***Identifying and Communicating Impact Case Studies from Marie Curie’s Research Funding Investments***

**Request for Proposals (RFP)**

**Date RFP issued:** 18th September 2025

**Submission deadline:** Proposals to be emailed to research.grants@mariecurie.org.uk by10am on 17th October 2025

1. **About Marie Curie’s Research Funding Schemes**

Marie Curie is the largest charitable funder of palliative and end of life care research in the UK [Marie Curie, 2023]. Our key aim in funding such research is to provide the evidence base needed to achieve positive change in policy and practice, locally and nationally - to help achieve the organisation’s mission to close the gap in end of life care.

Marie Curie supports research and innovation through the following funding mechanisms:

1. Core grants to two Marie Curie Research Centres, at Cardiff University and University College London (UCL).
2. The open and competitive Marie Curie Research Grants Scheme, supporting project grants in strategic topics for the charity and the research field.
3. A growing portfolio of commissioned research to answer research questions with specific relevance to current policy at pace.
4. A number of Senior Academic Research Fellowships in a joint University/Marie Curie model that allows academic development twinned with research support for local Marie Curie Hospices, aided by a network of Marie Curie Research Nurses, and links with the central Research, Policy and Public Affairs team.
5. A Marie Curie Research Impact Fund, to maximise the impact of any research project on policy and/or practice.
6. A Small Internal Research Grants scheme, to allow Marie Curie staff members to address evidence needs arising from their day-to-day policy or practice work.
7. An internal Research Team that provides the charity with methodological support and research evidence production.

For further information see: [Apply for research funding | Marie Curie](https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/research-and-policy/research/calls-for-research)

1. **Aims and Objectives of Commissioned Project**

With an increased emphasis on impact-focused research, policy and campaigning work to strive for better and more accessible palliative and end of life care services for everyone who needs them, we are keen to effectively identify strong examples/case studies that showcase changes/ improvements in policy and practice from research Marie Curie has funded over the last 10-15 years.

We want to ensure that we effectively frame, contextualise and communicate changes in policy and practice / case studies to our staff, supporters and other audiences.

Marie Curie published it's last [Research Impact Report](https://warmup.mariecurie.org.uk/globalassets/media/documents/research/research-impact/marie-curie-research-impact-report-2021-and-2022.pdf) which contains examples of impact from 2021-2022. The first Marie Curie Research Impact Report was published in 2014/15, with subsequent reports in 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19.

We are looking to develop a new, easily accessible/digestible and impactful approach, together with, ideally, seven strong case study examples of impact from across Marie Curie’s funded research workstreams that have not previously been identified, are clear, easily understood and framed appropriately. We are looking for a small number of new examples of transformational impact that everyone within the charity will remember in the years to come.

The aim of this commissioned project is to identify a suitable individual/ team[[1]](#footnote-2) with relevant expertise to:

* develop and effectively frame, contextualise and communicate Marie Curie research impact in palliative and end of life care, an area where the impact tends to be on quality of life and care rather than new treatments
* examine existing evidence (e.g. from Researchfish, extracts from Final Reports, team members and other sources) and collect new evidence (e.g. through interviews and other methods) to identify the transformational changes in policy and practice that have been achieved by funding in streams 1-7 above over the last 10-15 years
* share lessons based on the approaches taken to deliver impact by the identified research impact case studies to guide future Marie Curie research investment
* produce, ideally seven, fully developed, case studies giving as much breadth as possible across Marie Curie’s research funding workstreams over the last 10-15 years, which have not already been documented and provide strong, transformational, examples of impact achieved on policy and practice from research we have funded, together with advice on how best to frame/communicate these examples to achieve maximum impact with the intended audiences
* identify other new and strong potential case studies that the Marie Curie team could develop in future using the process identified as part of this project
* recognise that research impact can be a multi-funder effort and provide guidance on appropriate framing of case studies with this in mind.

We would like the work at a minimum to include, but not be limited to:

* a desk-based review of the evidence we hold on the outputs, outcomes and impact of research we have funded (e.g. in Researchfish, extracts from Final Reports, team members and other sources) for workstreams 1-7 above
* close working/fieldwork with Marie Curie staff to
i) identify the needs of different teams across the organisation;
ii) identify, ideally, seven new case studies that meet the needs of different teams across the organisation using a robust process and working closely with the research team;
iii) identify the approaches taken to deliver impact by the identified research impact case studies and to document and share lessons from these approaches to guide future Marie Curie research investment
* a workshop with a selection of Marie Curie staff on how best to frame, contextualise and communicate research case studies to achieve maximum impact with the intended audiences.
1. **Project timing, management, budget and deliverables**

Table 1 below shows the high-level timelines for this commissioned project.

**Table 1. Timeline for commissioned project on Impact**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Request for Proposals issued | 18th September 2025 |
| Application deadline | 10am 17th October 2025 |
| Shortlisting by Marie Curie team | w/c 20th October 2025 |
| Interviews and commissioning decision | w/c 27h October 2025 |
| Contract, due diligence completed | w/c 24th November 2025 |
| Project start | 1st December 2025 |
| Delivery of first draft outputs | 27th March 2026 |
| Delivery of final outputs | 27th April 2026 |

**Management**

Marie Curie’s Research Management and Impact Team will be responsible for managing the project. However, the successful project team will need to work with a range of teams across Marie Curie in order to develop a suitable approach and outputs.

