Further Information

RCVS Knowledge Target Grants 2 (TG2)

Applications are invited for the second round of Target Grants, aimed at increasing the availability of teaching and learning resources for evidence-based veterinary medicine.

We are funding the development of a coherent programme of short courses aimed at imparting the skills veterinary professionals need to apply evidence-based approaches in veterinary care.

The grant will be awarded to the proposal or proposals which best demonstrate the ability to develop a suitable curriculum, tailored for veterinary professionals, to be delivered in innovative and engaging ways.

The content should be particularly suitable for delivery in a non-academic setting, such as CPD events, self-learning or online.

The learning outcomes for those accessing the materials are that they should be able to:

1. Apply EBVM techniques in day-to-day practical decision-making; and,
2. Be able to contribute their learning and skills to the wider veterinary community by producing Knowledge Summaries for publication by the EBVM Network.

1. Context

The practice of EBVM requires that clinicians acquire expertise in locating, evaluating and applying appropriate high quality medical information to a clinical problem or question. The writing of Knowledge Summaries is equally dependent on these skills.

Knowledge Summaries, also known as critically appraised topics, are short critical summaries of the best available information on a defined clinical question. It has been argued previously that sharing questions and the evidence-based answers that are found is the only effective strategy to address the information explosion in medicine.

“We are all asking the same questions and seeking the same answers. If we share that process, then we may be able to make the information needed by clinicians more widely available, as well as accessible at the point of clinical contact”

RCVS Knowledge is committed to equipping the veterinary profession with high quality, clinically relevant Knowledge Summaries. We intend to support an already existing enthusiastic community of professionals to learn the necessary skills in order to write these summaries, and to increase the group of people contributing to this process.

To facilitate this, we aim to work with the EBVM Network to provide the needed training tools.

2. The Target

Main Target
To supply EBVM teaching and learning tools for the EBVM Network.

General Aims
The general aims of TG2 are as follows:

- To support the development of a coherent programme of short courses aimed at helping veterinary professionals become competent in EBVM and in the skills associated with its practice;
- To make critical appraisal training available to the veterinary community so that the pool of authors capable of writing Knowledge Summaries grows;
- To empower the EBVM Network to deliver training based on an expertly designed curriculum and training package (which has the potential to be adapted to local settings); and,
- To empower individual veterinary professionals to learn about EBVM in their own time.

3. The Project
The course(s) should be designed in such a way as to enable students to use EBVM in their daily practice of veterinary medicine.

The successful applicants will be expected to produce a stand-alone EBVM training package aimed at veterinary professionals, along with the necessary educational materials (guides for trainers, lesson plans, etc). These materials will be available through a Creative Commons Licence.

The package should be delivered as a finished product for immediate use in CPD events or teaching courses, for example, and should include the content (divided by modules), learning exercises and materials, as well as strategies for instruction and evaluation of students - (i.e. skills-competency tests).

Whilst some applicants will have the necessary skills to develop the learning programme, they might not have the technical resources in place to be able to build an online platform, to film engaging teaching videos, to set-up webinars or to organise directed teaching courses onsite. For those candidates, we will accept applications focussing on “stand-alone teaching package only”.

In that case, RCVS Knowledge will then commission additional delivery modalities such as:

- Online (YouTube videos/online learning platforms/webinars)
- Onsite (roadshows, workshops, seminars)
- Other

As the training is aimed at an international audience, RCVS Knowledge may also commission translated versions, should demand and funding allow.
Should applicants feel that they have the necessary skills, experience and resources to produce cost-effective and high quality online or onsite formats, please do include this in your proposal.

We will accept applications for:
- “Stand alone teaching package”
- “Stand alone teaching package and online delivery”.
- “Stand alone teaching package and onsite delivery” and
- “Stand alone teaching package and delivery – onsite and online”.

Timelines and funding available will be adjusted to meet this.

3.1 Delivery
Grant applicants can bid to perform the delivery component of the project, under the direction of RCVS Knowledge. For those not applying to deliver the courses, RCVS Knowledge will take responsibility on delivery.

