

NSW Cardiovascular Disease Senior Scientist Grants (2018/19 to 2020/21)

APPLICATION GUIDELINES



NSW Ministry of Health
Locked Mail Bag 961
North Sydney NSW 2059

Copyright © NSW Ministry of Health 2018

This work is copyright. It may be reproduced in whole or in part for study and training purposes subject to the inclusion of an acknowledgement of the source. It may not be reproduced for commercial usage or sale. Reproduction for purposes other than those indicated above requires written permission from the NSW Ministry of Health.

SHPN (OHMR) 180642
ISBN 978-1-76000-968-7

Further copies of this document can be downloaded from the NSW Health and Medical Research website
www.medicalresearch.nsw.gov.au/senior-scientist

September 2018



Contents

Call for Applications	2
Application process	2
Submission of applications	2
Indicative program timeline (use as a guide, subject to change without notice) ..	2
CVD Senior Scientist Grants	3
Purpose and objectives	3
Cardiovascular Research.....	3
Types of Grants.....	4
Funding conditions and exclusions.....	4
Supporting resources.....	4
Knowledge impact and knowledge translation	5
Research should consider outcomes for priority population groups	6
Eligibility Criteria	7
Senior Scientist.....	7
Host Organisation.....	7
Selection Criteria	8
Commitments of the Host Organisation	10
Commitments of the Research Organisation	11
Selection Process	12
Expression of interest review	12
Full application review	12
Reporting Requirements	12

Call for Applications

NSW Health invites eligible individuals to apply for the NSW Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Senior Scientist Grants, offered as part of the 2018 funding boost to fight heart disease in NSW. Funding for this grant will be distributed from 2018/19-2020/21. Researchers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin and primary carers who have experienced career disruptions are encouraged to apply.

Purpose

The Senior Scientist Grants aim to build capacity by increasing the number of outstanding CVD researchers in NSW and by increasing the national and international competitiveness of CVD researchers already working in NSW.

By supporting innovative research programs and outstanding CVD researchers, the grants will support a strategic and competitive position for federally-funded research grants and fellowships from bodies such as the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Australian Research Council (ARC) and Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). Ultimately, the grants aim to support the development of research programs of sufficient scale to compete successfully at the highest level. Therefore, research that leads to high quality applications and results in additional funding will be an expected outcome for successful Senior Scientist Grant recipients.

Application Process

The process includes two stages:

1. Expressions of Interest (EOI)
2. Full applications

Submission of Applications

Applicants must use the NSW Cardiovascular Disease Senior Scientist Grants Expression of Interest Form and include any supporting evidence. The form is available at:

www.medicalresearch.nsw.gov.au/senior-scientist

Full Applications are by invitation only, which will be offered to applicants on successful review of their EOI. All applications should be submitted by email to MOH-OHMRGrants@health.nsw.gov.au. See below for submission dates.

For queries regarding NSW Cardiovascular Disease Grants, please email MOH-OHMRGrants@health.nsw.gov.au. Answers to frequently asked questions are available on the Cardiovascular Disease Grants webpage. Please check the website regularly.

Indicative Program Timeline (use as a guide, subject to change without notice)

CVD Senior Scientist 2018/19-2020/21	Date
STAGE 1	
Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI)	20th September 2018
EOIs close	7th November 2018
Invitations to progress to Full Application	10th January 2019
STAGE 2	
Full Applications close	6th March 2019
Announcement of successful applicants and commencement of funding	May 2019

CVD Senior Scientist Grants

Objectives

For the purpose of this grant, a Senior Scientist is defined as 10 years or more postdoctoral.

The purpose of the NSW Health Cardiovascular Disease Senior Scientist Grants is to fund and incentivise researchers to work in CVD research to:

- drive discoveries with the long term aim of improving wellbeing and health outcomes across NSW
- build a strong, vibrant and highly skilled research workforce
- attract and retain high quality Senior Scientists in NSW
- realise long term sustained economic impact for NSW through the development of new therapies
- assist senior scientists to become competitive for NHMRC, ARC, MRFF, Heart Foundation and other Federal/National granting schemes

The objectives of the NSW Health Cardiovascular Disease Senior Scientist Grants are to:

- support research excellence and leadership among Senior Scientists throughout all stages of their career through funding outstanding research projects
- encourage the development of research skills among Senior Scientists in a supportive environment
- support the participation of Senior Scientists in high quality research projects – across the spectrum from basic science, through to clinical research, health services and population health research
- leverage Australian Government funding opportunities to further research and its translation in NSW
- bridge the gap between research, policy and practice to increase research impact

Cardiovascular Research

The current round of funding will support Senior Scientists working in cardiovascular disease research. The term cardiovascular disease (CVD) is used to encompass all diseases and conditions of the heart and blood vessels, including but not limited to:

- coronary heart disease
- stroke
- heart failure
- peripheral vascular disease
- renal vascular disease
- cardiovascular complications of diabetes and obesity
- rheumatic heart disease
- congenital heart disease

Types of Grants

A total funding pool of up to \$6 million is available for CVD Senior Scientist Grants in the inaugural year of funding – approximately 60% will be allocated to biomedical discovery research and 40% to clinical, health services and population health research Funds up to \$250,000 per year for the 3 year duration of the grant will be offered.

