Guidelines for Gnatwork Funding

1.   Funding checklist

✓   All applicants must be Gnatwork members (https://gnatwork.ac.uk/user/register).

✓   All projects must be led by a UK-based Principal Investigator.

✓   Applications must include a Co-Investigator from at least one country receiving Official Development Assistance (ODA).

✓   There is a maximum cap of £100 000 GBP full economic costing (fEC) for a single project (smaller scale projects are encouraged).

✓   The Gnatwork will pay for 80% fEC project cost as for standard BBSRC-funded proposals.

✓   Funding of successful applications will be paid to the UK institution on the project in two stages: 30% before the project commences and 70% on project completion.

✓   Projects must be either six, nine or twelve months in duration.

✓   Projects must be relevant to more than one vector group (blackflies; sandflies; biting midges).

✓   For expressions of interest, participants must be able to agree to the terms provided within the due diligence checklist (available on the website).

✓   **Deadline:** all expressions of interest must be submitted to enquiries@gnatwork.ac.uk in PDF format by midnight (GMT) on 7 December 2018. No late submissions will be accepted.

✓   Projects must begin at the latest by 1 June 2019.

✓   The invoice and expenditure statement for the entire project must be submitted within one month of the project end date. It is not required to submit receipts but receipts must be retained by partners in case they are required for audit purposes in the future.

✓   All projects must submit a final written report, including data and validated methods, within one month of project completion. The data and protocols produced will be published on the Gnatwork website.

2.   What funding is available?

The Gnatwork brings together workers on blackflies (Simulidae), sandflies (Psychodidae) and biting midges (Ceratopogonidae) from around the world to address technical issues that arise when working on small biting flies. We aim to support and develop early career researchers working on these insects in the UK and in countries receiving **Official Development Assistance** (ODA) and carry out high quality studies that will underpin future research efforts on these vectors.

To achieve this, the Gnatwork is funding two independent pump-priming calls across the three years of the project. The first call, Validation (2018), funded three projects which produced and validated techniques across the vector families. The second call, **Transformative Science** (opening 26 October 2018), will investigate specific areas of preliminary research that are sufficiently novel to lead to future, large-scale funding. For this call, the following funds are available:

- The Gnatwork has over **£300 000** available for the Transformative Science call.
- There is a maximum cap of **£100 000 full economic costing (fEC)** for a single project (smaller scale projects are encouraged).
- Projects must be six, nine or twelve months in duration.

3.   What is the timeline for the Transformative Science call?

The **Transformative Science** call opens on **26 October 2018**. We are adopting a two-stage process for applicants. First, researchers should submit an expression of interest outlining the intended project (using the application form available on the website). **The closing date for expressions of interest is 7 December 2018**; applicants should expect to hear the outcome by **15 January 2019**. For those that are successful during the first stage, researchers will be invited to submit a full proposal, the deadline for which will be **24 February 2019**; applicants should expect to hear the outcome by **22 March 2019**.

Expression of interest deadline 7 December 2018	Applicants notified by 15 January 2019	Deadline for full proposals 24 February 2019	Final decisions made by 22 March 2019

4.   What types of projects will the Gnatwork fund?

Applications to the Transformative Science call should be based on innovative research questions and can have a high intrinsic risk. Projects must be relevant to more than one vector group (blackflies; sandflies; biting midges). Areas could include:
- Designing a novel surveillance technique for vectors
- Comparative behavioural studies across the three vector groups (e.g. oviposition; studies of semiochemicals; resting sites)
- Development of novel control methods (including GM-based technologies)
- Novel approaches to mathematical modelling of interventions and/or insecticide resistance
- Trials of vector competence using field or genetically modified pathogens
- Examining the social impact of specific diseases spread by these vector families
- Linking vector occurrence data and taxonomy to mapping of disease occurrence
- Machine learning applications

5.   Am I eligible for funding?

Funding from the Gnatwork has the following eligibility criteria:
- **We will pay for 80% of research costs within proposals only to the UK PI, as in standard BBSRC guidelines.**
- Applicants must be Gnatwork members. Membership is free for all at www.gnatwork.ac.uk.
- Research costs can include staff, consumables, travel costs and equipment (no single piece of equipment should exceed £10 000 in value). Overheads and estates costs shall be dealt with in accordance to standard BBSRC grants as fully detailed within BBSRC Research Grants: The Guide (https://bbsrc.ukri.org/documents/grants-guide/)
- For expressions of interest, participants must meet the terms provided within the due-diligence checklist. For full proposals, participants must be able to process a full diligence questionnaire within the timeframe of the application being funded to ensure deadlines are met.
- Eligibility of academic researchers is not limited to tenured staff (i.e. those at lecturer level or above) but also extends to research staff with contracts that last at least up to the proposed end date of the project. Early career researchers are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Students are not eligible to receive pump-priming funds.
- Applications are limited to a maximum of one proposal per call as Principal Investigator.
- The Director (Dr Simon Carpenter) and Co-Director (Professor Mary Cameron) of the Gnatwork are unable to apply for funding, but all other Management Board members can act as partners in proposals.

