**ADVERT**

**DIFFICULT AIRWAY SOCIETY**

**ADEPT-1 RESEARCH GRANT 2016**

Announcement date 5 June 2016

Deadline for receipt of application: 30 June 2016

Submit application to: DAS President president@das.uk.com

# INTRODUCTION

This grant is offered from the following premises:

Achievement of rapid and stable airway access is a critical step in the management of many patients in a variety of clinical settings and supraglottic airway devices (SAD) are an important alternative in the management of patients with difficult airways.

A wide range of CE-marked supraglottic airway devices (SAD) is available in clinical practice in the United Kingdom. Whilst there are both national and international regulations governing the marketing and sale of such devices, hitherto there has been no formal professional guidance relating to their selection. Consequently, the Airway Device Evaluation Project Team (ADEPT) of the Difficult Airway Society (DAS) has developed a professional standard, ADEPT Guidance, on the selection of airway devices

The aim of the ADEPT is to establish a process by which the airway-management community within the profession could lead a process of formal device/equipment evaluation. There are increasing numbers of airway management devices being introduced into clinical practice with little or no evidence of their clinical efficacy or safety. While there are several national and international regulations governing which products can come on to the market and be legitimately sold, there has hitherto been no formal professional guidance relating to how products should be selected. ADEPT has formulated such advice, emphasizing evidence based principles and defined a minimum level of evidence needed to make a pragmatic decision about the purchase or selection of an airway device.

DAS is pleased to announce the first project grant directed to ADEPT Guidance, funded by way of a charitable donation supplied by Teleflex Medical Incorporated made to the Difficult Airway Society. The criteria for award of grant emphasise (as outlined below) the need for multi-centre sites within the United Kingdom (already a mission of DAS) and other criteria that promote multiprofessional working. The allocation of grant will be independent of the donors.

# TYPE OF AIRWAY DEVICE TO BE TESTED

The proposed study will need to examine the safety and efficacy of any dedicated second generation sterile single use supraglottic airway management device. To fulfill the criterion of a ‘2nd generation SAD’ for the purposes of this grant, the device to be tested should have at least two channels, at least one dedicated to drainage. Specifically there must be no need of additional bite blocks (ie, any notion of a ‘bite block’ must be incorporated into the functionality of the SAD device to be tested). Specifically, a system for proximal displacement of the SAD will need to be described in the application or inherent in the device to be tested. Selection of a device that incorporates a one-way check valve for SAD inflation or deflation would be an advantage.

**ELIGIBILITY FOR APPLICATION**

1. The application must be from at least 4 separate centres (ie, from distinct NHS Trusts in UK [restrictions prevent the Republic of Ireland or European or other centres, which are specifically excluded from this grant]
2. Two investigators MUST have higher degrees. By higher degrees is specified as follows: At least one study site investigators must, academically, be a clinician with a doctorate (PhD/DPhil) and not – specifically – an MD - AND one must be at a non-clinician with degree of doctor of philosophy (PhD/DPhil). In other words, an essential criterion is that the team incorporates a basic scientist PhD with a medically qualified PhD in its team, regardless of other academic rank or accomplishments.
3. All investigators must be judged recognized as an accomplished investigator in anaesthesia and/or airway management.
4. Also, he/she must have proven ability to pursue independent research as evidenced by original research publications in peer-reviewed journals or funding from extramural sources.
5. Moreover, all named clinical investigators must have a substantive NHS consultant appointment in anaesthesia (with or without association with a host university). This does not preclude inclusion of investigators who are non-clinicians.
6. Investigators will make all arrangements for conduct of the proposed research projects at their institutions—including obtaining ethics committee approval—and assume responsibility for conducting the research projects and supervising the work of all associate investigators.

###### INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

 The applicant is required to demonstrate that the project will be successfully completed at their institution. Given the scope of this project, multi-institutional collaborations are necessary. The applicant must demonstrate that access to a suitable caseload or patient population will be available for study during the funding period.

 The application must be authorized/led by a practicing NHS consultant anaesthetist who must also hold an academic appointment (or honorary [but not emeritus]) as a professor/ associate/ assistant/reader in England/Wales (for these purposes to include university, college or DAS Professors). There must be a link to a UK university (HEI); applications led from NHS Trusts alone will not be accepted.

### EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

 Applications will be reviewed by the DAS Committee. All decisions are final and there will be no appeals or further correspondence. All applications will be submitted on this understanding. The applications will be reviewed by at least two non-anonymised reviewers.

**TERMS OF THE AWARD**

 One award will be made. The funds of the ADEPT-1 Research Grant award will be disbursed to a university finance department in accordance with set rules. There is no time limit to the payment of award, since it is recognized added value may be sought by way of partner funding, or seed corn funding, and a portion of the total award may be held back to be payable at any time in the future (eg, to support studentships or bursaries at the sole discretion of the successful award-holder) but it is anticipated that the substantive study will be complete within a year of award.

Limitations on Award

 Funds may be used for materials and supplies, research personnel support or to provide salary support. Payments will be made to the investigators’ institutions that will be responsible for administering the funds, and not to individuals. The grant will not cover institutional overheads but may cover (with separate application to DAS) costs for publications. DAS is not fiscally responsible for funds necessary for the project's completion, other than the sum awarded. However, request for further funding may be made, with no guarantee that these will be provided.

Change of Status of Principal Investigator

 If the selected Principle Investigator ceases the discharge of their duties through death, disability or serious or relevant change in circumstance, the conditions of award will terminate. The disposition about the remaining balance of allocated funds will be subject to negotiation.

Liability of the Difficult Airway Society

 DAS assumes no financial liability over patient care. The Principal Investigator and his/her institution are responsible under the terms specified by their host institution, as are partner investigators with their employers, The terms of the donation restrict this grant to the UK.

Patent Policy

 Investigators and institutions acknowledge that, though unlikely, if a patentable invention or discovery is conceived, or conceived and reduced to practice by DAS-supported personnel during the duration of award, DAS must be appraised of the invention and the institution's plans for protecting such invention under existing institutional patent policy. DAS will defer to institutional policies where they are in compliance with those of UK law. DAS reserves the right, where the organization has no patent policy, or policies not in compliance with those of the UK government, to claim rights and interests in the invention or discovery.

**PUBLICATIONS**

 All results and discoveries resulting from work supported at least in part by DAS should be made available to the public and scientific community through scientific and/or public policy channels such as national meetings and peer-reviewed publications. Publications must specifically acknowledge the support of the ADEPT-1 grant in every output related to this work.

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Submission in electronic format only is required. No hard copies or signatures are needed.

It is understood that any grant approved by the DAS will be made with the following conditions:

1. All the criteria specified above are met.
2. The maximum sum available is £57,000.
3. Funds for institutional overhead or VAT will not be provided.
4. The investigator's institution handling the grant is a Higher Education Institution (HEI) and not a profit making organization or NHS Trust or charity.
5. All reports of work achieved with this grant will acknowledge the support of the ADEPT-1 grant.
6. Any discovery that arises from work supported in part by the DAS will be submitted for publication.
7. DAS reserves the right to terminate payments under this grant at its sole discretion, save to meet costs already incurred.
8. Patent rights will conform to institutional standards. If none exist, the DAS reserves the right to protect such interests.
9. Although no institutional confirmation is required at application stage, no funds will be transferred until or unless the relevant Fiscal Officer signatures/agreement of the sponsoring institution are in place.