



The Norman Beischer Medical Research Foundation

Innovation Grant Application Guidelines

The Norman Beischer Medical Research Foundation ABN 26 005 864 282 is pleased to announce that applications for Innovation Grants are now being sought for assessment by the Foundation in November 2024 with grant payments commencing from February 2025.

Innovation Grants

The Norman Beischer Medical Research Foundation supports and promotes improvements in the reproductive health of women and in the health of their babies and infants. It actively supports research into obstetrics and gynaecology and the prevention, control and treatment of gynaecological diseases and related problems. We do this by funding clinically based scientific research by leading and emerging researchers and we use this research to educate and inform medical practice in Australia and elsewhere.

Innovation Grants provide seed funding to support highly innovative research projects that show potential for major benefit or for major grant applications to NHMRC and other funders in the future. The applicant will define their objectives and test hypotheses in any area of obstetric, gynaecological, or neonatal conditions.

Who can apply?

The Foundation supports medical research conducted by medical practitioners, nurses, midwives, scientists, technicians, and others. The researcher(s) should be attached to a hospital, university, or research institution. The application must be made on behalf of the research institution that will be receiving and administering the grant. All grants are made by way of gift to an institution in Australia for use by it for the research project.

These grants are open to any researcher at any career stage. The Principal Investigator must be located in Victoria.

Projects supported

Innovation Grants are for amounts up to \$73,000.

Innovation grants will normally be for one year but in exceptional circumstances the Foundation will consider multi-year projects. Such projects are determined on a case-by-case basis and require a multi-year budget to be submitted and approved. Before applying for a multi-year Innovation Grant please contact the Executive Director, Andrew Brookes, at admin@nbmrf.org.au or on 0418 335 651 to discuss your application.

Projects where applicants seek to collaborate with other parties who bring to the project additional and necessary expertise, leverage, or funding for example, will be considered alongside all other projects, and will be assessed according to grant assessment criteria.

Clinical research is a priority for funding, and it is defined as a study in human volunteers to evaluate the efficacy and safety of a therapy or intervention. This may include, but not be limited to, the study of a surgical procedure, medications, biologics, diagnostics, medical devices, and patient education systems.

Under normal circumstances, the Foundation does not fund studies involving animals.

The Foundation supports researchers and projects where the Principal Investigator is in Victoria. However, collaborations with institutions and researchers based outside Victoria can be submitted.

Funds can be allocated to the salary of the principal researcher, research assistants, consumable items, and equipment. In general, funds are not available for secretarial assistance or personal computers, or items considered as standard for any research institution. Funds are not available for travel expenses.

An applicant may not apply for, use, or accept Foundation funds for a research project already fully supported by funds from another public or private source. However, the Foundation is prepared to fund discrete sections of research projects for which other funding has not been provided. Accordingly, full disclosure of all available and pending funds for research support must be made in the grant application.

Research projects should commence within six months of the date of approval by the Foundation. Should this not be possible, or if unforeseen delays occur, approval should be sought from the Foundation for the delayed project to proceed.

Intellectual property and data developed in whole or in part by Norman Beischer Medical Research Foundation Grant funding are the property of the funded institution and researcher(s) unless otherwise agreed.

Ethics

Where appropriate, research projects must be approved by an authorised Human Research Ethics Committee. Prior to the release of grant funds, a copy of the letter of approval from the relevant Ethics Committee must be submitted to the Foundation.

Should any animal study be funded by the Foundation, it is a requirement that, before funding is released, a copy of the approval from an Animal Research Ethics Committee must be submitted.

The Norman Beischer Medical Research Foundation acknowledges that all research involving humans must follow the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2023), and the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018. The Foundation requires that all research funded by it involving humans has received ethical approval by an authorised Human Research Ethics Committee. The Foundation also requires that funded researchers are familiar with both the National Statement and the Code of Responsible Conduct of Research. The lead researcher should have a good understanding of the National Statement and the Code and take responsibility for the conduct of the research project.

The Foundation's Research Committee, in assessing research applications, will give consideration to ethical aspects of the research projects.

The Foundation expects that both researchers, and their supporting institutions, adhere to the ethical conduct of research. The Foundation should be informed by the lead researcher of any decision by a Human Research Ethics Committee that impacts on the conduct of the research funded by The Foundation.

Reporting Requirements

A final project report must be submitted within 4 months of completion of the project. The report should outline key findings and any projected follow on or impact of the project.

For multi-year grants, continued funding is dependent on submission of annual reports demonstrating satisfactory progress.

If events occur that have a significant impact on the project prior to the scheduled reporting date, the Foundation should be notified immediately.

Copies of any journal publications or theses published from a research study funded by the Foundation must be forwarded to the Foundation. The Foundation is to be advised of any presentations at national or international conferences of the projects it has supported.

It is expected that the Foundation will be acknowledged as the funder of such projects in any relevant presentation and / or publication.

Application Process and Submission Requirements

Grant applicants are required to use the application template for their submissions. Please download a copy of the current Innovation Grant Application Template at

<http://www.nbmrf.org.au/grants/>. Completed applications need to be returned to: admin@nbmrf.org.au by 12 noon, Wednesday 28th August 2024.

The first principal investigator will be deemed to be the Research Project Co-ordinator (RPC), who is responsible for communication between the Foundation and the research institution. The RPC will have responsibility for direction of the research project. The RPC is responsible for the timely submission of the application, attend any interview, if requested, and to prepare the reports on the progress of the research project.

The RPC must declare in their application any real or perceived conflict of interest they have in applying to the Foundation, and the Foundation reserves the right not to offer funding on that basis.

The Research Committee of the Foundation will consider applications for funding, and then make a recommendation to the Foundation's Board for consideration. All grant applications will be treated confidentially and will only be viewed by staff, application assessors and Directors.

Subsequently, successful, and unsuccessful applicants will be notified, however some applicants may be requested to provide further information in support of their submission prior to approval or funding. We anticipate notifying applicants of the Foundation's decision about whether a grant is to be made in late November 2024.

The Principal Investigator should include a two-page summary curriculum vitae and submit this along with the completed application.

Decision as to Funding

The decision as to whether an application will receive funding, and the amount of funding to be provided towards any application, is solely that of the Foundation's Directors. Neither the lodgement of an application, nor the making of any recommendation by the Research Committee confers any entitlement upon the Applicant.

The Foundation will not give reasons as to why a project is or is not awarded funding.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Brookes, Executive Director, on 0418 335 651 or by email at admin@nbmrf.org.au