

UNSW Medicine Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme

Collaborative Research Seed Funding 2020 Guidelines and Application

Introduction and Objectives

Our Vision: *Better Health, Better Lives: Building communities free of the burden of the disorders of the brain.*

Our Mission: *To prevent, treat, cure and care for a broad range of neurological, mental health and addictive disorders by building effective networks of engaged communities undertaking collaborative research that translates into real-world solutions and improves the quality of life of those affected by those disorders.*

The UNSW Medicine Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme aims to address the burdens imposed by neurological, mental health, and drug and alcohol disorders. It constitutes a network of internationally recognised researchers and clinicians leading in the understanding and treatment of complex clinical conditions with physical, behavioural, mental and social dimensions across the lifespan.

Together, the UNSW Medicine Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme and SPHERE CAG seek to support the initiation and development of collaborative groups that bring together research, education and clinical partners to explore innovative strategies towards solving these critical problems.

In 2020, seed funding will support projects that are able to be instigated within the research restrictions resulting from the Covid19 pandemic.

Our Collaborating Partners

Our current Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme and CAG collaborating partners are:

- UNSW Sydney, including:
 - School of Psychiatry, including the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing (CHeBA) and the Dementia Centre for Research Collaboration
 - School of Medical Science
 - School of Public Health and Community Medicine
 - Rural Clinical School
 - Centre for Big Data Research in Health
 - UNSW Brain Sciences
 - UNSW Psychology
 - UNSW Engineering
- National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)
- South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD), including Prince of Wales Hospital (PoWH), Royal Hospital for Women (RHW), SESLHD Mental Health Services and SESLHD Drug and Alcohol Services
- South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD)
- St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
- Sydney Children's Hospital Network (SCHN)
- Central and Eastern Primary Health Care Network (CEPHCN)
- NSW Health's Justice and Forensic Mental Health Network (JFMHN)
- Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA)
- Black Dog Institute (BDI)
- The Garvan Institute of Medical Research (Garvan)
- IMPACCT (Improving Palliative, Aged and Chronic Care through Clinical Research and Translation), University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
- Western Sydney University (WSU)

Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction

The Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme and CAG is led by Theme Principal and CAG Co-lead Professor Michael Farrell (NDARC) and CAG Co-lead Dr Gary Flynn (SWSLHD Mental Health Services) and consists of four sub-themes.

Children and Adolescent Wellbeing

- Led by Scientia Professor Helen Christensen (Black Dog Institute) and Dr Julia Lappin (School of Psychiatry, NDARC)
- Key areas of focus to end 2020:
 - suicide prevention
 - prevention, identification and treatment of depression and anxiety
 - substance use and abuse
 - psychobiological risk and resilience in response to early adversity
 - mental health literacy in children and adolescents

Complex and Difficult to Treat Diseases

- Led by Professor Philip Ward (School of Psychiatry) and Professor Peter Schofield (NeuRA)
- Key areas of focus to end 2020:
 - schizophrenia and related psychoses
 - bipolar disorder
 - treatment resistant depression
 - trauma related conditions
 - alcohol and drug addictions and their co-morbidities
 - behavioural change in the context of lifestyle and social adversity

Healthy Ageing

- Led by Scientia Professor Henry Brodaty (School of Psychiatry and CHeBA) and Professor Meera Agar (IMPACCT, UTS)
- Key areas of focus to end 2020:
 - cognitive ageing (including dementia)
 - prevention and treatment of frailty, immobility and falls
 - pain management in older people
 - mental health and positive ageing
 - biology, prevention and treatment of delirium
 - stroke prevention and treatments
 - alcohol and prescription opioids in the elderly

Brain Sciences and Translational Neuroscience

- Led by Scientia Professor Bernard Balleine (School of Psychology), Scientia Professor Nigel Lovell (Biomedical Engineering) and Scientia Professor Gary Housley (School of Medical Sciences)
- Key areas of focus to end 2020:
 - the interface of regulation and emotion
 - executive function and decision-making
 - the mind – machine nexus
 - neural coding
 - neural therapeutics
 - neural prosthetics
 - neuromodulation and stimulation strategies

Funding

Seed funding of up to \$40,000 is available to provide support for strategic projects (reviewed and awarded by the Executive Committee) to support theme relevant research work. The projects must relate to at least one of the key areas of focus and be able to be carried out within research restrictions as a result of Covid19. In addition, projects will need to be approved by the Faculty of Medicine to ensure they are compliant within the current UNSW research environment.

