

2019

HEALTH+MEDICAL RESEARCH

# Research Leadership Grants

## Guidelines



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### 1. Call for proposals

NSW Health invites host organisations to apply for the Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program Research Leadership Grants. Up to \$1 million per annum for three to five years will be available for each grant, with funds to be matched or exceeded by host (and partner) organisations, who may also provide additional non-financial support.

### 2. Purpose

The Research Leadership Grants program aims to promote NSW as a global leader in cardiovascular research by attracting internationally-recognised research talent to NSW. The program will increase the national and international competitiveness of NSW cardiovascular disease research, build local research capacity, and support a strategic and competitive position for federally-funded research grants and fellowships.

Grant recipients will be world leaders in their research field, with demonstrated capacity to develop and lead an innovative, high impact research program. Recipients will be expected to lead a high-performing team in NSW to undertake internationally significant cardiovascular research with high impact results.

The funding will support researchers working in cardiovascular disease research. The term cardiovascular disease is used to encompass all diseases and conditions of

the heart and blood vessels, and related conditions including chronic kidney disease, diabetes and obesity. The program is open to researchers in biomedical or basic science, clinical research, public or population health, and health services research.

### 3. Proposal and assessment process

Proposals for Research Leadership Grants will be accepted throughout the year and assessed by an expert panel. The timing of assessments will be notified at least two months in advance on the NSW health and medical research website: [www.medicalresearch.nsw.gov.au/cardiovascular/](http://www.medicalresearch.nsw.gov.au/cardiovascular/).

The proposal process is outlined below:

1. A NSW-based host organisation identifies a potential Research Leadership Grants applicant and partner organisations, and prepares a proposal for submission to NSW Health, using the Research Leadership Grants Proposal Template.
2. The proposal is considered by an external expert panel, who may seek independent advice and verification regarding the proposal, including interview of the applicant.

3. The external expert panel makes a recommendation to NSW Health regarding the proposal.
4. A formal meeting may take place between senior representatives of NSW Health, the local health district, university and medical research institute(s) to agree on partnership arrangements and next steps.
5. Funding is approved or declined. Funding is contingent on signature of an agreement between the NSW Ministry of Health and the host organisation.

Further information may be requested at any stage during the above process.

All proposals should be submitted using the Research Leadership Grants Proposal Template by email to:  
[MOH-OHMRGrants@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-OHMRGrants@health.nsw.gov.au).

All enquiries and proposals will be treated in the strictest confidence.

## 4. Objectives

The purpose of the Research Leadership Grants is to fund and incentivise elite interstate and international researchers to move to NSW to work in cardiovascular research to:

- lead teams conducting internationally-relevant pioneering and innovative research in NSW
- develop new collaborations and partnerships for research and translation within NSW, Australia and internationally
- drive discoveries with the long term aim of improving wellbeing and health
- build NSW capacity in a strong, vibrant and highly skilled research workforce
- realise long term sustained economic impact for NSW through the development of new therapies
- support research excellence and leadership amongst research teams
- 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.

## 5. Funding available

Total funding of \$500,000 to \$1 million per grant per annum for three to five years will be available and may be used for salaries of the research team, consumables, and specific research equipment if required.

Funding will be reviewed annually, and continuation of funding will be dependent on demonstration of outcomes.

In addition, the following one-off funding amounts may be available on request, with appropriate justification and documentation:

1. A one-off amount of up to \$10,000 for relocation expenses
2. Funding of up to \$20,000 to support the relocation of the researcher's family.

Between them, host and partner organisations are expected to provide significant financial and non-financial contributions including matched funds at a minimum. Additional support for the research team, and in-kind support should be detailed in the proposal. Funding conditions and exclusions

Research Leadership Grants are open to researchers who currently live and work outside of NSW, either interstate or overseas.

Research Leadership Grants funding 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, or rent and the cost of utilities. Proposals where a significant portion of funding is expended on a single item of equipment will not be considered.

Funding is conditional on the Chief Executive of the host organisation(s) signing the proposal to confirm the host organisation's support.

