

RBWH Translational Research Grants

Application Guidelines

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RBWH Translational Research Grants

2023 Application Guidelines

Introduction

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Grant Schemes, through the generous support of the Study, Education and Research Trust Account (SERTA) Advisory Committee and our partners, aim to provide financial support to RBWH researchers to undertake original and highly innovative research that have the potential to:

- directly affect the care provided to RBWH patients, including translational research and new models of care
- foster collaborations across RBWH departments, and or between RBWH and other facilities and external partners; and
- support development of research skills and build research capacity and capability at RBWH

RBWH Translational Research Grants

RBWH is partnering with three biomedical discovery institutes to launch a new scheme, the *RBWH Translational Research Grants*. These awards will support activities that seek to translate fundamental discovery science into new therapeutic approaches, relevant now or in the future to clinical care provided at RBWH. The scheme is designed to build research capability and accelerate translation, with a focus primarily on the translation of new discoveries about underlying mechanisms relevant to the biology of disease.

Grant Amount: Up to \$150,000 per project (\$75,000 from RBWH, \$75,000 from discovery institute)

Project Duration: 12 months, beginning in the first half of 2023. Extensions may be considered.

Collaborating Organisations:

- Queensland Brain Institute
- Institute of Molecular Bioscience, UQ
- QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute

Translational Research Grants offer a co-funded opportunity, and applicants must show ability to meet co-funding agreement by a partner discovery institute i.e., 50% funded by RBWH, 50% by discovery institute]

In this round, a maximum of one grant per institute will be awarded. The scheme will support a researcher co-supervised by a basic scientist and RBWH clinician to enable and accelerate transition of a specific discovery. RBWH will award up to \$75,000 per successful applicant (for projects with a total value of up to \$150,000, matched funded) for grants of 12 months.

The scheme aims to reward excellence in research that translates discoveries into health and a drive for improved medical outcomes. Examples include:

- Novel diagnostics: including the collection and use of patient biological samples to test new ideas developed in disease models or healthy volunteers
- Novel therapeutics: Supporting any component of the pathway from discovery science to early phase trials
- Research Capacity and Collaboration: Building research capacity and collaborations between RBWH and discovery institutes

There is a limited amount of funding available. Applicants must clearly articulate the value of their project and how the award will support and accelerate translation of the specific research discovery. Applications will be assessed by a panel with relevant expertise across the translational pathway.

Eligibility and Conditions

The following eligibility criteria must be met by all applicants:

- Each application must have a single project lead (CI-A) who is the primary individual responsible for delivering the project. Awarded grants are not transferable to an alternative project lead or administering institution
- Grants are intended to support a researcher (e.g. postdoctoral researcher or research assistant) to carry out the proposed work. Applicants may use the whole award to support staff costs or, alternatively, may allocate some of the award to research costs
- The researcher to be supported may apply as CI-A or can be unnamed (if to be recruited)
- The project must be supervised by two established investigators representing a collaboration between RBWH and a partner institute
 - One must hold a substantive appointment at RBWH, equivalent to 0.2FTE or greater, for the duration of the project grant
 - The other lead investigator must have a substantive appointment at a partner institute (Level B or above)
- Clinician scientists with an appointment at a partner institute are eligible to be the institute lead investigator, but they must demonstrate that they perform or directly supervise fundamental mechanistic research suitable for early phase translation
- The application must be unique. If applicants have received alternative forms of RBWH or Metro North funding for a substantially similar project, then the application will be ruled ineligible.
- The institute must review the Funding Agreement prior to submission of any application and agree to signing the terms of the agreement should funding be awarded
- The health challenge tackled by the proposal must be relevant to a clinical service currently provided at RBWH.
- Evidence of Ethics and Governance approval specific to the applicant's project must be provided by 30 June of the calendar year awarded. Please note a total of two (grants) can be accepted per HREC approval.
- Support to conduct the research is provided by the relevant RBWH Head of Department. A signed Letter of Support must be provided
- Please note that an investigator can submit only one application per round in this scheme.

Following the submission of an application, an eligibility ruling may be made at any stage. Where an eligibility ruling is being considered, RBWH may request further information in order to assess whether the eligibility requirement has been met. Decisions will be made based on current policies and considerations specific to this grant opportunity. Decisions made in relation to previous grant opportunities, or other RBWH funding schemes will not be regarded as precedents, and each case will be considered individually. Grant offers may be withdrawn if eligibility criteria are not met. Action may also be taken over the life of a grant if eligibility criteria to continue holding a grant are not met.

