

## ERASysBio 2<sup>nd</sup> Transnational Call for Collaborative Research Proposals

### The consolidation of systems biology research- stimulating the widespread adoption of systems approaches in biotechnology, biomedicine and agri-food

#### National Annex: UK - BBSRC

**Partner:** Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council – BBSRC - UK

BBSRC supports the ERASysBio 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals and encourages its systems biology research community to apply for funding for collaborative research in the European Research Area. Subject to all conditions of eligibility and peer review being fully met, the budget earmarked by the BBSRC for this call will be up to €10 million. The official national call announcement for the UK is published on the BBSRC website ([www.bbsrc.ac.uk](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk)). Application procedures and forms are available at [www.erasysbio.net/MainCall](http://www.erasysbio.net/MainCall). Applicants are strongly advised to contact their National Call Secretariat before preparing proposals for application.

#### Specific priorities for Collaborative Research Proposals

Under this 2<sup>nd</sup> Call, the BBSRC will fund all areas of its remit seeking to apply systems approaches to biological research in plants and animals (including humans) from molecular systems to cells, organs up to whole organisms and agri/eco-systems. Research on microorganisms is excluded from this call unless it is complementary to research funded under the ERASysBio 1<sup>st</sup> Call SysMO ([www.sysmo.net](http://www.sysmo.net)). BBSRC will fund research relevant to understanding normal human function, but will not fund research focused on specific human diseases and disease processes or abnormal conditions. However, BBSRC will fund UK partners studying normal human function as part of a large proposal on human disease. In addition to these areas, BBSRC wishes to encourage the submission of Collaborative Research Proposals addressing the following specific priorities:

- Integration of systems at the cellular level, with emphasis on the liver cell, heart cell, brain cell, the plant cell.
- Integration of systems at the physiological level, with emphasis on organ systems, e.g. liver, heart, brain, plant root.
- Systems approaches to aging and nutrition, at the level of cells, organs and organisms.
- Systems biotechnology, including the pharmaceutical and health care (red), the agri-food (green), and the biochemical, biomaterial and biofuel (white) sectors. Synthetic biology approaches in the design and construction of novel proteins, genetic circuits and metabolic networks.
- Development of tools and technologies for systems biology research.

#### Eligibility and national funding modalities

UK universities, Independent Research Organisations and BBSRC sponsored institutes are eligible to apply. Full details of eligibility conditions can be found on the BBSRC website [http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/grants\\_guide.html](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/grants_guide.html). Enquiries can be directed to the National Call Secretariat ([gabriela.pastori.ac.uk](mailto:gabriela.pastori.ac.uk)) in the first instance. It is expected that applications submitted to this call will be Collaborative Research Proposals as defined in and following the guidelines of the call main document ([www.erasysbio.net/MainCall](http://www.erasysbio.net/MainCall)). BBSRC will fund the UK partner of any successful transnational collaboration.

#### Specific national regulations and guidelines

Industrial participants are welcomed as project partners under standard BBSRC conditions. Applications submitted under the LINK scheme ([http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/business/collaborative\\_research/link/index.html](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/business/collaborative_research/link/index.html)) will be considered, where BBSRC will fund the academic component at 50:50 with industrial partners. PhD students are not funded as part of a standard collaborative research proposal. Funding will be awarded on the basis of full economic cost as described on the BBSRC website, at the time of the call. At the **Full Proposal stage**, UK applicants are required to clearly justify the requested resources and complete a BBSRC standard

proposal cost form (Form 4) to ensure that their applications conform to current requirements on Full Economic Cost. This can be uploaded from the National Announcement for the United Kingdom, Form 4. Form 4 should **not** be sent through JeS but through the ERASysBio Plus submission tool. On Form 3 – Full Proposal Financial Plan, UK applicants must declare 100% FEC under 'Total Cost of the Project'; and the remaining 20% FEC under 'Own contribution'. The 80% FEC will be automatically calculated under 'Requested Budget'.

### **Proposals for Networks of Systems Biology Centres**

BBSRC wishes to encourage the submission of proposals for Networks of Systems Biology Centres within its remit as a vehicle to promote collaboration in common strategic areas, communication and sharing of knowledge and technological platforms between the Centres. The networks should also facilitate the implementation of the most urgent actions needed on training, data standards, data management, and academic-industrial links in systems biology (ERASysBio Strategy Paper: <http://www.erasysbio.net>). The focus of the network will depend on the topic of choice and the scientific communities involved, e.g. a biological theme; a specific set of methodologies; developing an active and cohesive inter-disciplinary community at a specific discipline interface; reinforcing the links of an existing community through the provision and sharing of tools and resources; etc. Networks will be funded for up to three years, after which they are expected to become self-sufficient. Funds are available for coordination activities (PI's time, administrative support and up to two full time PDRAs), workshops, meetings and summer schools, and travel and subsistence. As for grant proposals, there is no upper limit for funding networks as long as the requested resources are cost-effective and justified. Applications for network proposals must be submitted by one applicant, the area coordinator, who is holder of a senior permanent position at an established European Systems Biology Centre. Such Centre will possess:

- a concentration of research facilities within a single, appropriate and dedicated physical space run under one national programme;
- a long term commitment of space, research facilities and staff within a philosophy of interdisciplinary working;
- a reservoir of skilled technical staff capable of supporting the necessary range of HTP and other advanced technologies to be deployed, and a commitment to their retention, training and development;
- a matured effective policy and provision for data capture, management and storage;
- a vision and strategy for developing at the cutting edge of integrative systems biology;
- a commitment to outreach, engage and train, and to attract and engage other top-class scientists and engineers from within and outside the institution.

The criteria for assessing network proposals will include: the scientific case for the topic that will be the focus of the network; the potential impact of the network on the progress and consolidation of systems biology in Europe; the track record of the area coordinator and proposed members of the network; targets and performance indicators; the quality of the outreach and dissemination of the network's activities and objectives; plans for achieving self-sufficiency.

Funding from BBSRC to UK applicants will be awarded on the basis of full economic cost as described on the BBSRC website, at the time of the call. At the **Full Proposal stage**, UK applicants are required to clearly justify the requested resources and complete a BBSRC standard proposal cost form (Form 4) to ensure that their applications conform to current requirements on Full Economic Cost. This can be uploaded from the National Announcement for the United Kingdom, Form 4. Form 4 should **not** be sent through JeS but through the ERASysBio Plus submission tool. On Form 3 – Full Proposal Financial Plan, UK applicants must declare 100% FEC under 'Total Cost of the Project'; and the remaining 20% FEC under 'Own contribution'. The 80% FEC will be automatically calculated under 'Requested Budget'.

### **National Call Secretariat**

Dr. Gabriela Pastori

Funding organisation: Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council - BBSRC

Postal address: Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 1UH, UK

Phone: +44 1793 413363 ; Fax: +44 1793 413234; E-mail: [gabriela.pastori@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:gabriela.pastori@bbsrc.ac.uk)