3.2 Intellectual Property Rights
Applicants will retain copyright in their work, but will be required to grant to RCVS Knowledge an exclusive license of the rights of copyright in the materials including but not limited to the right to publish, re-publish, transmit, sell, distribute, amend and otherwise use the materials in all languages and all media throughout the world, and to license or permit others to do so. Submission of an application infers acceptance of this condition, which will form part of the contract to supply the materials.

Where IP in any particular element of the deliverables is held by a third party, the applicant is responsible for ensuring that there is no obstacle to the use of the materials by EBVM Network members and others at RCVS Knowledge discretion.

RCVS Knowledge will provide the materials to users under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. Applicants will be acknowledged in the materials.

3.3 Course length
The course length can be decided by grant applicants, according to their specific proposal; however, we will particularly welcome the following:

a. Materials and Curriculum for 2 hour CPD events that would equip veterinary professionals to apply EBVM principles in their daily practice and to produce straightforward Knowledge Summaries;
b. Materials and Curriculum for day-long (one or more) critical appraisal training that would equip veterinary professionals to apply EBVM principles in their daily practice and to produce any kind of Knowledge Summaries or other secondary literature projects;
c. Online self-learning modules covering a wide breath of EBVM skills to include (but not limited to)
   i. Finding the evidence (sources and strategies)
   ii. Framing questions (PICO)
   iii. Types of study design
   iv. Appraising skills and checklists
   v. Simple statistics
vi. Writing a Knowledge Summary
vii. Other

4. Applications
Applicants are encouraged to submit a proposal containing the following elements:

- A brief abstract on the project;
- Clear indication whether the application/project will focus on
  - development of teaching package (A),
  - development of teaching package and online delivery (B),
  - development of teaching package and onsite delivery (C), or
  - all of the above (D), (as stated in 3).
- Background on the team leading the project, highlighting relevant (if any);
- Narrative/ Project description: The narrative should contain an overview of how the course will be designed, stating how the different modules will come together to create a coherent teaching resource;
- Strategies for instruction and evaluation of students;
- Timeline (project milestones and expected completion date); and
- Funding needed:
  A detailed breakdown of expenses should be provided
Applicants are reminded to consider the funding limitations of the charity. Price will be one of the considerations when choosing the winning bid(s).

Applications from international partnerships of EBVM Network members are especially welcome.

4. Timeline
- Applicants are encouraged to contact RCVS Knowledge for informal advice and guidance prior to submitting an application (ebvm@rcvsknowledge.org).
- Applications are invited from Thursday 20th November 2014.
- The deadline for applications is Friday 16th January 2015.
- Projects will be shortlisted, reviewed and selected by Monday 16th February 2015.
- All applicants will be notified of the outcome by Friday 20th February 2015.
- All activities/projects must be completed by Friday 21st August 2015. All project deliverables should be submitted by that date except for the cases where the proposal was agreed with a different timeline.

5. Review Criteria
Proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

- Clarity of proposal;
- Experience of the team submitting the project in veterinary education to practitioners/clinicians;
- Likelihood that the proposed course or module will offer students an innovative and engaging learning experience;
- Likelihood that the project will be delivered on time and;
- Contribution to RCVS Knowledge objectives, namely the objectives for the EBVM Network.
Longevity of the project, e.g. for projects applying to deliver online platforms, the likelihood that the platform will be maintained will be evaluated.

6. Further reading

About the Target Grants Program
The RCVS Knowledge Target Grants are distinctive and unlike most research grants. They are:
- **focused**: aimed at answering direct questions identified by us or our partners as a knowledge need;
- **flexible**: able to be modified in response to new information discovered during the project;
- **light**: with minimal administrative burden for the funder and the grant-holder;
- **time-driven**: have quick turnaround times, after which the results of research will be directly integrated into ongoing projects;

Our ambition is to become a global intermediary for evidence-based veterinary medicine (EBVM), promoting the creation (and access to) information that is of immediate value to veterinary health teams. The Target Grants Program was created to assist us in that ambition, and aims to tackle particular challenges, opportunities or gaps in the delivery of our priorities.

Eligibility
Target Grants are available for individuals and academic or commercial organisations, with no restriction posed on nationality or professional membership.

To be eligible, your proposal must:
- address the target question in the call for proposal; and
- be feasible in the time scale proposed.

Application form and guidelines
To apply please complete and return the [grant application form](http://example.com).