

Chapter 4. Management and Professional Issues

The EPSRC Support for Research in Healthcare

Houghton J

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

The aim of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) is to invest in research and postgraduate training in engineering and the physical sciences so that the UK will be prepared for the next generation of technological change. With an annual budget of £450M, the EPSRC is the largest of the Research Councils. EPSRC support for Healthcare is ~£25M/annum.

EPSRC is organised into 10 programme areas. Research in Healthcare is currently funded by a number of different programme areas: engineering, physics, innovative manufacturing, IT and computer science, the life sciences interface programme and mathematics. EPSRC manages the allocation of research funding in two ways: (1) responsive mode and (2) managed programmes.

In responsive mode, the research idea originates with the proposer and proposals may be submitted at any time. There is no restriction on the subject matter for responsive mode proposals, other than it should fall within the EPSRC remit. The key requirement is high engineering or scientific quality, with highly innovative proposals embracing new concepts or techniques actively encouraged. All Healthcare responsive mode proposals undergo peer review and are assessed by a single Healthcare panel, irrespective of the programme area funding the proposal. Examples of Healthcare proposals currently being funded in the different programme areas will be given during the talk.

In contrast, managed programmes are delivered through specific calls for proposals, usually with

closing dates. Managed programmes are developed to:

- Support strategic research with specific research aims
- Encourage multidisciplinary research
- Assist in the development of a new research community and activity

Details of current and proposed managed calls applicable to Healthcare researchers will be given during the talk.

National Occupational Standards

Hill S, *Birmingham*

Medical Equipment Management and Development NOS

Meldrum S J, *Norwich*

Assessment of Competencies

Griffiths P, *Lincoln*