The successful applicants will be required to provide monthly progress reports to Marie Curie’s Research Management and Impact Team.

**Budget**

We have allocated a budget of a maximum of £25,000 (excluding VAT) to undertake this work, depending upon the scope and scale of the plans to be delivered.

This should include all costs for completing the project and any creative input needed to produce the required outputs.

**Deliverables**

* monthly project updates.
* ideally, seven strong/transformational, fully developed, case studies from across Marie Curie’s seven research funding workstreams that have not previously been documented, each produced in two formats (one containing a summary of the evidence for justification/ research purposes and one shorter summary to be used for communication purposes) which can be used for or adapted to take to events (in place of our traditional impact report), support campaigning, influencing and other relevant activities for Marie Curie.
* lessons based on the approaches taken to deliver impact by the identified research impact case studies to guide future Marie Curie research investment.
* a list of other potential case studies that the Marie Curie team could develop in future.
* a workshop with a selection of Marie Curie staff on how best to frame/ communicate impact case studies to achieve maximum impact on the intended audiences.
1. **Your proposal**

Potential suppliers are required to submit a written proposal (as well as the supplier information questionnaire (for new suppliers)), providing the following information which the application will be assessed by:

1. A brief overview of your organisation/s and the proposed project team, including any information about your track record of undertaking projects to demonstrate impact in similar areas (max 400 words)
2. Your proposed approach to this project, including a detailed statement of work (max 3,000 words)
3. Proposed timelines, including set-up time and any ethical approval/governance processes
4. Proposed budget, including VAT and travel expenses
5. With your submission, please attach or link to your organisation/s latest Data Protection Policy. Additionally, please include a short summary of any relevant information in relation to the following elements of data governance and management:
6. methods for secure data transfer and secure data storage
7. protocols for any pseudonymization or anonymization techniques
8. any relevant safeguards and regulations that will be followed in the course of processing any personal or sensitive data
9. any additional and pertinent information or documentation relating to information governance

When writing your application, please note that your proposal should specifically address the aims and objectives outlined in Section 2 and deliverables listed in Section 3.

We would encourage interested applicants to get in touch with the commissioning team (via research.grants@mariecurie.org.uk) for an early, informal conversation about their proposal prior to applying.

Marie Curie will assess your proposal in accordance with the selection criteria and the weighting for each criterion as detailed in the table below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Proposal Criteria** | **Weighting** |
| Details of the relevant experience of your organisation/s in relation to this project and on identifying, framing and communicating research impact specifically (This should be no more than 400 words in length) | 20%  |
| Curriculum vitae (no more than 3 pages of A4 for each CV) for the management and staff that will undertake the project. | 20%  |
| Your proposed approach and methodology to ensure that all requirements of the project are met.  (This should be no more than 3,000 words in length) | 40%  |
| Your proposed timeline and key milestones for the project, including an indication of the days allocated for both management and staff members. | 10%  |
| Cost | 10%  |

**References**

Marie Curie (2016) From research to policy and practice: Marie Curie annual research impact report 2014/15. Available: [research-impact-report-2014-15.pdf](https://warmup.mariecurie.org.uk/globalassets/media/documents/research/publications/research-impact-report-2014-15.pdf)

Marie Curie (2017) Leading the way in palliative and end of life care research: Marie Curie annual research impact report 2015/16. Available: [research-impact-report-2015-16.pdf](https://warmup.mariecurie.org.uk/globalassets/media/documents/research/publications/research-impact-report-2015-16.pdf)

Marie Curie (2018) Delivering impact: palliative and end of life care research. Marie Curie research impact report 2016/17. Available: [Delivering impact: palliative and end of life care research report 2016/17](https://warmup.mariecurie.org.uk/globalassets/media/documents/research/publications/research-impact-report-2016-17.pdf)

Marie Curie (2019) End of life care research. Available: [marie-curie-2017---18-impact-report.pdf](https://warmup.mariecurie.org.uk/globalassets/media/documents/research/research-impact/marie-curie-2017---18-impact-report.pdf)

Marie Curie (2020) Marie Curie research activities and impact 2018/19. Available:[metrics-infographic-for-research-activities-and-impact-2018-19.pdf](https://warmup.mariecurie.org.uk/globalassets/media/documents/research/research-impact/metrics-infographic-for-research-activities-and-impact-2018-19.pdf)

Marie Curie (2023) Addressing the palliative and end of life care research priorities: an updated grant mapping analysis. Available: <https://healthopenresearch.org/documents/5-32>

Marie Curie (2023) Research Impact Report: Investing in research to deliver a better end of life for all. Available: [marie-curie-research-impact-report-2021-and-2022.pdf](https://warmup.mariecurie.org.uk/globalassets/media/documents/research/research-impact/marie-curie-research-impact-report-2021-and-2022.pdf)

1. We would also welcome joint applications from more than one organisation to meet the full requirements of this commissioned project. If a collaboration between organisations is proposed, please identify a lead organisation who would take responsibility for managing finances. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)