Myrovlytis Trust, Scientific Strategy

London, May 2011

1. Mission

1.1. To promote research into rare genetic disorders; and

1.2. To advance education of the public in medical and molecular genetics.

2. Why are we funding research?

2.1. To promote, advance and exploit research into molecular genetics, clinical investigations and therapeutic technologies so as to better understand, prevent, diagnose, relieve symptoms of, and ultimately cure Birt-Hogg-Dubé syndrome (BHD);

2.2. To promote a new model for scientific research, which maximises the impact of research by encouraging collaborations and the timely dissemination and application of scientific results;

2.3. To establish new models for managing and treating rare diseases;

2.4. To freely disseminate the results of such research to the public.

3. What types of projects do we fund?

Applications should meet one or more of the following criteria:

3.1. Advance understanding of the biology, clinical manifestations and/or epidemiology of BHD syndrome;

3.2. Maximise the benefits of current research, for example by;

3.2.1. Encouraging collaborations among researchers and/or healthcare professionals in BHD syndrome and related fields;

3.2.2. Providing lab resources such as animal models, constructs, cell lines, etc.;

3.3. Work towards developing novel therapies.

4. **How do we fund research?**

4.1. The Myrovlytis Trust (MT) provides two types of grants:

4.1.1. Research grants. These may be for any time period from a few months to three years, and may cover a budget range from a few thousand pounds to several hundred thousand pounds;

4.1.2. Travel grants. Travel grants are available up to a maximum of £1000 GBP.

4.2. Applications with matching funds available are encouraged.

4.3. Overhead costs are not funded.

5. **Who do we fund?**

5.1. Researchers carrying out world class research into BHD syndrome. Research is not restricted to large, established laboratories; high quality applications from small and new laboratories are particularly encouraged. We fund researchers worldwide, with no national restrictions.

5.2. Funding is currently limited to innovative research into BHD syndrome. The MT has an aspiration, at some point in the future, to fund research into other rare genetic disorders.

6. **When did we begin and when do we review the strategy?**

6.1. The MT was founded in late 2007. Our strategy is reviewed annually.

6.2. The MT's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) advises the MT regarding its scientific direction and focus. The SAB is not privy to all applications; applications are only shared with the SAB with the prior approval of the applicant. The MT is very sensitive to any actual or perceived conflict of interest.