & Health Research Workshop
2-3rd February

University of Newcastle

Adult cancer: Liver & Hormone driven cancers	Childhood cancers: Leukaemia & Brain	Drug discovery
Clinical & Translational: Phase 1 trials & pharmacology	Stem cell research	Mitochondria in aging and diseases
Cardiovascular aging	Liver fibrosis	Type 2 diabetes

Professor Olaf Heidenreich (Olaf.Heidenreich@Newcastle.ac.uk

University of Warwick

Gestational diabetes mellitus

Diabetic retinopathy and macular edema

Dr. Bee Kang Tan (B.K.Tan@warwick.ac.uk)

University of Surrey

Cardiac arrythmias	Drug development: Phytonutrients	Diabetes and vascular diseases
Myocardial infarction	Viral immunotherapy for cancers	Infectious diseases and cancers

Dr. Kamalan Jeevaratnam (k.jeevaratnam@surrey.ac.uk)

University of Oxford

NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre Themes

- Biomedical Informatics and Technology
- Blood
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular
- Dementia and Cerebrovascular Disease
- Diabetes
- Functional Neurosciences and Imaging
- Genomic Medicine
- Immunity and Inflammation
- Infection
- Prevention and Population Care
- Surgical Innovation and Evaluation
- Translational Physiology
- Vaccines

Professor Stephen Hyde
(steve.hyde@ndcls.ox.ac.uk)

University of Oxford: Medical Sciences

Department of Biochemistry

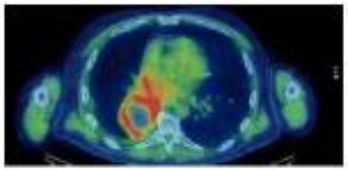
Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine

Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences

Department of Experimental Psychology

Radcliffe Department of Medicine

Nuffield Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology



Department of Oncology

NDORMS

Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences

Department of Paediatrics

Sir William Dunn School of Pathology

Department of Pharmacology

Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics

Nuffield Department of Population Health

Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences

Department of Psychiatry

NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF SURGICAL SCIENCES

Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences

University of Birmingham

- Applied Health Research
  - Mental health, obesity, and smoking
- Cancer Sciences and Genomic Medicine
  - Cancer biology, epigenetics, stem cell biology, viral oncology (strong interest in NPC for Asia)
- Cardiovascular Sciences
  - Cardio-renal, heart failure, arrhythmias, myocardial infarction, chemoreceptor, animal models, angiogenesis, platelet, leukocyte trafficking, etc.
- Immunology and Immunotherapy
- Inflammation and Ageing
- Metabolism and Systems Research
  - Diabetes, endocrinology and metabolism

Professor Paul Murray (P.G.Murray@bham.ac.uk)

University of Sheffield

- Centre for stem cell biology
- Biomedical engineering
- Institute for in silico Medicine
- The Mellanby Centre for Bone Research
- Public Health Research: Including dental health
- Translational Oncology Research
- Cardiovascular Research
- Institute for Translational Neuroscience

Dr. Peter Monk (p.monk@Sheffield.ac.uk)

University of Lancaster

- Spatial and longitudinal analysis
- Coronary artery disease
- Stroke: Existing collaboration with USM
- Kidney diseases
- Cancers

Dr. Thomas Keegan (t.keegan@Lancaster.ac.uk)

University of Nottingham

RESEARCH PRIORITY AREAS

- Antimicrobials and Antimicrobial Resistance
- Brain Health across the Lifespan
- Cancer
- Chronic Inflammatory Disease
- Healthcare Technologies
- Musculoskeletal Health in Ageing and Wellbeing
- Regenerative Medicines and Stem Cells
- Translational Biomedical Imaging

Dr. Ulvi Bayraktutan (Ulvi.bayraktutan@Nottingham.ac.uk)

Some specific areas for collaboration

- **Fiona Broughton-Pipkin** (Prof Emeritus of Perinatal Physiol)
  - Long-term follow up of women who developed hypertension in pregnancy (Fiona.Broughton-Pipkin@nottingham.ac.uk)
- **Guru Aithal** (Prof of Hepatology) and **Michael Symonds** (Prof of Developmental Physiology)
  - Role of brown fat function in relation to ethnicity specific genetic and life style factors in a susceptible population in Malaysia (Guru.Aithal@nottingham.ac.uk; Michael.Symonds@nottingham.ac.uk
- **Maria Toledo-Rodriguez** (Assistant Prof, School of Life Sciences)
  - Long-term exercise to prevent or treat mental and physical diseases including CVD, obesity and diabetes. Maria.Toledo@nottingham.ac.uk

University of Central Lancashire

Diabetes
(cardiomyopathy, obesity, intervention, diet, exercise, natural products, gene therapy for complication)

Cancer
(epidemiology, natural products, gene-environment interaction, drug delivery, quality of life)

Cardio-myopathy
(molecular and cellular mechanisms, also in relation to DM)

Natural products
(for cancer, diabetes, hypertension, inflammation, neuropathy, etc.)

Professor Jaipaul Singh (**Jsingh3@uclan.ac.uk**)

Heriot Watt University & Institute of Occupational Medicine, Edinburgh

Environment and diseases	Toxicology & nanomedicine	Aging – lifestyle and behaviour
Inflammation & atherosclerosis	Pollution (plus haze) and diseases	Exposome and NCDs

Professor John Cherrie (j.cherrie@hw.ac.uk)

Some tips

- Identify a project – assess readiness or resources needed (remember this is a 2-year project)
- Need speed, efficiency and good project management
- Identify the PI from UK and start 'Skype-ing' and discussing
- Build the strongest team – may need co-investigators across disciplines and outside UKM
- Consider to submit for ethics early – some insitutions the process may take months
- Organise samples/biospecimens and data from now
- Identify key personnel (post-grad or post-doc) early

Acknowledgement

- Centre for Research and Innovation Management (CRIM), UKM
- Akademi Sains Malaysia
- UMBI

Thank you. Good luck.