

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

Collaborative Research Seed Funding
2019 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.

In 2017 Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction was approved as a SPHERE Clinical Academic Group (CAG) and formalised partnerships between UNSW, University of Technology Sydney (UTS), Western Sydney University (WSU), local health districts (LHDs), Medical Research Institutes (MRIs) and other industry partners.

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.

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 2019:
 - 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 2019:
 - 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 2019:
 - 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 2019:
 - 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 support the development of research projects in alignment with our key areas of focus. In the 2019 funding round, we seek to award eight research proposals, two from each sub-theme.

The funds for these research projects are sourced from the UNSW Medicine Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme (one grant per sub-theme) and SPHERE (one grant per sub-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 and SPHERE reserve 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 inform a high-calibre application for future competitive funding (such as NHMRC or ARC). They could focus on building novel programs and solutions or transforming existing research across disparate organisational and/or geographical partner sites. In addition, the seed funding may provide the opportunity to carry out a component of an existing project idea (e.g. recently submitted Ideas Grant applications).

Research projects must have potential to drive further research or clinical outcomes and must also create collaboration between the Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme and CAG partners.

It is desirable that projects provide an opportunity for a shorter-term education output such as a UNSW Medicine Summer Research Scholarship, Independent Learning or Honours project within UNSW Medicine.

Eligibility and Timeline

The Project leader/s must be affiliated with UNSW Medicine or one of our SPHERE collaborating partners.

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 | 27 May 2019 |
| • Close of applications | 11 July 2019 (9am) |
| • Review of applications | July 2019 |
| • Notification to applicants | early August 2019 |
| • Project funding dispersed | August 2019 |
| • Final report due | 30 March 2021 |

Application Evaluation

Upon receipt, applications will be reviewed for eligibility against submission requirements. All applicants will be assessed competitively by the UNSW Medicine Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme Principal, Faculty Research Support Manager and an external clinical representative. Within each sub-theme, each application will be assessed by sub-theme leaders.

Applications will be assessed on the following mandatory criteria:

- Alignment with the UNSW Medicine, Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme and SPHERE CAG vision and mission
- Alignment with one or more of the named sub-themes and key areas of focus
- Project team engages **four** or more collaboration partners (see list on page 2)



- Project team engages at least one partner local health district (LHD)
- The Project leader/s must be affiliated with UNSW Medicine and/or one of the SPHERE CAG collaborating partners
- Clinical leadership must be identified on project team, with the exception of applications lodged within the Brain Sciences and Translational Neuroscience sub-theme**
- At least one early or mid-career researcher (up to level C) must be included on the project team
- Includes a budget that does not exceed \$40,000

** Whilst it is encouraged that applications under the Brain Sciences and Translational Neuroscience sub-theme engage a clinical or service partner in their project team, it is understood that it is not always possible.

Applications will be judged on the following criteria:

- Potential for larger funding application
- Evidence of cross-discipline/facility collaboration
- Scientific quality
- Significance of the expected outcomes and/or innovation of the concept
- Team quality and capability
- Opportunity for student engagement
- Engagement across Theme and CAG collaborating partners
- Engagement with clinicians and/or service providers
- 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 [Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Seed Funding](#) and received by **11/7/2019 (9am)**. Incomplete or late submissions will not be accepted. **Please PDF all documents as one.**

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

Dr Lise Mellor

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: 9am 11/7/2019
 PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS**

1. Project Title

2. Lay Summary

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

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)



5. Project Description

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



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
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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
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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
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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 eight CIs. CVs for each CI are to be attached. Visit orcid.org for information on ORCID. (If you do not have an ORCID please obtain one.)

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		

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		

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Email		ORCID	
Employer			
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Qualifications / Experience	2-3 sentences maximum detailing relevant qualifications and experience		

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		
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. Visit orcid.org for information on ORCID.

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		

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		

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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		

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Affiliation(s)			
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Name			
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Affiliation(s)			
Role on project	Brief explanation of role on project (e.g. Project Coordinator/ Manager, Lead Clinician)		
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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

17. 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.