

Cancer Clinical Academic Group E/MCR Seed Grant Scheme

Application Form 2020

Introduction and Objective

Collaboration is fundamental to research quality and success. An increased focus on collaboration in cancer research will facilitate larger research projects, staff exchanges for education and training, shared use of infrastructure and harmonisation of clinical protocols. National leadership in learning, teaching and research is vital to this success.

Maridulu Budyari Gumal, also known as the Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE) is an alliance of universities (UNSW Sydney, WSU, UTS), South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, South Western Sydney Local Health District and nine Medical Research Institutes. Formally recognised as an NHMRC Advanced Health Research Translation Centre (AHRTC), SPHERE's vision is to integrate diverse health disciplines and professions to address unmet local, national and international health priorities and needs through collaboration, innovation and partnership.

Complementary to this initiative, UNSW has embarked on an ambitious strategy to improve research performance and health impact. In Medicine, this is embodied as a thematic approach to research that aligns with the UNSW 2025 Strategy. A large proportion of funding from UNSW Medicine is used for seed grants.

Priority Areas

In this grant round, projects can address any area along the continuum of cancer control (from prevention to palliation) with relevance to the Cancer Clinical Academic Group (Cancer CAG) Areas of Focus and BIG Ideas identified for each:

- **Bringing “OMICs” into clinical practice**
 - Cellular multi-omics; *in vivo* cancer models; linked radiomics and imaging
- **Cancers with poor outcomes**
 - Pancreatic cancer: comprehensive, systematised research discovery; research linked to patient care
 - Brain cancer: targeting heterogeneity; molecular and dynamic imaging; single cell and bulk tumour genomics; genomic-based trials molecular biomarkers
- **Living better with and after cancer**
 - Reducing side effects of therapy (physiological and psychological); treating metastatic cancer
- **Reducing unwarranted variation in clinical practice**
 - Unified dataset to measure variation and monitor effect of interventions

Funding

Grants of up to \$50,000 over 1 year (GST exclusive) are available to undertake projects in at least one of the priority areas. In this round up to four grants will be awarded. Grants are non-renewable.

The funds for these collaborative grants are sourced from Cancer CAG and SPHERE funds (where available) and administered by UNSW Sydney. The funds must be spent for the primary purpose of achieving the objectives of the Grant Scheme. Granted funds cannot be used for indirect costs.

All projects funded under the scheme will be required to report against key performance indicators developed by the applicants as part of the submission process (see section 'Project Plan'). These indicators will be reviewed and additional KPIs may be requested as part of grant award.

The Cancer CAG reserves the right to not award any grants if applications do not meet a minimum quality.

Eligibility and Timeline

The project must be led by an early- or mid-career researcher within 15 years of their PhD award. Team and project aims must differ from projects previously funded by this scheme to be eligible.

Clinicians (all types of healthcare professional) are encouraged to apply. Non-clinical Associate Professors and Professors (Levels D and E) are NOT eligible as Project Leads but can be included in the team. Projects must be clinically informed (including discovery research), demonstrated by inclusion of at least one clinician in the team.

Proposals must be substantive, cross-disciplinary initiatives with evidence of a clear pathway to significant external peer reviewed funding of any category to sustain and build ongoing research. They will engage broadly and include multiple disciplines and SPHERE facilities. Successful awards will be nationally and internationally competitive and will focus on building novel programs and solutions or transforming existing research across disparate organisational/geographical hubs into new harmonised models of research.

The submission is to be a maximum of 9 pages, with one Chief Investigator, up to 5 Associate Investigators and a detailed budget. For each Chief Investigator, a 2-page CV is to be included (in addition to the 9-page application). A team summary is also required that includes Associate Investigators.

The milestones for the Seed Grant Scheme are:

- Call for applications 18/10/2019
- Close of applications 08/12/2019 (Midnight)
- Review of applications December/January
- Notification to applicants World Cancer Day – 4 Feb 2020
- Project commencement 14/2/2020
- Progress report due 2/8/2020
- Final report due 31/1/2021

Note: No additional funding or extensions will be provided to complete the project. Unspent funds must be returned to the Cancer CAG, UNSW Sydney.

Application Evaluation

Upon receipt, applications will be reviewed for completeness and adherence to submission requirements. Successful applicants will be selected through a competitive process that will include external representation.

Applications will be scored on the following criteria:

- Aligns with the Cancer CAG Strategy (available at [this link](#))
- Relevant to at least one Area of Focus
- Engage broadly and include multiple SPHERE facilities and disciplines
- Potential to significantly improve outcomes
- Novelty or significant value add to existing activities
- New leverage investment to achieve the greatest value and output
- Evidence of a clear pathway to sustainable future funding
- Research, education and enterprise capacity building
- Be seen to be nationally and internationally competitive
- Budget appropriateness, value and leverage.

Additional weight will be given to projects that incorporate collaboration between the Cancer CAG Areas of Focus groups and/or with other SPHERE Clinical Academic Groups. Collaborating SPHERE CAGs are required to provide **equal support in cash**.

Scoring information is [available here](#).