UK research organisations:
- **All projects must be led by a UK-based Principal Investigator** whose institution is eligible to receive BBSRC funding.
- Projects must be administered in the UK, but must have a direct and measurable impact in a country receiving ODA through a named co-investigator.
- Pump-priming awards can be made to any non-profit research organisation, e.g. academic, government or non-governmental organisations.

Countries receiving ODA:
- **Applications must include a Co-Investigator from at least one country receiving ODA.**
- The list of ODA receiving countries eligible for Gnatwork grants can be found here: http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC_List_ODA_Recipients2018to2020_flows_En.pdf.
- The research organisation must be able to demonstrate that they are financially stable, be able to account for grant funding and have measures in place to prevent fraud and corruption.
- The research organisation must be able to carry out the study within the time frame proposed, including any local administrative requirements, such as permissions to carry out the work.
- It is expected that the primary impact of the grants will be in the country receiving ODA, hence their involvement is a key aspect of the call and split of research costs should be appropriate to this aim.
- Overseas training of staff from countries receiving ODA is encouraged, however applications should include a plan for implementation of techniques in the home laboratory.

Other countries not receiving ODA:
- Co-Investigators from other countries that do not receive ODA are encouraged.
- These must provide an intellectual or material resource that is not available in the UK.
- Staff time, travel and training costs can all be included in the application.

Industry:
- Researchers from industry cannot receive money from the Gnatwork unless they are providing a specific service to a project.
- Industry can be involved in a project if they are providing cash or in kind contributions.
- The company involved must agree to public release of all data produced.

6.   How to write a successful application.

Researchers should submit a **one-page expression of interest** (using the application form provided on the website), outlining the intended project. The aim of the expression of interest stage is to ensure projects are logistically feasible within the timeframe and fit within the funding call. Each expression of interest will be reviewed initially by the Gnatwork Management Board, following identification of conflicts of interest, and ranked based on their ability to demonstrate:

- Relevance to the Gnatwork funding call (as outlined above)
- Significant involvement and impact in at least one country receiving ODA
- Research carried out is relevant to more than one vector group
- Likelihood of project completion in the six, nine or twelve-month timeframe (including any local administrative requirements, such as permissions to carry out the work)

If a high number of applications are received, we may use portfolio management principles to ensure that funded projects are balanced across different geographical areas, vector groups and scientific areas. Full proposals will only be accepted from those who have submitted an expression of interest and have been invited to submit a full proposal. Those projects selected for full proposals will then complete a longer application, which will be examined in more detail and scored according to the following factors:

- Importance of the project in underpinning further grant funding
- All resources requested fully justified
- Plan for development of early career researcher(s)
- Feasibility, including local requirements for carrying out the study
- Measurable impact in the country receiving ODA
- Likelihood of data release into the public domain within one month of project close

Where necessary, external referees will also be used. These will be assigned by the Network Director (Dr Simon Carpenter) and Co-Director (Professor Mary Cameron).

7.   What happens next?

The completed expression of interest application should be emailed as a PDF to: **enquiries@gnatwork.ac.uk**. All applications will be acknowledged within five working days. The Network Manager will check the application meets the basic criteria and has the required information to make a decision. Any missing information will lead to the application being rejected without further discussion. Successful expression of interest applications will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Funding of successful applications will be paid to the UK institution on the project in two stages: 30% before the project commences, through invoice to the Gnatwork, and 70% on project completion (based on total spend). It is the responsibility of the UK lead institution to manage the funding and distribute to the appropriate partners. **The invoice and expenditure statement for the entire project must be submitted within one month of the project end date. It is not required to**

submit receipts but receipts must be retained by partners in case they are required for audit purposes in the future.

Projects are required to start at the latest by 1 June 2019, finishing 1 June 2020. Updates on project progress will be made quarterly and workers on the projects will be provided with online mentoring from members of the management board and feedback on progress. **All projects must submit a final written report, including data and validated methods, within one month of project completion. The data and protocols produced will be published on the Gnatwork website.**

In addition, the Network Manager and the Director/Co-Director will visit a range of projects within each call, determined by logistics and the degree to which their presence is likely to enhance the project concerned. At the completion of the project, clear guidance will be provided from the management board both to scale up the project for a major funding application and in writing peer reviewed publications, if relevant.

8.   How should I keep up-to-date with the Gnatwork?

Updates on pump-prime funding will be made through the following channels:

- Gnatwork website https://www.gnatwork.ac.uk
- Gnatwork newsletters (sign up available through the website and on joining as a member).
- Gnatwork twitter feed (@the_gnatwork)

9.   Who do I contact if I have any questions?

All questions regarding the application process or eligibility should be sent to: enquiries@gnatwork.ac.uk

Any emails on this subject sent directly to the personal email of the Director, Co-Director, Network Manager or Management Board will not be answered.