



Sam Richmond Scholarship – FAQ

What is the Sam Richmond Scholarship?

This is an award of £1000 per year that can be applied for from the Northern Neonatal Network. It has been running since 2014 and is named after the late Doctor Sam Richmond. Sam was a Consultant Neonatologist who worked as the clinical lead in Sunderland and was a passionate supporter of neonatal research and care development. It provides an opportunity for staff with good ideas, to be given some support to develop them and bring about improvements that can then be translated across the wider network of nine other units.

How often is it being run?

The Network endeavours to deliver the Scholarship on an annual basis, though the dates for this change slightly. This is advertised on our website and also via your local network board members (usually the NICU/SCBU nurse manager and lead consultant). They can be a starting point for a conversation about the scholarship.

What will the annual winner of the Scholarship receive?

There is a total scholarship fund of £1000 available each year, this may be awarded to one single applicant or may be shared; depending on the quality of the entries.

The winner will also receive a trophy, the design of which has been carefully chosen by Sam's widow Liz and there will be a presentation date and an opportunity for some publicity for all winners.

How is the winner chosen?

Applicants must submit their idea according to the guidance that has been detailed on our website and below. This must be in written format that can then be emailed once completed; a word document or a PDF is ideal. Once the closing date has been passed, each application will then be assessed by a panel of network officers consisting of a number of different specialists. The panel have a strict marking criteria which is based on the following:

- A well thought through project which has well-defined aims and objectives.
- Clearly investigated background work i.e. alluding to whether this is new work or building on something that has already been started.
- A project which will have wider applicability across all the Northern Neonatal Network.
- If the applicant(s) has the ability and support to take what is being proposed to fruition and within the time constraints of a year.
- If the funding plan is realistic and sufficient for their needs.
- If any ethical considerations are required and exactly how the applicant plans to address these.

Who is eligible?

The Scholarship is open to any nurse or allied health professional currently working in one of the ten NICU/SCBUs across the Northern Neonatal Network, of all roles and bands, as long as they have hands on clinical involvement in the care of babies. Unit managers and Network officers/Board members are not eligible. Joint proposals will be accepted as long as the previous conditions are met.

So what are we looking for?

We are looking for motivated and keen **allied health professionals** and **nurses** with good project ideas to apply for an award of up to £1000 that will help move neonatal care forward. This could be a potential improvement in the care of the baby, care of the parents or enhancements in an aspect of care or therapy delivered.

The Network is interested in small scale studies or pilot project work which will enhance neonatal care, which may have impact on babies, parents or therapies offered.

The more original the better, so background work is essential prior to applying so that we can see that the topic is truly of interest.

Ask yourself these questions when writing your application:

- Is this something brand new?
- Does this build on previously published work?
- Is there evidence to support that it would be a good thing?
- What would be the advantages?
- How much will it cost to do / set up?
- Can I do it alone or do I need some help, if so who?

What needs to be in your application?

1. Project summary *(500 words)*

This should tell us in a concise way, what your project/idea is all about, why it is important and what it will bring to neonatal care. This is where you should show your enthusiasm for your topic area and let us know just how much you know about it and why it is better than anyone else's!

2. Project aims and objectives *(250 words max)*

You should be able to outline what your aims are (your statement of intent or general direction) and your objectives (specific and measurable statements or goals). E.g. I plan to work with neonatal parents (who are living in) and music therapy (aim). To do this I will undertake two focus groups to ask parents about what value they place on music and how it may help or hinder their mood. I will then enlist parents to listen to different music pieces for me and ask them to score this on how it affected their mood positively or negatively (objectives). And so on... This will help to explain to your audience how you see this working and what you will specifically be looking at and undertaking. It also provides something that is tangible and measurable.

3. Wider network applicability *(who will it affect?)*

You should outline here if this is something that could be done at any unit in the region. It would be best if it could be rolled out elsewhere but depending on the topic area, it may be something that is only useful on an NICU or on a SCBU or on outreach etc. So state this clearly and state why this is the case and if you have a plan for this, say so.

4. Project costings *(what will it cost to do?)*

It is important that you are able to have some idea of what this will cost to achieve. It is not necessary for the award to cover all of the costs, but you should have a plan in mind as to what it will cover and also how you would plan to undertake the rest (though we do not want you to contact lots of places for funding all at once – this should be your starting place).

5. Project timeline *(how long will it take to do?)*

It is a really good idea to work out a time frame as to how long you think it will take to do your project. So for example if you were planning on undertaking a focus group as part of it, you will need to consider time to plan out your questions, time to recruit people for the focus group and also time to review all

of your data so that you can see what information that brought you. Mapping this out in a gantt chart or simple table, similar shows good planning.

6. Dissemination strategy (*getting messages out?*)

You should also include how you plan to get the results of something out or how you plan to tell everyone that you have had the most amazing idea and that it will work for their area too. This could be a poster at a conference, it could be a publication or it could be that you plan to do some conferences to talk about it. In other words, how do you blow your own trumpet?

What sort of ideas/proposals would not be eligible?

We will not fund the following:

- Funding for personal study such as MSc.
- Attendance at conferences/study days
- Salary backfill for network staff.

Next Steps:

It may be useful to talk through your idea with either Lynne or Martyn, contact details:

Contact Lynne Paterson (Nurse Lead) – Lynne.Paterson2@nhs.net / 01642 854871

OR Martyn Boyd (Network Manager) – Martyn.Boyd@chsft.nhs.uk / 0191 5410139

to get some advice and practical tips on your application.

Once completed, your application should be emailed directly to either of the addresses above by the final date. You will be contacted by email on receipt.

For more information:

There is further information on the Network website: www.nornet.org.uk/

We like to shout about our scholarship winners so we will also ask the winners to present at our annual Northern Neonatal Network conference. Before you panic about this and consider this to be a reason not to apply, think again. This can be done as a poster or also as a video, so please ask Martyn and Lynne's advice before refusing to develop a perfectly good idea!

Any entries received after the closing date stipulated will not be eligible for consideration and the panel's decision will be final