Submitting an Application

The following application template must be used to complete your application. Applications should provide all requested information and be no longer than nine pages, 10-point font excluding supporting CVs and team summary. Exceeding the word limits may render your application ineligible for review. Only information provided in the application will form the basis of the review process.

Completed applications must be submitted by email to medicine.themes@unsw.edu.au and received by the deadline. Incomplete or late submissions will not be accepted.

If you would like to discuss your submission, please contact

Dr Tanya Ward, Executive Officer (Cancer CAG)

P: 0478 492 184

E: tanya.ward@unsw.edu.au

CANCER CLINICAL ACADEMIC GROUP E/MCR SEED GRANT SCHEME
Application TEMPLATE
CLOSING DATE: Midnight 8/12/19

1. Area of Focus category and collaboration

Primary Area of Focus

Choose an item.

Collaborating groups

- Bringing OMICS into clinical practice
- Cancers with poor outcomes
- Living better with and after cancer
- Reducing unwarranted variation in clinical practice
- Other SPHERE Clinical Academic Group(s)

Please list: Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Project Title

3. Lay Summary

Provide a description of the project suitable for a lay audience, to be used for general promotion.

Please provide between 200 and 300 words

4. Project Lead

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

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

5. Project Description

Provide a scientific description of the project aims and methods.

Maximum 1000 words

6. Relevance to Strategy and Area of Focus

Identify how the project aligns with the Area of Focus BIG Ideas and Cancer CAG strategy ([available here](#)).

Maximum 200 words

7. Improving Outcomes

Outline how the project will improve health outcomes.

Maximum 300 words

8. Novelty or Harmonisation

Outline the novelty of the project or how it will transform existing research across disparate organisational/geographical hubs into a new, harmonised model of research.

Maximum 100 words

9. Research, education and enterprise capacity building

Outline how the project will build capacity.

Maximum 100 words

10. National and international competitiveness

Outline how the project will be nationally and internationally competitive.

Maximum 200 words

11. Team resources and mentoring

Outline the structure in place for mentoring and support of the CI, and team strengths relevant to the project.

Maximum 200 words

12. 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)

13. 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 300 words

14. Project Team – Chief Investigator

Please complete all fields for the CI and attach a 2-page CV. Click [here](#) for Information on ORCID.

Title	Choose an item.
Full Name	
Researcher category	Choose an item.
Employing organisation	
Other organisation affiliations	
Email	
ORCID	
Role on project	<p>Choose all that apply</p> <p>Study conception and design <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Acquisition of data <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Analysis and interpretation of data <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Dissemination of results <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other (please list):</p>
Qualifications / Experience	2-3 sentences maximum detailing relevant qualifications and experience
PhD award date	

15. Project Team – Associate Investigators

Please complete all fields for a maximum of 5 AIs in the project team. Click [here](#) for Information on ORCID.

Title	Choose an item.
Full Name	
Researcher category	Choose an item.
Employing organisation	
Other organisation affiliations	
Email	
ORCID	
Role on project	<p>Choose all that apply</p> <p>Study conception and design <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Acquisition of data <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Analysis and interpretation of data <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Dissemination of results <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other (please list):</p>
Qualifications / Experience	2-3 sentences maximum detailing relevant qualifications and experience

Title	Choose an item.
Full Name	
Researcher category	Choose an item.
Employing organisation	
Other organisation affiliations	
Email	
ORCID	

Role on project	Choose all that apply Study conception and design <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition of data <input type="checkbox"/> Analysis and interpretation of data <input type="checkbox"/> Dissemination of results <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list):
Qualifications / Experience	2-3 sentences maximum detailing relevant qualifications and experience

Title	Choose an item.
Full Name	
Researcher category	Choose an item.
Employing organisation	
Other organisation affiliations	
Email	
ORCID	
Role on project	Choose all that apply Study conception and design <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition of data <input type="checkbox"/> Analysis and interpretation of data <input type="checkbox"/> Dissemination of results <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list):
Qualifications / Experience	2-3 sentences maximum detailing relevant qualifications and experience

Title	Choose an item.
Full Name	
Researcher category	Choose an item.
Employing organisation	
Other organisation affiliations	
Email	
ORCID	
Role on project	Choose all that apply Study conception and design <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition of data <input type="checkbox"/> Analysis and interpretation of data <input type="checkbox"/> Dissemination of results <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list):
Qualifications / Experience	2-3 sentences maximum detailing relevant qualifications and experience

Title	Choose an item.
Full Name	
Researcher category	Choose an item.
Employing organisation	
Other organisation affiliations	
Email	
ORCID	
Role on project	Choose all that apply Study conception and design <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition of data <input type="checkbox"/> Analysis and interpretation of data <input type="checkbox"/> Dissemination of results <input type="checkbox"/>



	Other (please list):
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:

- Application does not exceed 9 pages (excluding CV)
- Budget does not exceed \$50,000
- Chief Investigator CV (2 pages) is attached
- Chief Investigator has approved the submission on behalf of the team

17. Chief Investigator CV (maximum 2-pages)

Please attach a brief biography (no more than 2 pages) for the CI. Achievements relevant to the proposal should be included such as publications, grants, clinical trials and HDR supervision.