Proposals are required to declare the source, duration and level of funding already held for research in the particular area of the proposal, and if this funding will continue for the period of the grant.

## 6. Eligibility criteria

All criteria should be addressed in detail in the proposal prepared by the host organisation using the Research Leadership Grants Proposal Template.

Proposals must meet the following eligibility criteria:

### 1. Not currently based in NSW

The researcher must not currently live or work in NSW.

### 2. Willing to move to NSW

During the period of the grant, the researcher must reside in NSW and be employed by a NSW-based medical research institute or university.

### 3. Australian citizen, permanent residency status or appropriate visa

Australian citizens and permanent residents must provide evidence of their status as such.

If the researcher is not an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia, awarding of funding will be conditional on obtaining an appropriate working visa for the full term of the funding period.

This process is to be facilitated by the host organisation. Researchers 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 (JP) or equivalent, before funding is granted.

Note that for electronic documents, an official VEVO statement is sufficient, JP certification is not required.

#### 4. Classified as a senior scientist

The researcher must have worked for ten years or more post doctorate.

#### 5. Host organisation is a NSW organisation that conducts health and medical research

For the duration of the grant, the applicant must be employed by host organisation that is a NSW-based local health district, medical research institute or university. For the purpose of grant payments, if the host organisation is within a local health district, it is required that the host organisation partners with an independent medical research institute, university or funding body to administer funds. The host organisation must conduct health and medical research.

## 7. Assessment criteria

Proposals should provide full details of the selection process undertaken by the host organisation in identifying the specific researcher. This should include a clear statement of why the researcher is considered a leader in their field, the contribution of the proposed researcher and program of research to NSW, and the supportive research environment that will be provided by the host organisation to facilitate this.

In addressing the assessment criteria, proposals should specifically highlight the relevance to cardiovascular disease research. There will be a focus on recent achievements, over the past 5-10 years.

All proposals will be assessed according to the following criteria:

#### 1. Academic and relevant professional qualifications of the researcher

Proposals will be required to list the 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 develop and lead high performing multidisciplinary teams

Proposals should list all research, clinical and industry appointments and positions held, and highlight the different disciplines engaged with through each role. Experience in developing and leading multidisciplinary teams to engage in cardiovascular research programs should be described.

#### 3. Evidence of international research leadership and contributions

The proposal should include a description and evidence of the researcher's global impact and standing in the international research community, and of international leadership in their research field. Evidence of excellence in communication of research should be provided. Contributions both within the researcher's profession and to the research community outside their current role should be highlighted.

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

The skills and experience of the researcher that directly relate to the topic area(s) and/or methodology of the research program should be detailed.

5. Track record in research

As evidence of track record in research, researchers should provide details of career journal articles; books, reports or patents; and major conference presentations, and the impact of these outputs. In addition, details of any funding awarded to previous projects should be included.

6. Multidisciplinary research record

Ability to develop research projects that involve collaborations to bridge different disciplines and enhance competitiveness and innovation is desirable. The researcher's role in developing these collaborations should be described.

7. Ability to deliver research outcomes and/or objectives within the funding period

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

8. Demonstration of NSW Health CORE values

The applicant must demonstrate the NSW Health CORE values (collaboration, openness, respect and empowerment) in their work. The applicant's promotion of such values should be addressed in the proposal and may be verified via independent advice and verification, and/or at interview.

9. Future vision

Proposals should provide a vision for developing and leading a NSW based cardiovascular research team and what outputs this team will realise over the funding period and beyond. It would be expected that the researcher is able to demonstrate how to plan and further develop excellence in their field, as well as demonstrate innovative thinking for the dissemination of research findings, and what is envisaged for the end goal or contribution to cardiovascular research. The proposal should detail how the grant will help to build capacity in cardiovascular research in NSW.

10. Proposed research is novel, timely and important

The proposal should provide a clear and detailed explanation of the expected benefits of the proposed program of research to NSW, including consideration of why the research is novel or important, how the research builds on existing evidence and research activity, and how positive findings will be translated into policy and practice in NSW and more broadly.

