



THE BUTTERFLY SKIN CHARITY

Help stop the pain of EB

Research funding opportunities

Our ambitious plans for EB research



DEBRA UK Research Round-up

2023

DEBRA UK

DEBRA UK was the world's first epidermolysis bullosa patient support organisation, founded in 1978. We are the largest UK funder of EB research and have been committed to a remarkable research journey for EB - from gene discovery to cutting-edge trials of therapies to control symptoms and manage complications like cancer.

Find out about:



funding opportunities for 2024
and PPI applications clinic



our current
research portfolio



updates on
2023 applications



opportunities to promote
your work through DEBRA



“ We will fund science of the highest quality that has the potential to deliver for EB patients. Our priorities are to invest in drug repurposing and drug discovery programmes to increase our understanding of EB and develop treatments that will slow or stop EB.”

Dr Sagair Hussain
Director of Research, DEBRA UK

Funding opportunities

for 2024



We open our 2024 international call for applications on 1 February 2024 with a deadline of 31 March 2024.

Proposals addressing symptom control in EBS are particularly encouraged in line with our **research strategy** towards life-changing treatments and drug repurposing.

- DEBRA project grants of up to £200,000 for 2-3 years.
- DEBRA small grant awards of up to £15,000 for 1 year.
- DEBRA non-clinical PhD studentship awards of up to £140,000 for 4 years (UK only).

We strongly encourage PPI in our funding application process. **Join our virtual Applications Clinic on Friday 29th February 2024** to involve our EB community members in your application.

We'd like to remind UK researchers of:

- MRC/DEBRA jointly funded awards
- Action Medical Research/DEBRA project grants - closing date for outline applications 27 February 2024



If you wish to discuss your proposed research area in advance of submission, please contact **Dr Sagair Hussain**, Director of Research.



2023 applications update

Applications for our funding more than doubled from 2022 to 2023. **Over £1.8 million of research grants have been awarded in 2023** for project grants, small grants and the first DEBRA UK PhD studentships as part of our commitment to build a clear career pathway into and through EB research. We have partnered with DEBRA groups in France and Ireland and with independent charities to increase our impact.



Your applications are appreciated and carefully considered by our **Scientific Grants Advisory Panel** and **DEBRA members living with EB**. Applicants have the opportunity to read and respond to comments from our external reviewers as part of the process.

“

I would like to highlight how important it is for us to read these comments and improve our project design and data analysis, maximising the outputs of the proposed project. Not all charities share these comments and I wish this was a common practice across funding bodies.”

Feedback from a 2023 applicant for research funding

Our current research portfolio

It has been a great year for DEBRA research with our first award specifically aimed at drug repurposing, funded through our A Life Free of Pain appeal.