Criteria

Criteria	Assessment
Research Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly articulated aims, objectives, and methodology supported by a well justified hypothesis/rationale • Focused, well-defined, highly coherent, and excellent study design and approach • Well identified and managed scientific and technical risks • Competitive with the best, similar research proposals internationally
Innovation and Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly innovative project aims, which will result in a substantial shift in the current paradigm or model of care
Clinical Significance and Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly developed and well-articulated plans for work towards translation

Capability and Feasibility	<p>Chief Investigator with excellent scientific leadership and skills to achieve the project aims</p> <p>Highly appropriate balance of integrated expertise, experience, and training necessary for all aspects of the proposed research</p> <p>New or emerging collaborations between lead investigators, with the potential to lead to a successful program of externally-funded research, will be given priority</p>
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Budget

- A draft project budget must be submitted on the requisite budget template. Only fully justified expenditure directly related to the project will be considered eligible
- The terms and conditions for successful projects will be agreed by RBWH and the institute using an appropriate agreement as agreed between the parties
- The CI-A is responsible for the conduct of the project, including completion and lodgement of the application, annual progress reports, completion reports and financial statements compliance with all relevant policies, procedures, legislation and regulatory frameworks relating to the conduct and management of research
- The CI-A has a responsibility to ensure efficient and transparent expenditure of project funds in accordance with the approved project budget and are expected to liaise with the relevant Business Manager to monitor project revenue and expenditure, demonstrate adherence to key project milestones and ensure full financial acquittal of project funds upon project completion

Key dates in 2023

The Translational Research Grants will proceed according to the timeline below. These dates are subject to change without notice, with the exception of the closing date for applications.

Phase	Date
Applications open	7 November 2022
Applications close	30 November 2022
Applicant Interviews	January 2023
Notification of outcomes	January 2023
Funding start date	1 January 2023 – 30 June 2023

All applications to be made via SmartyGrants: <https://metronorth.smartygrants.com.au/>

Responsibility

- The CI-A is responsible for the scientific conduct of the project including obtaining ethical and governance approval for the study. Evidence of submission for Ethics and Governance approval must be provided prior to invoicing and no later than 30 June 2024.
 - Ethics information: <https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/research/ethics-and-governance/ethics-approval>
 - Research governance information: <https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/research/ethics-and-governance/research-governance>
- The CI-A is also responsible for the application of [Good Clinical Practice](#), proper use of grant funds and timely reporting
- Researchers that have not made satisfactory progress or fail to meet reporting timeline will **not be eligible for future grants**

COVID-19

Individual chief investigators (CIs) should undertake contingency planning to address the potential impact of COVID-19 and responses to the pandemic on the proposed research. Clinical departments and services should consider the nature and procedures of each research project and determine if changes are required.

Considering the fluidity of the COVID-19 situation and the variable levels of capacity and readiness for non-COVID research, an assessment of potential project impacts, including associated impact mitigation strategies, and project feasibility, should be incorporated into all active and future research activities as part of comprehensive facility governance procedures.

Assessment Process

Applications

- To apply please go to <https://metronorth.smartygrants.com.au/>
- Applications will be assessed by a panel with relevant expertise across the translational pathway
- Short-listed applicants will be invited for a panel presentation and interview

Pre eligibility

All applications will undergo a pre-eligibility check prior to consideration by the review committee. Checks will include:

- Compliance with closing dates of the round
- Appropriate lodgement of application through correct platform
- Inclusion of required signatures
- Meets specified program eligibility criteria including appointment status, assessment of additional funding

Panel Review

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of experts in accordance with the selection criteria. The panel will recommend applications to progress to the final stage of consideration.

Applicant Interviews

Applicants who are selected to progress to the final competitive stage will be invited to be interviewed by the panel. The panel will make final funding recommendations following the interviews.

It is the applicants' responsibility to ensure enough time is allowed for obtaining signatures i.e., Executive Director, Head of Department, Business Manager. Please consider the time frames of the administrative process and take into consideration public holidays and planned leave for delegates. Applications that are late and/or do not include the necessary signatures will not be accepted.

Enquiries

All enquiries regarding the Translations Research Grants should be directed to the RBWH Grants Manager:

Email: RBWH_Grants@health.qld.gov.au

Phone: (07) 3647 1077.

Smarty Grants: <https://metronorth.smartygrants.com.au/2023RBWHTranslationalResearchGrant>

www: <https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/research/grants/rbwhgrants>

SmartyGrants

Help guide: <http://applicanthehelp.smartygrants.com.au/help-guide-for-applicants/>

Applicant FAQ's: <http://applicanthehelp.smartygrants.com.au/applicant-faq%27s/>