

Results of competition: Biomedical Catalyst award round 3 - Follow on projects

Total available funding for this competition was £3m from the Technology Strategy Board.

Note: These proposals have succeeded in the assessment stage of this competition. All are subject to grant offer and conditions being met.

Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
Exploristics (lead)	New software to optimise the design of stratified medicine and benefit-risk studies	£547,206	£328,324
Project description (provided by applicants)			
<p>Exploristics seek to develop an innovative, new simulation platform and additional software modules which will allow users to simulate and evaluate clinical studies with multiple objectives prior to their initiation, allowing determination of the optimal design and analysis approach to meet study objectives with the minimum number of patients, and therefore cost.</p> <p>Exploristics believe that the future success of all clinical development of new drugs is fundamentally dependent on the application of correct study design, analysis strategy and decision criteria, given constraints. The platform will be particularly useful in development of stratified medicine studies and in assessing the benefit/risk of new treatments. It will be of interest to drug developers, data providers, diagnostics companies and to the regulators. The concept has broad application to many other areas of clinical research.</p>			

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GeneFirst Limited (lead) University of Edinburgh	Finalise the development of a novel HPV test technology through clinical study	£932,042	£601,676
Project description (provided by applicants)			
<p>Human papillomavirus (HPV) is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections (STI). Some, but not all, types of HPV can cause cervical cancer (high-risk HPV types, HR-HPV). Since early stage cervical carcinomas are nearly 100% curable, early detection is very important. Accurate molecular diagnosis is needed to inform patient management and follow-up treatment. However, current methods suffer from sub-optimal sensitivity, discrimination and/or complex hybridisation-based procedures. GeneFirst has developed a unique technology (Multiplex Probe Amplification) for sensitive type-specific detection of more than 15 targets (e.g. HR-HPV types) in a single closed tube reaction.</p> <p>In this project, we set out to analyse the clinical performance of this novel HPV molecular diagnostics test to identify patients who have HR-HPV. Such an assay would offer physicians better means to identify women at risk and optimise treatment strategies.</p>			