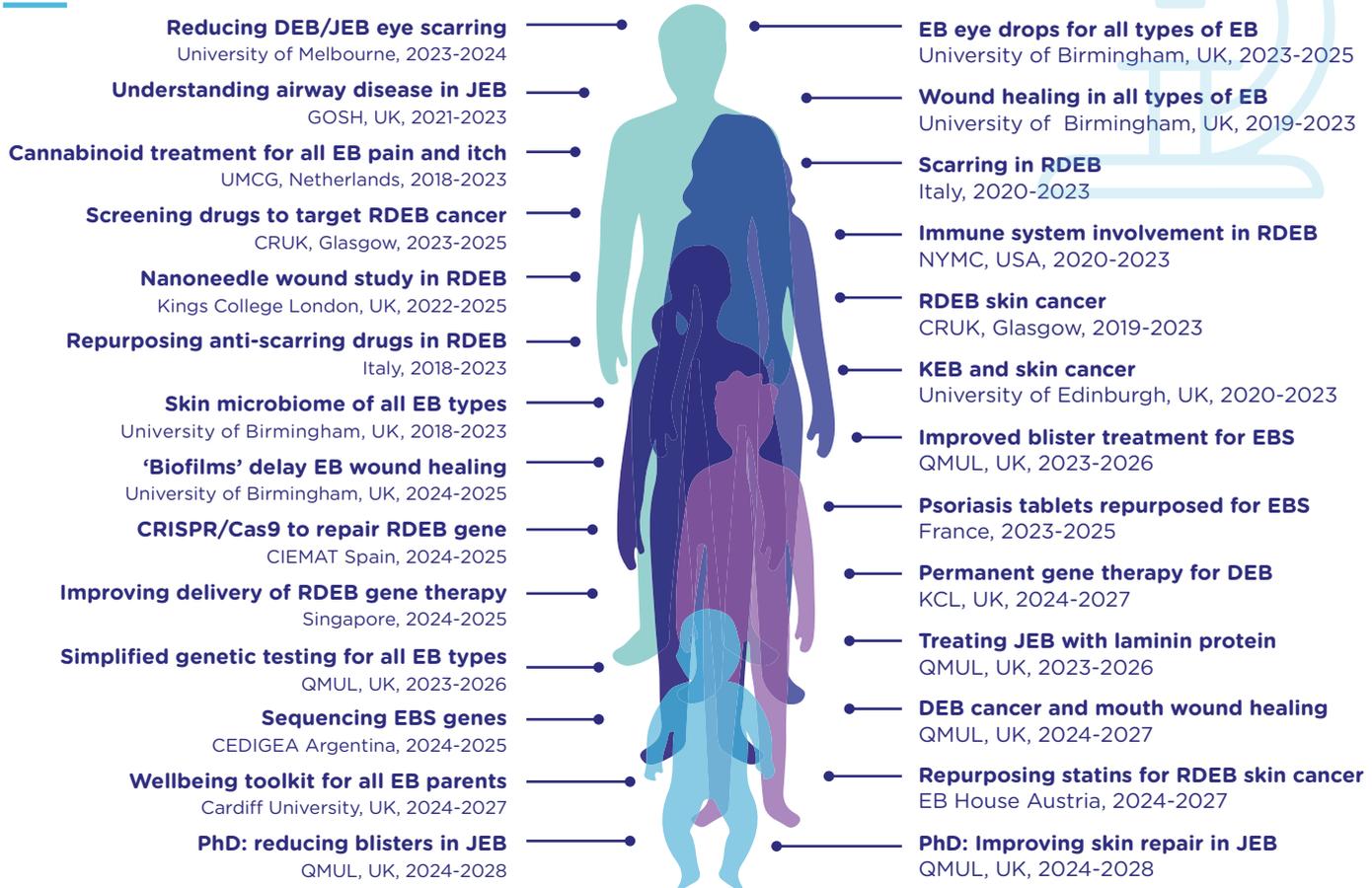
This project, **repurposing apremilast** for people with EBS and an additional **London-based project in partnership with Action Medical Research for Children**, increases our efforts towards combatting symptoms of the most common EB subtype, EBS. An **additional three projects** were awarded funding at the end of 2022 as **eight research projects** came to an end. New goals and final reports are summarised on our **projects information page**.

Our research direction is informed by the results of our **2023 Insight Study** which involved **over 300 members** of the EB community and over 150 healthcare professionals.



Scarlett, has EBS.

Our current research portfolio



Opportunities to promote your work through DEBRA

We love to share **blogs from the researchers** we're funding and also provide the opportunity to speak directly to our members through recorded webinars. Please email us at research@debra.org.uk if you would be interested in participating.

We also welcome potential speakers for our Members' Weekend in May 2024 which will be an opportunity to meet DEBRA members living with EB and share highlights of your current research in a presentation or Q&A session. Please contact **Dr Sagair Hussain** if you would be interested in participating.

Thank you

for all the work you do towards increasing understanding of EB and driving us towards potential treatment options.



DEBRA representatives visited three EB research groups across the UK, in Birmingham, Glasgow and QMUL (London).



Help stop the pain of EB

Please forward this newsletter to any colleagues you think may also be interested in applying for our funding. If you have received this email from a colleague, **please leave your details** so we can keep you updated with future funding opportunities.

Thank you again to everyone involved in research on EB.

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DEBRA Royal Patron - HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh, GCVO
DEBRA President - Simon Weston CBE

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