The funds for these research projects are sourced from the UNSW Medicine Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme and administered by UNSW. Grant funds must be spent for the primary purpose of achieving the objectives of this Seed Funding Scheme and cannot be used for indirect costs. Grants will not be renewed.

All research projects funded under the scheme will be required to report against key performance indicators developed by the applicants as part of the submission process. UNSW Medicine reserves the right to choose not to award any seed funding if applications do not meet a minimum quality.

Anticipated Outcomes from Seed Funding

Research projects must have potential to drive further research or clinical outcomes and should endeavour to create collaboration between the Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme and CAG partners. However, it is understood that multiple and clinical partnerships are more limited in the current research environment during the 2020 Covid19 pandemic.

Eligibility and Timeline

The Project leader/s must be affiliated with UNSW Medicine.

The project **must** be **strongly aligned to one (or more) of the sub-themes and their key areas of focus.**

The timelines for the Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme and CAG Collaborative Research Seed Funding Scheme are:

- Call for applications 28 May 2020
- Close of applications 28 June 2020
- Review of applications Early July 2020
- Notification to applicants 17 July 2020
- Project funding dispersed July 2020
- Finalisation of project up to December 2021
- Final report and financial acquittal up to February 2022

Application Evaluation

Upon receipt, applications will be reviewed by the Executive Committee.

Applications will be assessed on the following mandatory criteria:

- Alignment with the UNSW Medicine, Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme vision and mission
- Alignment with one or more of the named sub-themes and key areas of focus
- The project leader/s and budget holder must be staff of UNSW Medicine or an affiliated MRI
- Includes a budget that does not exceed \$40,000

Applications will be judged on the following criteria:

- Potential for larger funding application
- Scientific quality
- Significance of the expected outcomes and/or innovation of the concept

- Team quality and capability
- Engagement across Theme and CAG collaborating partners
- Engagement with clinicians and/or service providers if possible
- Potential for research translation

Submitting an Application

The application form (pages 6 onwards) must be used to complete your application. Applications should provide all requested information and not exceed the requested word limits. Please do not email the guidelines, but pages 6 onwards. For Project Leader/s and each member of the Project Team, a two-page CV (maximum) is to be submitted with the application form. Only information provided in the application will form the basis of the review process.

Completed applications must be submitted by email to Lise Mellor prior to 19 June. **Please PDF all documents as one.**

If you would like to discuss your submission, please contact:

Dr Lise Mellor

Acting Executive Officer

UNSW Medicine, Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme and SPHERE Clinical Academic Group

E: l.mellor@unsw.edu.au

**UNSW Medicine Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme
 and SPHERE CAG Application TEMPLATE**
CLOSING DATE: 5pm 19 June 2020
PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS

1. Project Title

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2. Lay Summary

Provide a description of the project to be used for communications (maximum 300 words)

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3. Project Leader

Provide details of the individual who will lead/manage the project.

Title	Choose an item.	Full Name	
Employing organisation			
Other affiliations			
Work title			
Phone			
Email			
Postal address			

4. Relevance to Primary Sub-theme and Key Area of Focus

Identify how the project aligns with one or more of the sub-themes and key areas of focus. Please state the primary sub-theme the project is aligned with. (maximum 200 words)

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5. Project Description

Provide a scientific description of the project aims and methods using the subheadings below (maximum 1,000 words).

1. *Background to the idea*
2. *Specific aims*
3. *Method*
 - 3.1. *Study design*
 - 3.2. *Sample and settings*
 - 3.3. *Measures*
 - 3.4. *Intervention (if applicable)*
 - 3.5. *Procedure*

6. Significance

Outline how the project may improve health outcomes (maximum 300 words).

