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Applying for  
your first small  
project grant:  
lessons learnt on the way

# Declarations



There is no magic pill.  
No special shake.  
No secret diet.

Just do it.



# Background

BJUI  
BJU INTERNATIONAL

## Trends in urological stone disease

Benjamin W. Turney, John M. Reynard, Jeremy G. Noble and Stephen R. Keoghane\*

Oxford Stone Group, Department of Urology, Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences, The Churchill Hospital, Oxford, and \*Department of Urology, Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth, UK

BJUI  
BJU International

Upper Urinary Tract

## Trends in urological stone disease: a 5-year update of hospital episode statistics

Hendrik Heers and Benjamin W. Turney

Department of Urology, Oxford University Hospitals, Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

### Objective

To provide a 5-year follow-on update on the changes in prevalence and treatment of upper urinary tract (UUT) stone disease in England.

continued to decline with only 30 reported cases in 2014–2015. Due to the continued rapid increase in the number of ureteroscopies performed, treatment for stone disease has continued to increase significantly in comparison to other urological activity.

- stone episodes ↑ by 63% over 10 years (>83,000)
- rapid rise in no of stone procedures
- majority 15–59 years (mean age 49 years)
- neglect of burden from stone disease in favour of cancer
- **service delivery, cost to NHS and local economy**
- **significant loss of workdays (indirect costs?)**

No tool for indirect  
cost capture

Collaboration

**Challenges**

No similar  
UK study

Use of a bespoke patient diary?

PROPOSAL



DESIGN



idea →  
study?



FUNDING



COLLABORATION

# 1. Involve RDS early

NW-RDS (North-West Research Design Service)

