



National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA)

# SMALL GRANTS AND AWARDS: a how-to guide

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Since 2009, the RCoA has awarded several small grants distributed through the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA). These are for a variety of projects, from basic science research, quality improvement and educational projects, to travel grants and awards for published papers.

Every year, the Small Grants Subcommittee of the NIAA Research Council receives up to 25 applications. The applications are classified as Research, Education or Travel.

Research applications are rated against the following criteria:

- is there is a clear research question?
- is the proposal original?
- is it relevant to the aims of the NIAA ([www.niaa.org.uk/aims-strategy](http://www.niaa.org.uk/aims-strategy))?

In terms of methodology, the aims and objectives should be clear, and the methodology used rigorous and justifiable. The timescale for the project should be realistic, and the amount of funding requested justifiable.

An example of a successful application in 2014 was one for a study of acute hypoxia in healthy human volunteers, using a hypoxic chamber designed for training elite athletes. For the first time, the effects of acute hypoxia on nitric-oxide-regulated pulmonary vascular

responses were to be studied at rest and following exertion. The relevance of the project was made clear, and the funds requested were justified by a detailed breakdown of costs.

There are often overlaps between educational and travel grant applications. In 2016 a grant was awarded for a project to introduce the use of early warning scores into a maternity unit in The Gambia. Another successful scheme involved setting up critical care training for local anaesthetists in Ethiopia.

Particularly when projects are based in resource-poor settings, evidence of sustainability is important. Because of this, those that involve teaching will tend to score more highly than ones where the applicant purely intends to provide their clinical services. The project has to be relevant to the setting: planning to set up high-fidelity simulation in an area with a very unreliable power supply is an obvious example of a proposal that is unlikely to be funded. However, the importance for personal development as well as organisational gain is taken into account. The organisation in question may be the applicant's own NHS employer.

In common with research grants, applications must be relevant to the NIAA vision, the proposed timescale appropriate and the amount of funding justifiable. Not infrequently grants are awarded to pay for travel to and registration at international meetings. If the applicant is presenting at the meeting or is involved in academic activity relevant to the subject, they are more likely to be successful. Not all awards are for overseas projects. One grant was used to pay the tuition fees to attend the King's Fund course on clinical leadership in London for a senior trainee.

Successful applicants are required to write a short report on conclusion of the project, which includes its findings, and submit this to the NIAA for publication on its website.

The Small Grants Subcommittee has four members, all of whom are members of the Research Council of the NIAA. Each application is scored by at least three members of the subcommittee, and each of these members will make a global rating, either to strongly recommend funding, to consider funding, or not to fund. The subcommittee tries to supply constructive feedback whatever their decision, (which is almost always unanimous).

The Maurice P Hudson Prize, also awarded by this subcommittee, is slightly different. This is awarded to the anaesthetic or intensive care trainee who is the principal author of the best paper relating to the management of acutely ill patients, recently published, or accepted for publication, in a peer-reviewed journal. Last year, it was awarded for a review article on the impact of restrictive versus liberal transfusion strategies on patient outcome in patients with

cardiovascular disease. This had been written as part of the applicant's PhD thesis and published in the *BMJ*.

If any reader is thinking of applying and would like to discuss their application, the chair or members of the subcommittee would be very happy to do so. You should contact us via the NIAA ([info@niaa.org.uk](mailto:info@niaa.org.uk)), and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

# Small Grants and Awards

The National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA) has several Small Grants, funded by the Royal College of Anaesthetists, for the purpose of supporting research, education or travel connected with the study of anaesthesia. Priority will be given to educational projects, the presentation of original work, or the provision of education to developing countries.

Applications are invited for the following funds:

## Ernest Leach Research Fund

This fund was established in June 2011 to be utilised for the purposes of research.

**Value up to £2,500**

## Sargent Fund

For education and research purposes.

**Value up to £2,500**

## Belfast Fund

To fund grants for educational purposes.

