

# Emerging Threats Funding Call: Oropouche Virus

## Application Guidance

### Scope

The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Health Protection Research Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections (HPRU EZI) and The Pandemic Institute (TPI) in Liverpool are announcing a combined funding call of £300,000 for research on Oropouche virus (OROV). The aim of the investment is to address critical research gaps in OROV knowledge.

Oropouche is an arboviral disease caused by the OROV. It is transmitted to humans through midge or mosquito bites. To date, there is no evidence of human-to-human OROV transmission. The virus has caused large outbreaks in parts of Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, and Cuba, with recently imported cases in Spain, Italy, Germany and the USA. The virus is mostly responsible for a febrile “dengue-like” illness, with rashes, headaches and muscle or joint pain. Cases of microcephaly and stillbirth have also been reported.

Potential areas of interest include understanding the epidemiology, spread and transmission, virology, clinical features, disease control and medical countermeasures such as diagnostics, treatments and vaccines.

### Funding Available

In total, up to £300,000 funding will be available and we aim to fund a range of projects. The size of grants will vary according to the needs of each research project, but you will need to provide a robust case regarding value for money. We encourage a range of proposals, from smaller proposals with a shorter duration (up to 6 months, £10,000) to larger proposals with a longer duration (up to 12 months, £30,000).

Please note, this is a combined funding pot from NIHR HPRU EZI and TPI, and so eligibility requirements are slightly different for the different pots. We recognise this creates complications; but we think this is offset by the advantage of a single combined funding call. Your application may be eligible for one or two of the funding pots, depending on who it includes as co-applicants.

### Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for support from:

- the NIHR HPRU EZI fund, applications must include at least two partners from University of Liverpool (UoL), Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), University of Oxford (UoX), or the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). Applications should be led by a principal investigator from one of these partners.

- TPI Liverpool fund, applications must include at least two partners from UoL, LSTM, Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU), Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (LUHFT), Liverpool City Council (LCC), Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA), Knowledge Quarter Liverpool (KQ Liverpool). Applications should be led by a principal investigator from one of these partners.

For NIHR HPRU EZI funded projects, it is expected that funding will start immediately.

Please note, an individual can only be named as a Principal Investigator on one application to this funding call. External investigators can be included as co-applicants.

If you have any queries, or require support please email: [contact@thepandemicinstitute.org](mailto:contact@thepandemicinstitute.org)

Full proposals submitted will:

- Address a critical gap in the UKs research response to OROV.
- Provide a robust case for value for money.
- Be deliverable for a total cost of £30,000 or less.

### Application Form

The application form can be accessed via an [online form](#). You must describe the proposed work, how it fits within the scope of this fund and your track record as an investigator. The full summary of questions in the application form is included below.

### Review Process

Full proposals will be reviewed and scored by a broad, cross-disciplinary panel. Applications will be scored using the following indicators: (1) Scientific quality and impact; (2) Scientific leadership; (3) Justification of resources.

### Timeline

**Funding call opens:** 15/08/2024

**Funding call closes:** 05/09/2024 (17:00 UK time)

**Review period:** 06/09/2024 to 20/09/2024

**Expected Funding Decision:** Week commencing 23/09/2024

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### Eligible Costs

An indicative funding total, with a brief budget breakdown is requested at this stage. Please discuss draft costings with the appropriate department within your institution for indicative costs.

A full breakdown of project costs and contact details for the post award team will be required at the point of award notification. Please note, eligible and ineligible costs for the two funding sources vary and this will be discussed with you at the point of award notification when the full budget breakdown is developed. Should you have any questions regarding eligible costs at this stage, please email the following:

- For the TPI, Liverpool fund: [contact@thepandemicinstitute.org](mailto:contact@thepandemicinstitute.org)
- For the NIHR HPRU EZI fund: [hpruei@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:hpruei@liverpool.ac.uk)

### Application Form - Summary of Questions

The online form can be accessed here: <https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/liverpool/emerging-threats-oropouche>

**Q1:** Your name:

**Q2:** Your contact telephone no:

**Q3:** Your email address:

**Q4:** Your institution:

**Q5:** Your Department/School:

**Q6:** Please detail relevant features of your track record in terms of research funding, publications and impact. (max. 200 words)

**Q7:** Please state additional Co-Investigators and Institutions (please refer to the application guidance to ensure all requirements are met).

**Q8:** Are you applying for support from (please tick all those which apply and refer to the application guidance for further information).

1. NIHR HPRU EZI
2. TPI, Liverpool

**Q9:** Have you acquired, applied or are you aiming to leverage additional funds or match-fund from other sources in association with this "Oropouche Virus" funding call?

**Q10:** Project Title:

**Q11:** Project Start Date:

**Q12:** Project End Date:

**Q13:** Please provide an abstract (max. 200 words):

**Q14:** Provide an activity / project overview, stating clearly your project aims, measurable objectives, expected outcomes, deliverables and impact (max. 500 words):

**Q15:** The scope of this investment is to address critical gaps in the UK's research response to Oropouche virus and to strengthen collaboration between TPI / NIHR HPRU EZI investigators. Please outline how this project fits the scope and requirements of this investment? (max. 300 words)

**Q16:** Please outline how this project enables positioning for future related external funding calls. How would this award fit into your longer-term career and / or research plans? (max. 200 words)

**Q17:** Please describe the strategic benefit of your project to TPI / NIHR HPRU EZI (max. 200 words).

**Q18:** Total funds requested (in GBP)

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**Q19:** Please provide a justification of costs, including a brief budget breakdown (max. 200 words)

**Q20:** Please provide a summary of how the funding will be spent, including a timeline of activities (max. 200 words).

**Q21:** Please note: in the event of a successful application, funds will be released, subject to a suitable contract between the relevant involved partners. Please confirm (tick) your understanding and take your time to review your answers before proceeding to submit.