11. Nominated researcher and program of research will benefit the Host Organisation and NSW

The proposal should outline the specific benefits of bringing the nominated researcher (and any staff who may accompany them) to the host organisation and to NSW, including research contribution, knowledge transfer and capacity building. Applications are required to demonstrate alignment of the proposed research program with current and proposed research in the host organisation and partner organisations. If the area of research is different to the Host Organisation's current areas of research, a clear case for this should be presented including details of how a supportive environment will be provided for the researcher and the program.

12. Research project is feasible within the proposed budget

The proposed research project budget should include details of all funding sources, and expected expenditure on salaries, the research program, and consumables.

13. Knowledge impact and knowledge translation

The host organisation should consider the impact and translation of the proposed program of research within the context of current research activity in NSW.

Potential outputs of research that demonstrate impact include peer-reviewed publications, conference

presentations, award of national or international peer reviewed grants and fellowships, influence on other science, new partnerships or collaborations between NSW and other jurisdictions, and output such as new diagnostics, drug targets, or clinical or medical prototypes.

14. Outcomes for priority population groups

Research programs need to consider the differential health needs of, and potential impact on, priority populations, such as Aboriginal people and communities, individuals from a non-English speaking background, and socioeconomically disadvantaged groups. Proposals must outline how the research program will consider cardiovascular disease in both males and females.

## 8. Commitments of the host organisation

The success of this program depends on significant financial and non-financial support from host organisations. It is important for the host organisation to acknowledge and support the following principles of the program.

1. Matched funding, Infrastructure and other support

The host organisation, and any partner organisations, are required to match or exceed the grant funds and should also provide significant support for the research program including in-kind contributions. If significant infrastructure is required for the research, the proposal should outline how this will be obtained.

The host organisation will provide the appropriate infrastructure support for the research program including wet/dry lab space, computer equipment, desk space etc.

The host organisation should identify resource requirements, such as personnel requirements, that will be provided for the duration of the funding.

Partnerships between organisations are encouraged, and additional research funding and in-kind support may also be provided by partner organisations.

The host organisation is responsible for consideration of any logistical support requested including travel arrangements and organising temporary accommodation.

## 2. Support from the Chief Executive

The applicant must have the support of the Chief Executive of the host organisation, and any partner organisations, in submitting their application.

## 3. Legally compliant and committed to providing appropriate support

The host organisation must meet all standard employer responsibilities required by law, accommodate and support the recipient for the term of their grant.

## 4. Gender equity in practice

The host organisation must value gender equity in practice.

## 5. Management of grant funds

The 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 required that the host organisation collaborates with an independent medical research institute, university or non-government organisation to administer funds.

# 9. Clinical practice

If the researcher will undertake clinical duties during the period of the grant, the nature, FTE commitment and alignment with research activities for these should be detailed in the proposal.

# 10. Proposal requirements

Proposals submitted to NSW Health should comprise a full report of the selection process undertaken by the host organisation in relation to the researcher. The selection process should address the eligibility and assessment criteria and is expected to include evidence of an interview of the applicant and two referee reports.

The proposal submitted to NSW Health, using the CVD Research Leadership Grants Proposal Template, must contain the following:

1. A statement that the proposed researcher and host organisation fulfil the eligibility criteria in Section 6.



2. Details on how the proposed researcher addresses the assessment criteria in Section 7 items 1 to 9.
3. Details on how the proposed program of research addresses the assessment criteria in Section 7 items 10 to 14.
4. At least two referee reports for the proposed researcher that address the criteria in Section 7. Referee reports may be in the format preferred by the Host Organisation and should contain the names and contact details of the referees.
5. A statement detailing the financial and in-kind support for the researcher and project that will be provided by the host organisation, according to Section 8.
6. A statement of the financial and in-kind support that will be provided by any proposed partner organisations. This statement should be signed by Chief Executive of the partner organisation(s).
7. If applicable, a statement detailing the proposed clinical appointments that will be held by the proposed researcher and confirmation that they meet criteria outlined in Section 9.
8. A cover letter signed by the Chief Executive of the host organisation confirming acknowledgement and agreement to the proposal.



**NSW Health**

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