Bridging Funds

Priorities for use of bridging funds are to provide flexible and reactive support to new investigators and to provide strategic funding for research that will underpin future fellowship/research grant proposals.

Bridging Funds: Case Study

In 2011, funds were used to support a postdoctoral researcher along with consumable costs, over a 11 month period in Dr Sarah Coulthurst’s group, who at the time was a tenure track PI supported by a Royal Society of Edinburgh personal fellowship. Preliminary data generated during this period enabled Dr. Coulthurst to secure a MRC NIRG (New Investigator Research Grant), with an award value in excess £300k. The ISSF-supported postdoc was employed on the NIRG and these bridging funds were therefore also important in supporting her scientific career. The subsequent work on the MRC NIRG and a joint project with a WT-funded PhD student contributed to 3 key publications that supported Dr Coulthurst’s successful tenure application in Life Sciences at the University of Dundee. Shortly following Sarah’s tenure, she secured a Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellowship with an award value of approximately £1.5 million.

Dr Sarah Coulthurst, Molecular Mircobiology
Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow

The major research focus of the Coulthurst group is to elucidate how bacterial pathogens are able to interact and interfere with other bacterial cells and with host organisms, particularly through the use of protein secretion systems. The laboratory utilises a variety of approaches from genetics, molecular biology and classical microbiology, through to biochemistry, proteomics and cell biology.

“I hugely value the benefits that the ISSF brought me early in my career and regard this support as invaluable in underpinning the success of my career to date.”