



VALIDATE Annual Meeting Calls Application Guidance

Summary

VALIDATE is an international research network aiming to accelerate vaccine development for three groups of complex, neglected pathogens - mycobacteria (causing TB, leprosy and other diseases), the leishmaniases (leishmaniasis), and *Burkholderia pseudomallei* (melioidosis) - by creating an engaged and interactive community of researchers forming new cross-pathogen, cross-continent, cross-species and cross-discipline collaborations, generating new ideas, taking advantage of synergies and quickly disseminating lessons learned across the Network. We also aim to facilitate continuing professional development (CPD) and career progression among our members, particularly Early Career Researchers, and (recognising inequity in career advancement) researchers based in low-and-middle income countries (LMICs), and those identifying as female or non-binary.

The Network holds an Annual Meeting, at which members can apply to present a research talk or a poster. These applications are now submitted through a single VALIDATE Annual Meeting Calls Application Form. Research talk abstract applications are open to Investigator and Associate members only; poster abstract applications are open to all members.

Application process

Applicants may apply for a research talk, a poster presentation, or both. If you wish to be considered for both presentation formats, please select both options. Your submission will be reviewed according to the criteria for each application type selected.

NB There is no need to apply for both a talk and a poster for the same topic; if you apply for a talk and are unsuccessful then the review panel will choose whether to invite you to present a poster instead, or that you were not successful for either category.

The application form and associated documents must be submitted through the Annual Meeting Calls Submission Portal before the call deadline. You will receive an automated email notification of your submission immediately, followed by acknowledge of your submission from a member of the VALIDATE team within 3 working days. All applications go to the VALIDATE [Network Management Board](#) (NMB) for competitive review. Applicants will be informed of outcomes within one week of the NMB review meeting.

NMB members will not input into discussions about an application where they have a conflict of interest (see below for details on conflicts of interest). The VALIDATE [Scientific Advisory Board](#) (SAB) have oversight of the NMB and the NMB review of funding applications to ensure transparency, fairness and consistency.

Please be aware that any applications that are incorrect, incomplete, outside the remit, or otherwise ineligible will be automatically rejected. You may amend your submitted application by replying to the confirmation of receipt email at any time until the call closes. After the deadline, no appeals will be accepted, and no additional documents can be submitted. Do contact the VALIDATE Team at VALIDATE@ndm.ox.ac.uk with any queries about the form or the application process.

Completing the Application Form

Please complete all relevant sections of the form:

- Applicant Details (all applicants to complete)
- Section A: Call for Research Talk Abstracts (Investigators & Associates only)
- Section B: Call for Poster Abstracts (open to all members)
- Section C: Additional documents (all applicants to complete)

HIC/LMIC:

Tick whether you are based for work at an institute in a High-Income (HIC) or Low/Middle-Income (LMIC) country.

A list of countries that count as LMICs can be found [here](#) on the 'Current DAC list of ODA recipients': any country listed in any column on this ODA recipients list counts as LMIC for VALIDATE purposes, no matter which column it is listed in, with the exception of the following countries:

- Belarus – we cannot accept members based in Belarus.
- China – members based in China count as HIC for VALIDATE purposes.
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea – we cannot accept members based in North Korea.
- India – the Indian government does not want to receive UK ODA funds, so members based in India count as HIC for VALIDATE purposes.
- Iran – we cannot accept members based in Iran.
- Syria – we cannot accept members based in Syria

Please note that we also currently cannot accept members based in Russia.

Research Area Focus:

VALIDATE's remit is for research aiming to accelerate vaccine development for three groups of complex, neglected pathogens - mycobacteria, the leishmaniasis, and *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. Research can be for any stage of the vaccine pathway (from basic science to translation). Any research that can feed into developing efficacious vaccines for these pathogens is also acceptable e.g. bioinformatics, social science, outreach.

Please note that any applications for research talks/posters outside VALIDATE's three focus pathogens will be deemed out of the call remit and the application will therefore be ineligible and will be rejected.

VALIDATE Network Membership Level:

Please select your current VALIDATE membership level. If you are not yet a member then you can submit your membership application (via the [VALIDATE website](#)) concurrently with this call application (and select 'membership in progress' on the Annual Meeting Call Application form). All VALIDATE Annual Meeting delegates must be VALIDATE members.

Abstracts:

Please ensure your talk or poster abstract includes both your title and the abstract. Do not exceed the stated word limit. If successful, your title and abstract will be included in the Meeting programme.

VALIDATE Funding:

Please list any VALIDATE funding you have received previously e.g. travel grant, training grant, pump-priming grant (as a lead applicant or collaborator), lab placement, Directors' Fund, small equipment grant, publication grant, Fellowship.

CV Guidance:

VALIDATE Annual Meeting Calls - application guidance document v1

All applicants are required to submit a CV (max 2 pages) and publication list (max 1 page) in support of their application. The below list indicates the information we require to be detailed in your CV. Please note that any additional information supplied is optional.

- Full name
- Email address
- Education history (Bachelors degree and above)
 - Dates of education
 - Course name
 - Institution name
- Employment history (10 years)
 - Dates of employment
 - Institution name
 - Job title
 - Brief summary of your role
- Grants obtained (dates, funder, project title, amount, your role on the project)

Letter of Support:

All Early Career Researcher (ECR) applicants must provide a letter of support from their Research Group Leader (or Line Manager), confirming that your manager is happy for you to attend the VALIDATE Annual Meeting and present your research.

Sign & Date

Do not forget to sign and date the form, having read our Privacy Notice (as this specifies how we treat your personal data).

Travel Support

- Travel costs for attending the VALIDATE Annual Meeting are automatically covered for successful research talk applicants, **regardless of applicant location**.
- Travel costs for attending the VALIDATE Annual Meeting are automatically covered for all successful **LMIC-based** poster presentation applicants.
- VALIDATE travel support includes covering travel, accommodation, visa fees, subsistence, and other approved costs associated with attending the event; if an awardee is also attending the ECR workshop, then the costs to attend this will also be covered.

Please note: it is appropriate (and encouraged) for applicants to maximise their visit to the Annual Meeting, perhaps by setting up further meetings with VALIDATE members at the meeting or in the host country, or giving a presentation at a VALIDATE member institute nearby about your research, to build your network and collaborations. If you are awarded a travel grant and plan to do this, please notify the VALIDATE team in your grant acceptance response.

Publicity and Data Protection

Travel grant applicants are required to have read the [VALIDATE privacy policy](#) and [VALIDATE Statement on the Use of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#).

Copies of applications will be made available to the VALIDATE NMB and SAB for review of the proposal and for post-award administration. VALIDATE may choose to publish details of awards, awardees, and testimonials.

All awards are passed down from [VALIDATE's funders](#) so, to meet our reporting obligations, awardee details may be passed on to these funders as appropriate. These funders in turn have obligations for public accountability and the dissemination of information, so non-confidential details of awards may also be made available on these funders' websites and other publicly available databases, and in reports, documents and mailing lists. The VALIDATE funders will use this information for research related activities, including but not limited to, statistical analysis in relation to the evaluation of their funding, study of trends and policy and strategy studies.

Conflict of Interest

Examples of a conflict of interest include:

- Close active collaboration impacting on the application being reviewed
- Holding a current position on the governing body of the applicant organisation
- Personal/family relationship with the applicant(s)