RCPCH/BACD Paul Polani Research Award

1. Origins and aims
An anonymous donor gave £150,000 in 2007 to the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) to be used for the benefit of child health. The College decided to call this the Paul Polani fund in memory of Paul Polani (1914-2006) who was the first director of the Paediatric Research Unit at Guy's Hospital, where he was also Prince Phillip Professor of Paediatric Research.

The College decided that the British Academy of Childhood Disability (BACD) should have the responsibility for using the money. In 2011, BACD decided that the Strategic Research Group (SRG), which is a sub-committee of the BACD Executive Committee, should administer the Polani Award.

The Polani Award aims to encourage research and innovation in the field of Paediatric Neurodisability. Research to build a robust evidence-base is essential to provide optimal services for Children and Young People with Disabilities and their families. Teams or individuals of any discipline from the United Kingdom are invited to apply for up to £15,000. Funds can be used to conduct a pilot/feasibility study, undertake a standalone full scale research project, or complete a research project in paediatric neurodisability.

BACD is a National Institute for Health Research non-commercial Partner. Thus the study might be eligible for NIHR Portfolio project status. If adopted to the NIHR Portfolio, Clinical Research Network support and ‘accrual’ benefits for NHS Trusts would be available to the project team.

2. Criteria for the award
Applications will be judged according to the following criteria with each application assessed on the below with equal weighting for each criteria:
- Relevance to neurodisability
- Appropriate stakeholder involvement, including patients and their families
- Quality of the methodology
- Feasibility
- Multi-disciplinary approach
- Importance and likely impacts of the intended outputs

To Note:
- A previous award holder may not apply again as lead applicant
- An applicant may belong to an institution where a previous award holder works but the application must clearly be led by and, if it is successful, delivered by the lead applicant
- A previous award holder is allowed to be part of the multidisciplinary team applying

3. Assessment committee
The Assessment Committee Chair will be the Chair of the SRG; where they have a conflict of interest (CoI) another SRG member will take this role. The assessment committee will be multi-disciplinary, and comprise members of the BACD SRG and other co-opted persons where required. No person with a CoI will participate in reviewing applications or making the award.

4. Process of assessment
All submissions received will be scored against the above criteria.

All unsuccessful applicants will be informed within two weeks of the announcement of the winner at the Annual Scientific Meeting and invited to contact Kelly Robinson (bacd@rcpch.ac.uk) if they would like brief feedback on their application.

5. Obligations on award holders
Financial
a) Funding is to be used solely in respect of the costs of the specific project for which the grant is awarded. Prior approval of the SRG is required before expenditure can be authorised on any amendment to the agreed work plan.
b) Monies from the grant will be repaid to the RCPCH if they are not used for the purpose specified.
c) Once the winner has been informed, he/she will then supply a detailed schedule of how the monies are to be spent. Overheads and NHS support costs will not be reimbursed.
d) Cheques will only be payable to the project leader’s employing institution.
e) The grant will if possible be paid in a single payment, but maybe in two instalments: 90% at the start, with the remaining 10% once the project has concluded.
f) The College reserves the right to reduce its contribution by an amount up to the total of other grants received for the same work. It is the responsibility of the Project leader to inform the RCPCH about the outcome of any such bids as soon as they are known.
g) A statement of expenditure, submitted to the SRG and RCPCH is required at the end of the project and should be included in the end of project report (see below).
h) The grant holder is expected to monitor expenditure of this grant money using the normal procedures in the host institution. The RCPCH may request statements of expenditure at any time during the period of the grant.

Reporting
a) **Progress** reports at 12 months for SRG and 24 months for SRG and Academic Board of RCPCH.
b) The progress reports should be no more than a single A4 page and should indicate progress against original time-scale, and any significant factors which may impact on the time-scale or deliverables of the work.
c) **Final** Report to SRG and Academic Board. Depending on the progress of the study the final report may replace the 24 month progress report.
d) The Project Leader must inform the RCPCH of any publications that may arise from the project as well as presentations at any conferences.
e) Grant holders are advised that the RCPCH Media Affairs team may contact them in relation to possible press releases/press statements or any other form of public dissemination.
f) Grant holders should ensure that any publications (including information about the project on web-sites) carry acknowledgements to the RCPCH’s financial support. The RCPCH’s logo should not be used without prior permission from the Chief Executive of the RCPCH except in the context of acknowledging the RCPCH as the source of funding in presentations.
g) If requested to do so, grant holders are required to present their findings at the BACD Annual Meeting two years after the award is made; reasonable funding for travel and accommodation will be provided by BACD

6. **Previous Award holders**
   - 2018 – Tamsin Newlove-Delgado, Qana Mitrofan, Eva Wooding, Michael Morton, Ming Lim, Andrew Samual, Nadine Mushet, Stuart Logan *Modern illness or a thing of the past? Surveillance study of childhood/adolescent Sydenham’s chorea in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.*
   - 2016 - Ian Male, William Farr, Emma Gowling, Stephen Bremner, Heather Gage & Aaron Gain *How Much Does it Cost the NHS to Assess a Child for Possible Autism?*
   - 2013 - Dawn Adams, Chris Oliver, Louise Handley & Doug Simkiss *Identification of behavioural risk markers for Challenging Behaviour in very young children with intellectual disabilities*
   - 2012 - Anna Basu & Jill Kisler *The use of taping to improve thumb and wrist posture and hand use in infants with non-progressive brain lesions affecting hand function*
   - 2011 - Melissa Gladstone *Creation and validation of a tool for identifying children with functional visual impairments in children with hemiplegia*
   - 2010 - Paul Gringras *Sleep in Children with Severe Cerebral Palsy: Objective Measurement of the Impact of Botulinum Toxin Hip Injections*
   - 2009 - Catherine Hill *Respiratory function in children with severe motor disorders using night-time postural equipment*
   - 2008 - Jeremy Parr & Katie Price *Measuring the efficacy of computer communication intervention for children with cerebral palsy*
   - 2007 - Helen McConachie *Establishing the Lifestyle Assessment Questionnaire, a measure of participation and Lindsay Pennington Predicting the development of intelligible speech by children with cerebral palsy: a pilot study*

For any questions regarding applications, or the award, please contact Kelly Robinson (bcd@rcpch.ac.uk)