

Action on Hearing Loss Pauline Ashley Fellowships

Call and guidelines – 2019 scheme

Purpose of the Pauline Ashley Fellowship

The aim of the Pauline Ashley Fellowship scheme is to help talented young researchers make the transition from a post-doctoral scientist towards becoming an independent investigator, able to lead their own programme of research, attract funding and build a new research team. In doing so, the scheme will build research capacity in hearing research, by supporting the early career development of the UK's most talented new investigators.

The Fellowship supports salary and project costs of up to £120,000 over 2 years. This allows Fellows to develop their own research interests and gather data needed to secure future funding, giving them the opportunity to demonstrate to future funders or employers that they are capable of independently leading a programme of research.

Call for applications

We invite applications in any of the following areas:

- **Diagnosis of hearing loss or tinnitus**, including genetics and early detection of deafness
- **Improved benefit from medical devices**, e.g. hearing aids and cochlear implants
- **Treatments to protect or restore hearing**, including investigation of the mechanisms underlying hearing loss and the development of therapies (cell-, drug-, or gene-based) to prevent hearing loss or restore natural hearing
- **Silencing tinnitus**

Summary of the fellowship

- **Value:** Up to £120,000
- **Duration:** usually 24 months
- **Eligibility:** The applicant should be an early career investigator who has the desire and potential to become an independent scientist in the field of hearing research. They must hold a PhD and can be based at any UK university or research institute, but must not be a permanent employee. The award should support progression towards an independent research career.

Additional notes for applicants

- The applicant should be an early career investigator and not a permanent employee of the university or research institution
- The application should be written by the prospective Fellow, not the sponsor.
- The sponsor will be asked to comment on how they and the institution will facilitate and support the career development towards scientific independence of the applicant
- Projects must be defined pieces of research with clearly stated objectives, an experimental plan and expected outcomes
- Applications must explain how the project is focussed on outcomes that will contribute to benefitting people with hearing loss or tinnitus
- It is the policy of Action on Hearing Loss not to fund indirect costs
- Eligible costs can include salaries and direct project costs. Requests solely for capital equipment will not be considered
- See the '*Action on Hearing Loss Pauline Ashley Fellowship guidance document*' for further information and help with completing the application form

Application and selection procedure:

To submit a proposal, complete the Pauline Ashley fellowship application form available on the Action on Hearing Loss website: <https://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/finding-cures/apply-for-research-grants/action-on-hearing-loss-pauline-ashley/>

Please **email** the completed application form as a **SINGLE attached MS Word document (not exceeding 5Mb** and with a filename in the format of SurnameApplicant1_PA19.doc or .docx, e.g., Smith_PA19.doc) to fellowship@hearingloss.org.uk

All applications must be received by the 28th February 2019.

Eligible proposals will be reviewed by two/three external reviewers. These reviews and the original proposals will then be considered by our Pauline Ashley Review Panel* who will rank the proposals and shortlist candidates for interview.

Interviews will take place in May or June – the final date will be confirmed with you when you submit your application. Short-listed candidates will be informed no less than 2 weeks before the interview date, and given further instructions for the interview then.

Interviews will take place in London, at Action on Hearing Loss headquarters, conducted by the Pauline Ashley review panel. Following the interviews, the panel will make funding recommendations to Action on Hearing Loss.

For further details, telephone 020 3227 6158 or e-mail fellowship@hearingloss.org.uk

Deadlines

Full applications: 28 February 2019 (5pm)

Interview date: to be confirmed, May or June 2019

Final decision: July 2019

- *Action on Hearing Loss Pauline Ashley research review panel
- Professor Steve Brown, MRC Harwell Institute (chair)
 - Dr Bob Carlyon, University of Cambridge
 - Dr Karolina Kluk-de Kort, University of Manchester
 - Dr Mark Wallace, University of Nottingham
 - Additional members to be confirmed

2019 round

