**Applications to the UK ME/CFS Biobank for release of free samples – things to consider and score:**

 All research proposals intending to use samples from the UK ME/CFS Biobank must be developed in line with the Biobank’s mission. Proposals are assessed based on their merit, regardless of the quantity of samples requested. It is possible for researchers to request additional samples, if needed, without needing to repeat the entire application process.

**Scoring system for ME/CFS Biobank Application for Free Bio-samples**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Research question** | **Possible maximum score** | **Score****awarded** |
| 1.
 | Does the aim if the proposal come within one of the priority groups listed below: * testing or generating new hypotheses on the mechanisms (pathophysiology) of ME/CFS,
* improving diagnosis (biomarkers) and phenotyping, and/or,
* basic science, e.g., pharmacological *in vitro* studies potentially leading to clinical trials on therapeutic approaches.
 | 50  |        |
| 1.
 | Does the submission have a sound background?  | 10  |   |
| 3.  | Does the submission have a robust methodology which can be safely, ethically and effectively carried out in the institutions/ laboratories applying for samples?  | 10  |   |
| 4.  | Does the submission match hypotheses, objectives, and methods with available blood samples?  | 10  |   |
| 5.  | Does the submission statistically justify sample size?  | 10  |   |
| 6.  | If requesting additional data or blood test results, does the submission explicitly state what is needed and why?  | If applicable, 10  |   |
|  | **Total score**  | **90** |   |

**Please provide comments to justify the scores given above to a maximum of one page:**

**Strengths:**

**Weakness:**

**Recommendation:**

**NOTE to CURE-ME team**