**Value up to £600**

## Eligibility

All Fellows in good standing and registered trainees are eligible to apply for the above grants. We regret that applications for funding towards registration for higher degrees or college course fees will not be considered.

## To apply

Please visit <http://bit.ly/1QGy7rU> to view the assessment criteria and download a copy of the application form. The deadline for applications is 5.00 pm on Friday 1 September 2017.

## Payne Stafford Tan Award: An Award for Clinical Excellence

This award was originally established through the generosity of an American friend of the College, Mr Norman Knight. The aim of the prize is to mark excellence in clinical practice, teaching or research in anaesthesia, critical care or pain management. The award is open to any Fellow or Member of the College, and comprises a grant (to a maximum of £1,000) to be used for educational purposes such as attendance at a major conference or the purchase of educational materials. The recipient will be expected to provide a short report outlining how the funds have been used.

## To apply

Nominations are now invited for the 2017 award, and must be made by a Fellow or Member of the College. The nomination should be in the form of a letter outlining the particular merits of the individual nominated, and should be accompanied by a full curriculum vitae for that individual. Self nominations are also permitted. Nominations should

be sent to the NIAA Coordinator at the address below by 5.00 pm on Friday 1 September 2017.

## Macintosh Professorship

The Royal College of Anaesthetists has established a number of initiatives to foster research in anaesthesia, critical care and pain management. Their aim is to encourage experienced researchers as well as those who are in the early stages of developing a research portfolio. Macintosh Professorships are aimed at established clinical or laboratory researchers who are already performing at a high level. Their purpose is to recognise and disseminate the work of the award holders and facilitate their progress in the academic world.

Recipients of the award will have a national or international reputation in their field. Their curriculum vitae will be consistent with an individual who is performing at, or is on the cusp of, professorial level through research, innovation, and leadership. Those who show equivalent excellence in teaching and education will also be eligible for the award.

Macintosh Professorships are awarded for one year (normally the College academic year). Recipients are required, within that time or soon after, to give a keynote lecture at a meeting organised by the Royal College of Anaesthetists or its associated Faculties, or of other related organisations and specialist societies. The lecture is commemorated by the presentation of a certificate.

Applications for Macintosh Professorships are open to Fellows and Members of the Royal College of Anaesthetists and other clinicians and scientists involved in anaesthesia, critical care and pain management within the United Kingdom. Applications will be considered by the Board of the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia and expert external advisers.

The College welcomes nominations from national and/or specialist societies in anaesthesia within the UK. If successful, the title of the Professorship will reflect a joint award from the College and nominating body.

## To apply

Please submit a synopsis of your proposed lecture, along with a CV and covering letter by email and post to the NIAA Coordinator at the address below by 5.00 pm on Friday 1 September 2017.

## Maurice P Hudson Prize

Dr Maurice Hudson was a consultant anaesthetist in London, took the Diploma in Anaesthetics (DA) in 1936, was awarded the Diploma in Anaesthetics (FFARCS) in 1948 and had a particular interest in dental anaesthesia. The Hudson Harness was one of his innovations.

The late Dr Maurice Hudson's daughter generously donated money to the College in memory of her father for an annual prize for the best paper on his favourite subject: resuscitation.

The criteria for this prize have now been extended, and the prize will be awarded to the anaesthetic or intensive care trainee who is the principal author of the best paper relating to the management of acutely ill patients published, or accepted for publication, in a peer reviewed journal.

## To apply

If you are such a trainee and would like to apply for the prize, and you have published an article since 1 August 2016, please submit your article by email and post to the address below, along with a copy of your CV and a covering letter by 5.00 pm on Friday 1 September 2017. A prize of £500 is available this year.

Please note that only one article may be submitted per applicant.

Applications for all of the grants, awards and prizes featured should be sent to the NIAA Co-ordinator, Ms Pamela Hines, by post and email to the Royal College of Anaesthetists, 35 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4SG  
Email: [phines@rcoa.ac.uk](mailto:phines@rcoa.ac.uk)

# NIAA

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