Information and FAQs for applicants

About The National Brain Appeal

The National Brain Appeal is the charity dedicated to raising funds for The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery and the Institute of Neurology. Since the charity began in 1984, we have donated more than £45 million to Queen Square.

For the most part, The National Brain Appeal supports major capital appeals but we also fund smaller scale projects within Queen Square – with budgets up to £5,000. Each year, we will also consider making one exceptional grant of £10,000.

Since The Small Acorns Fund was launched in 2013, The National Brain Appeal has awarded more than £200,000 for 70 projects including:

- Continuous Glucose Monitoring Systems (Charles Dent Metabolic Unit)
- Saebo Treatment Kit (Neuro Rehabilitation)
- Thera-trainer Exercise Equipment (Therapy & Rehab)
- Improving access to NHNN outpatient services by Deaf British Sign Language users (Dementia Research Centre)
- Mindfulness Cognitive Therapy (Pain Management Centre)
- Sexual Dysfunction training (Therapy & Rehab)
- Functional Electrical Stimulation Trial for Stroke Patients (Physiotherapy)
- Sequencing of DNA from patients with suspected Brown-Vialetto-Van Laere (BVVL) (Neurogenetics)
- Friedreich's Ataxia (FRDA) Screening of Late Onset Ataxia Patients (Neurogenetics)
- Pocket MRI reference (Neuroradiology)
- Preventing Infection Audit (Neurosurgery)
- Optimisation of MR pilot study (Gamma Knife)
- iPads for Acute Brain Injury Unit (Therapies)
- Real time body motion capture (Neurophysiology)
- Individualised exercise protocol (CNMD)
- Developing computerised speech-based auditory training suite (Neuro-otology)
- Mobile arm support for stroke patients (Neuro-rehab)
- Autonomic function tests on spinal cord injury (Motor Neuroscience)
- Tai Chi for Chronic Pain (Pain Management)
- Virtual Reality Rehab for Stroke patients (Neurorehab)
- Pompe Disease Workbook (Charles Dent Metabolic Unit)
- Nurse Buddy (Neuroresponse)
- Parkinson’s shoe insole (Sobell)
- Optimising Early Rehab (Therapies)
- Body Cam seizure project (Gowers)
- Psychology support for critical care (MITU)
- Diagnosing patients with mitochondrial diseases (Molecular Neuroscience)
- Dementia Info for Deaf BSL users (Dementia Research Centre)
- Clinical assessment skills for advance practice (Daycare)
- Quality Star Awards (QS Division)
- Piloting a Psychology Service in Uro-Neurology (Uro-Neurology)

Projects current as of June 2018.
1) What is eligible for a grant?
- Grants will only be made for **new projects** within Queen Square.
- The application must demonstrate direct need and benefit to patient care and outcomes.
- Small projects (including studies), research and the purchase of specialist equipment that are outside the normal scope of NHS budgets.
- Some staff training – for more details on what training might be eligible (and other sources of funding) please see Q3 and Q4.
- Applications that have written support from a line-manager/department head.

2) What is not eligible for a grant?
- Projects outside of Queen Square.
- Projects that have already commenced.
- Projects that should be funded from NHS budgets.
- Purchase of furniture – unless specialist.

3) Can I apply for a grant towards attending a course or conference?
- No – unless the course is a key part of a larger project proposal. Similarly, funding for in-house training/staff development should be met by department budgets.

4) Can I apply for funding towards a degree course or MA?
- We cannot fund general degrees or MA courses in neurosciences. Any such courses need to be unique and provide specific/measurable benefits to patient care. Funding available via UCLH Workforce Learning and Development can be found on Insight.

5) Our ward needs new chairs. Can I apply for a Small Acorns grant?
- No. The Small Acorns Fund only covers specialist equipment.

6) How much can I apply for?
- Grants of between £500 and £5,000 will be offered to successful applicants. Where the total cost of the project exceeds £5,000, evidence of other funding must be provided. Please provide actual costs/quotes not estimates in your budget. One exceptional project up to £10,000 will be considered each year.

7) How do I apply?
- To apply to The National Brain Appeal for a grant, you must complete the application form and return it by email to kim.heron@nhs.net.
- The Committee will meet two to three times each year (depending on availability of funds) but applications may be submitted at any time. If your application is time critical, please call the office beforehand to discuss this.
- Projects must start within six months of the grant being awarded. The National Brain Appeal reserves the right to withdraw funding if this timescale is not met.

8) How should I acknowledge a grant?
- Departments or teams should provide The National Brain Appeal the opportunity for its support to be recognised and acknowledged publicly.

The National Brain Appeal is the working name for The National Hospital Development Foundation. Registered Charity No. 290173.