7. Innovation/Value Add

Outline the collaborative gain of the project and explain the potential pathway to significant peer-reviewed funding (maximum 300 words)

8. Research, Education and Enterprise Capacity Building

Outline how the project will build capacity (maximum 200 words)

9. Selection Criteria

Outline how the project addresses the selection criteria as outlined in the guidelines (maximum 200 words)

10. Project Plan

Detail the project plan from inception to completion. Where possible, include SMART objectives (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound) and consider information dissemination (including non-traditional forms).

Project Objective	Activity	Timeframe	Evaluation measure(s)

11. Project Budget

Provide the total funds sought and a breakdown of how the grant funds will be spent. Detail any new leverage investment, expected return on investment and pathway to sustainable future funding (maximum 400 words).

12. Contributions from Partner Organisation(s)

If any cash and/or in-kind contributions will be provided by the partner organisation(s), please provide details.

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13. Additional Details

Is this application a scaled down version of a proposal submitted to an external agency, which has been unsuccessful?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please provide details:		

Have you submitted a similar application to any external agency, where a decision is still pending?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please provide details:		

Do you aim to subsequently apply for an externally funded research grant?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please provide details:		

14. Project Team – Chief Investigators

Please complete for CIs in the project team (including the project lead) to a maximum of 8 CIs. CVs* for each CI are to be attached (no more than two pages each). *See Appendix A of this document for more details on CVs.

Copy and paste the table below for each additional CI.

Visit orcid.org for information on ORCID ID.

Name			
Email		ORCID	
Employer			
Affiliation(s)			
Role on project	Brief explanation of role on project (e.g. Project Coordinator/ Manager, Lead Clinician)		
Qualifications / Experience	2-3 sentences maximum detailing relevant qualifications and experience		

15. Project Team – Associate Investigators

Please complete for all AIs in the project team. Do **not** include CVs.

Copy and paste the table below for each additional CI.

Visit orcid.org for information on ORCID IDs.

Name			
Email		ORCID	
Employer			
Affiliation(s)			
Role on project	Brief explanation of role on project (e.g. Project Coordinator/ Manager, Lead Clinician)		
Qualifications / Experience	2-3 sentences maximum detailing relevant qualifications and experience		

16. Approval and Sign-off

The Project Lead confirms that the information provided is correct and all team members have reviewed and approved the submission.

Project Lead

Full Name			
Signature		Date	

CHECKLIST FOR INVESTIGATORS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION:

- Budget does not exceed \$40,000
- Chief Investigator CVs (maximum 2 pages each) are attached
- Project Lead has approved the submission on behalf of the team

Appendix A - Investigator CV Template

(maximum 2 pages for each investigator, NHMRC track record may be used)

Career Disruption (during the last 5 years)

CIs may declare any relevant career disruptions in the past 5 years. Include the dates and nature of the career disruption, defined as a prolonged interruption to an applicant's capacity to work due to pregnancy, parental leave, major illness/injury and/or carer responsibilities.

Briefly explain the impact on your research/productivity relative to stage of career, details of additional research outputs (occurring in preceding years) that you want the reviewers to consider when assessing your application.

Indicate any invitations you were not able to accept due to the career disruption. If you had an extended career disruption starting before 2012 and ending within the last five years, please briefly explain, nominating additional research achievements for the most recent year(s) without a career disruption.

Relative to Opportunity (during the last 5 years)

The applicant may provide details on any relative to opportunity considerations and the effect this has had on their research and achievements, providing a brief explanation of the type of relative to opportunity circumstance, date and impact.

Publications

Please include select publications, highlighting those of impact from the past 5 years.

Peer-reviewed Research Funding

Provide sufficient details about the funding to make clear what the funding was intended for, what you achieved and your contribution to the outcomes within these grants. Include future funding.

Research Funding of Other Categories

As above.