Grants are for research projects or programs and can cover a combination of salaries of the research team (clinical and/or non-clinical), backfill for clinicians to quarantine research time, consumables, equipment and other research infrastructure.

Grants will be available across two categories. Those which have:

1. potential research translation impact, and
2. knowledge gain in biomedical fields.

Funding Conditions and Exclusions

1. CVD Senior Scientist grants must not be expended on capital works, general maintenance costs, organisational infrastructure or overheads, telephone/communication systems, basic office equipment such as desks and chairs, rent and the cost of utilities.
2. Funding is conditional on the Chief Executive/Executive Director of the Host Organisation signing the declaration on the application form, which outlines the Host Organisation's obligations to the Senior Scientist.
3. Applicants are required to declare the source, duration and level of funding already held for research in the particular area of the application.
4. One expression of interest will be accepted per applicant, per funding scheme.

Supporting Resources

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Senior Scientist Grant Website

The CVD website contains further information about:

- the grant in Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- completing an Aboriginal Impact Statement

Knowledge Impact and Knowledge Translation

Knowledge Impact for Biomedical Discovery Research

At the completion of the project, the outcome of research is the production of knowledge that leads to further discovery, and usually will be published in journals of high impact, and become highly cited. The research must be of relevance to CVD. Biomedical discovery research should have the potential to lead to new understanding about CVD processes. Such discoveries may therefore have the potential to lead to new diagnostics or novel therapeutic drugs or devices that could impact management of CVD. The short-term major outputs of biomedical discovery research to demonstrate impact could include the following:

- peer-reviewed publications particularly in high impact journals (and may include open-access journal/archive where possible)
- presentations, including invited presentations, at major national and international conferences
- award of national or international peer reviewed grants and fellowships, particularly NHMRC, Heart Foundation, ARC, MRFF
- influence on other science
- new diagnostics
- new drug targets
- new clinical or medical prototypes
- media coverage of research outcomes and non-peer-reviewed publications
- web-based activities (e.g. postings, wikis, blogs, podcasts, etc.)

Most of these outputs are also the major outputs of relevance for clinical, health services, and population health research.

Knowledge Translation for Clinical, Health Services and Population Health Research

Early engagement of research and translation partners is advised for meaningful co-production of research. This will most likely generate higher impact research that is directly relevant to clinical, health service and population health in NSW.

Knowledge translation is a dynamic and iterative process that includes the synthesis, dissemination, exchange and application of knowledge. OHMR funding programs aim to support meaningful co-production of research and early engagement with the audience who will likely use the research findings – the knowledge user.

A good knowledge translation plan should specify when, how and for what purpose the researchers and knowledge users will meet. This approach should produce research findings that are more likely to be directly relevant to and used by knowledge users. This is intended to inform activities that will raise awareness of the findings or promote implementation at the end of the grant.

It is recommended that partner engagement occur throughout the research project and follow through to knowledge translation, for example:

1. It is advised that prior to and during research key scientific, clinical, policy and practice partners be included in the development of the research question. Partners should participate in relevant stages of the process including translation activities such as:
 - a. Co-production of research
 - b. Presentations of findings
 - c. Publication of findings in policy- or practice-relevant formats
 - d. Steps required to change practice and pass knowledge on to the 'next user'
 - e. Implementation plan (including potential impact on existing models of care, health-economics and funding model)
2. At the completion of the research project, researchers and key partners should continue to follow through with planned translation activities. Applicants will need to consider how the success of knowledge translation activities and the uptake of research findings into practice or at the next stage of the translation continuum will be measured.

Research should consider outcomes for priority population groups

Research projects need to consider the differential health needs of, and its potential impact on, priority populations, such as Aboriginal people and communities, individuals from a non-English speaking background, and socioeconomically disadvantaged groups. Engage the right partners early on to ensure that the research methodology and design will be equally effective and impactful for Aboriginal people and other priority population groups, and leverage and incorporate the experience and expertise of relevant partners during the design and implementation stages of the project.