→ **Type of study/ sites?**

→ **Collaboration**

→ **PPI**

## 2. Involve patients and public (PPI) early

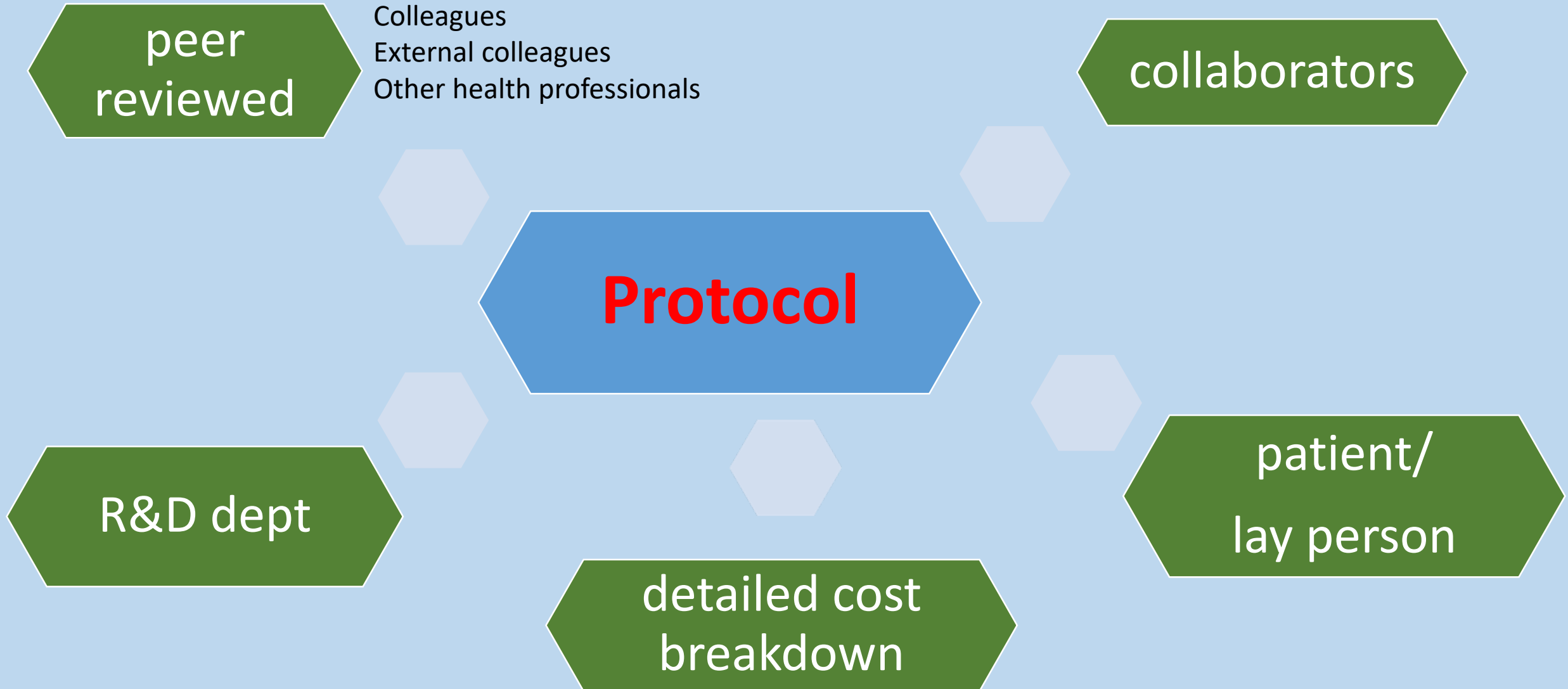
NW-RDS PPI grant

→ **Patient evening**

→ **Protocol discussion**

→ **Patient diary design**


# 3. Develop a detailed protocol





# 4 (a). Funding: search widely for sources

**1. Local grants** - ELHT R&D initiation level 1 grant

East Lancashire Hospitals   
NHS Trust

**2. Ask the R&D department**

**3. RDS**

**4. NIHR** (many types of funding streams)

**5. Assoc of Medical Research Charities**

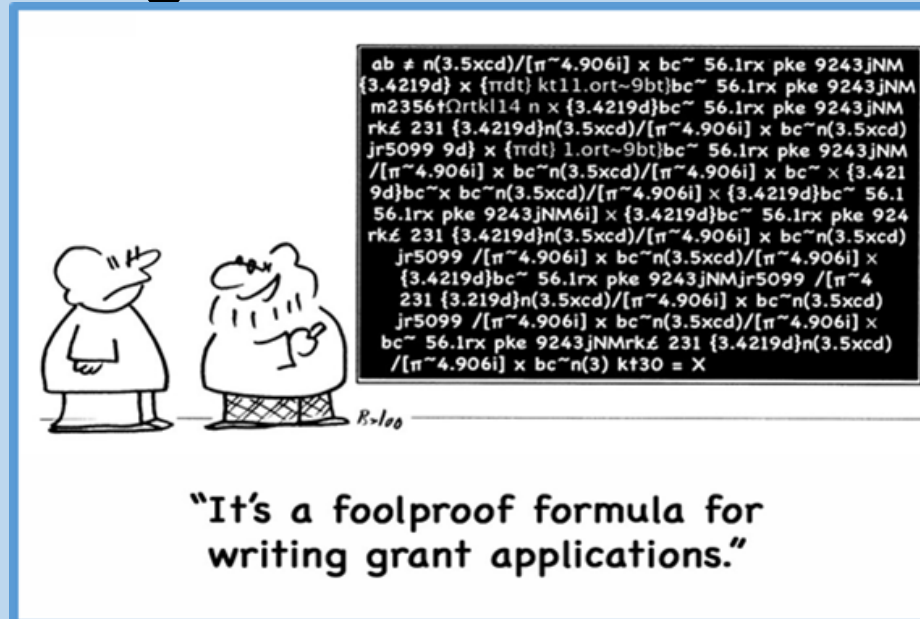
**6. Speciality related charities**

- Small research projects grant from TUF

THE   
**UROLOGY**  
FOUNDATION Leading the fight  
against urology disease

# 4 (b). Funding: failure is not the end of your project

Prepare for not being successful first time



Learn from the rejection (perseverance!)

If successful → share/celebrate the good news



**ethical/HRA approval  
(the IRAS form)**

**[myreserachproject.org.uk](http://myreserachproject.org.uk)**



Research nursing team



Practical organisation



Involve the clinical team



Stationery/paperwork

there is still more  
to do...

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## **5. General suggestions**

- **Be accurate. Avoid errors. Spell check.**
- **Lay person review**
- **Be prompt in your responses**
- **Partner with more established researcher**
- **There is research funding out there!**

# Summary

- **Detailed protocol**
- **early discussion with local RDS**
- **Involve patients/public**
- **Funding opportunities** *(there will be rejections - don't be discouraged)*
- **patience and resilience** *(it takes a lot longer than you think)*