For instance, for projects with a targeted focus on Aboriginal people, involving Aboriginal settings consideration of the following is strongly encouraged:

- Identify at an early stage any potential issues for Aboriginal communities and how these issues might be addressed, using the Aboriginal Health Impact Statement
- Establish collaborative and transparent partnerships with local Aboriginal community controlled health services, and other community organisations
- Recognise the value of Aboriginal peoples' expertise and experience, ensuring that Aboriginal researchers and organisations have an equal role in the design, planning, and priority setting stages of the research project
- Invite Aboriginal researchers and organisations to be a part of the research team
- Consider and promote opportunities to build research capacity of Aboriginal researchers and organisations throughout the course of the project
- Consider whether different or additional communication or data collection methods are required

Eligibility Criteria

Applications must meet **ALL** eligibility criteria.

Senior Scientist

1. Based in NSW

The Senior Scientist must reside in or plan to move to NSW and must be employed by a NSW based:

- Local Health District
- Medical Research Institute
- University
- Non-Government Organisation

2. Cardiovascular research

The Senior Scientist must satisfy the requirement that their research is in the field of cardiovascular health.

3. Submit a complete application

The Senior Scientist must fully complete the Expression of Interest, attach all relevant and required documentation, sign the declaration on the EOI and include certification from the Host Organisation.

4. Resource Requirements

The Senior Scientist must identify the core team members and other personnel financially supported throughout the duration of the grant.

5. Australian citizen, permanent residency status or appropriate visa

The Senior Scientist must be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident of Australia or have an appropriate working visa for the full term of the Grant. Senior Scientists who are neither Australian citizens nor permanent residents must provide evidence of residency status and the right to remain in Australia for the duration of the funding period, certified by a Justice of the Peace or equivalent. Note that for electronic documents, an official VEVO statement is sufficient, JP certification is not required. Australian citizens and permanent residents are not required to provide evidence.

6. Classified as a Senior Scientist

The Senior Scientist must have worked for 10 years or more postdoctoral.

Host Organisation

7. Located in NSW

The Senior Scientist's Host Organisation must be a NSW based:

- Public Health Organisation
- Medical Research Institute
- University
- Not-for-profit organisation

8. Organisation conducts health and medical research

The Senior Scientist's Host Organisation must conduct health and medical research, and be one of the following organisations: a department or research centre within a University; a NSW Health entity; an independent Medical Research Institute; or a Non-Government Organisation.

9. Infrastructure support

The Senior Scientist's Host Organisation will provide the appropriate infrastructure support for the research project, including wet/dry lab space, computer equipment, desk space etc.

Selection Criteria

All applications for funding that meet the eligibility criteria will be assessed against the following selection criteria. In addressing the selection criteria, applicants need to specifically highlight the relevance to cardiovascular disease research.

1. Academic and relevant professional qualifications

Senior Scientists will be required to list their academic qualifications and any relevant professional qualifications with the year awarded, the awarding body, and country.

2. Research, clinical and industry experience, including demonstrated capacity to work in multidisciplinary teams

Senior Scientists will be required to list any research, clinical and industry appointments and positions held for the previous ten years and highlight the different disciplines engaged with through each role.

3. Skills and experience directly related to the topic area(s) and methodology of the research project

Senior Scientists will be asked to describe the project team members existing skills and experience that:

- directly relates to the topic area(s) and/or methodology of the research project
- relates to the nominated area(s) for development (and how participation in the project will help to address these skills), and/or
- relates to building Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researcher capacity.

4. Track record in research, relative to opportunity

As evidence of track record in research, Senior Scientists will be asked to provide details of career journal articles; books, reports or patents; and conference presentations. In addition, details of any funding awarded to previous projects will also be requested. To assess track record relative to opportunity, Senior Scientists will be asked about any significant career disruptions or clinical responsibilities that could reasonably be considered to have had an impact on the Senior Scientists research track record over the previous ten years.

5. Multidisciplinary research

Ability to develop research projects that involve collaborations to bridge different disciplines and enhance competitiveness and innovation is desirable. Senior Scientist's role in developing these collaborations will be important to demonstrate.

6. Ability to deliver research outcomes and/or objectives within the grant period

Key project milestones and related deliverables with an indication of when each will be completed is required. There is an expectation that at the completion of the grant it will be possible to report on meaningful outcomes for the Senior Scientist to demonstrate how the findings from the research project are being disseminated and/or translated into policy and practice.

The application form asks for a list of project team members, their roles and FTE allocated to the project. This information will be used as context for interpreting the information provided in relation to selection criteria three.

7. Future vision

Senior Scientists are asked to provide a vision for leadership development in research, specifically focussing on how to gain and/or maintain status as a leader in a chosen field. It would be expected that the Senior Scientist is able to demonstrate how to plan and further develop excellence in a given field, as well as demonstrate innovative thinking for the dissemination of research findings, and what is envisaged for the end goal or contribution to the chosen field. The applicant will also be asked to detail how the grant will help to build capacity in Cardiovascular research in NSW.

8. Quality and feasibility of the project

Will the project lead to high impact publications because of an innovative and visionary research plan; is the project feasible within the budget, and if not have other sources of funding been defined

9. Feasibility and quality of the knowledge translation plan and demonstrated appropriate partnerships

A list of planned activities to support the dissemination of knowledge from the research project to the relevant audience or into policy and/or practice is required where relevant. Each activity should include information on who will be engaged, when, and how, as well as the intended impact of each engagement and how it will support successful dissemination/implementation of the research findings. An overview of potential translation should be provided. For Basic Science it is important to note how publications and/or citations will be shared with colleagues within the field, i.e. will publications have open access; share information through workshops or seminars.

10. Project considers current priority issues, and gaps in equity of health access and outcomes for priority population groups

Demonstrate how the project will consider the differential health needs, and gaps in equity of access and health outcomes between priority population groups (Aboriginal communities, individuals from a non-English speaking background, socioeconomically disadvantaged groups) and others. Outline what actions will be taken to ensure that the project scope contributes to bridging identified gaps in health outcomes, and what considerations will be made to ensure the project's research design and method will be equally effective and impactful for Aboriginal people and other priority population groups.

This might include embedding specific design elements that enable consent and active research participation from priority population groups, like a translation service, or culturally appropriate resources and methods. For projects with a targeted focus on Aboriginal people, strongly encouraged actions include identifying potential issues for Aboriginal communities and resolutions using the Aboriginal Health Impact Statement, considering priority issues for Aboriginal health (e.g. integrated care across the health system, innovative culturally safe models of care), and ensuring Aboriginal researchers and organisations have an equal role in the design, planning, and priority setting stages of the project.

Explain how the findings of the research project will be equally relevant for Aboriginal people and priority populations, and how these findings will be effectively disseminated at a community level.

11. Proposed budget is appropriate given the purpose and objectives of the research project

The proposed research project budget should include details on salaries and consumables, such as laboratory supplies, computer sundries and small equipment, test costs, licences, fees, project specific stationary, project specific specialist journals. The Senior Scientist is to provide funding contributions from the Host Organisation and other sources.

Commitments of the Host Organisation

An objective of the grant is to develop research skills within the health and medical research sector. The success of the scheme in part depends on support from the Host Organisations. So, it is important for the Host Organisation to acknowledge and support the following principles of the scheme. In the EOI form, Host Organisations will be asked to sign off on these commitments.

1. Support from the Chief Executive/Executive Director

The Senior Scientist must have the support of the Chief Executive/Executive Director in submitting their application.

2. Legally compliant and committed to providing appropriate support

The Senior Scientist's Host Organisation must meet all standard employer responsibilities required by law, accommodate and support the grantee for the term of their grant.

3. Gender equity in practice

The Senior Scientist's Host Organisation must value gender equity in practice.

4. In-kind contributions

The Host Organisation should provide in-kind contributions to support the research project.

5. Management of grant funds

The Senior Scientist's Host Organisation is responsible for managing grant funds. For the purpose of grant payments, if the Host Organisation is within a Local Health District, it is encouraged that the Senior Scientist collaborates with an independent medical research institute, university or funding body to administer funds.

Selection Process

Expression of Interest Review

STEP 1: Initial eligibility appraisal

Following the closing date for applications, the NSW Ministry of Health will make an appraisal as to whether or not each Expression of Interest has satisfied ALL of the eligibility criteria.

STEP 2: EOI review against the selection criteria

Expressions of Interest will be assessed by the EOI Review Panel.

STEP 3: Recommendation of applicants progressing to Full Application

All applicants will be informed as to whether they have been selected to progress to Full Application stage. The EOI Review Panel's decision is final.

Full Application Review

STEP 1: Scoring against the selection criteria

An Independent Selection Panel of expert reviewers, chaired by the Chief Executive Director of the Office for Health and Medical Research, will assess each application against the selection criteria.

STEP 2: Recommendation for funding

The Independent Selection Panel will agree on the final ranking of all eligible applications, and will make a recommendation for funding to the NSW Ministry of Health.

STEP 3: Decision and notification

The NSW Ministry of Health will make a determination on grant recipients and amounts. Applicants will be notified in a letter.

STEP 4: Grant Agreements initiated

The NSW Ministry of Health will make contact with successful Senior Scientists to develop and enter into Funding Agreements with the Host Organisation.

Reporting Requirements

The Host Organisation will enter into a Funding Agreement with NSW Health that sets out obligations.

A schedule for reporting will be outlined in the Funding Agreement and will include a requirement to provide:

- Annual progress reports
- Annual financial reports
- A final report following the conclusion of the term of the Grant.