

RPH Research Foundation *Springboard Plus* Guidelines and Conditions

1. About the RPH Research Foundation

For nearly 40 years, the RPH Research Foundation has been improving our community's health by funding leading world-class medical research, ideas, and innovations at Royal Perth Hospital. The Foundation links universities, research centres and researchers with the Royal Perth Bentley Group and more broadly with the East Metropolitan Health Service to maximise health research impact.

The Foundation strives to build on its rich history of research funding through the delivery of strategic objectives:

- **Growth through leadership**
- **Research capability and Impact**
- **Environment for success**
- **Stakeholder engagement**

By providing year-on-year funding and in-house facility support to researchers across a range of disciplines, the Foundation has become a renowned leader in its field. Its core vision is to champion innovative research that has a real impact on the health and wellbeing of the wider community.

2. The Springboard Plus Program

The Springboard Plus Grants aim to fund new or existing research projects successfully acquitted under the previous round 'Springboard 2019'. These grants allow researchers to follow leading observations and investigation of novel ideas into healthcare research.

This grant program supports Early and Mid-Career researchers who are translating their ideas into clinical practice that could lead to a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of our community.

We particularly promote applications from multidisciplinary collaborations across different sectors and disciplines. This grant initiative encourages the development of preliminary data for a subsequent collaborative application by the investigative team to a national or international competitive funding scheme (e.g., NHMRC).

3. Funding Details

Level of funding: The RPH Research Foundation will award 5 grants up to \$30,000 per year.

In addition to the above 5 grants, the Foundation in partnership with Edith Cowan University (ECU) has established a specific grant of equal value to support innovative medical research between East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS)/Royal Perth Hospital (RPH) and ECU. Please refer to the eligibility criteria for this specific stream.

Duration of funding: Up to 2 years. Final Acquittal due in June 2024.

Research analysis and Statistics Support

The RPH Research Foundation will provide statistical support (including statistical analysis, assistance with interpretation of results and preparation of a manuscript) from its own team of biostatisticians for the successful projects, if required.

Eligible Costs

The direct costs of the research projects include:

- Staff salaries

We do not provide a salary for the Coordinating Principal Investigator of this project, but where justified the Coordinating Principal Investigator can budget staff costs if:

 - They do not already have a salary for the period of their grant, and
 - They are essential to the research proposal.
- Materials and Consumables
 - Laboratory chemicals and materials (i.e., reagents, enzymes, cell/tissues/bacterial culture, plasticware and glassware, proteins, antibodies, peptides).
 - Associated charges for shipping, delivery and freight.
- Animals
 - The cost of purchasing animals for this research project.
 - Running costs (i.e., animal agistment, experimental procedures, licences and staff training).
 - Staff costs (i.e., contributions towards the salaries of animal house technicians).
- Equipment
 - We will provide support to purchase small equipment deemed indispensable for the project up to \$25,000 in total. The equipment will remain the property of the RPH Research Foundation
- Dissemination and engagement
 - Costs of activities and outputs to facilitate the impact
 - Costs to promote uptake and to benefit others in your research field and the wider community.

Ineligible Costs

The RPH Medical Research Foundation will not pay for:

- Salary recovery costs for staff funded full-time by the employing organisation
- Infrastructure costs – such as building and premises costs, basic services, and utilities (i.e., postage, photocopying and stationery, unless justified as essential to this project)
- Organisational overheads and indirect costs (i.e., building and premises, technical and administrative staff whose time is shared across several projects)
- Travel and overseas allowances
- Costs for large equipment
- Non-research related activities i.e., catering, room, team-building events
- Office furniture such as chairs, desks, filing cabinets
- Clothing such as lab coats, shoes, PPE, and laundry services

4. Eligibility and Suitability Criteria

These awards are open to individuals or teams working in any scientific and clinical discipline within health and life sciences. **Multidisciplinary collaborations** must include at least one researcher from a discipline

outside life sciences, such as (but not limited to) engineering, physical science, engineering, technologies (i.e. therapeutics, devices, diagnostics, digital technologies).

To be eligible, the **Coordinating Principal Investigator (CPI)** and the **Principal Investigators (PIs)** must meet the following criteria:

- Be eligible to work in Australia for the entire duration of the grant.
- Be an **Early Career Researcher** (**≤7 years** since the completion of the highest degree, subject to career disruption) or a **Mid-Career Researcher** (**within 8-15 years** since the completion of the highest relevant degree, subject to career disruption).
- Be undertaking the majority of their research work within the East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS) network (i.e., Royal Perth Hospital, Bentley Hospital, Armadale Health Service, Kalamunda Hospital, St John of God Midland Public Hospital, Population and Community Health Programs) or be located within the RPH Research Foundation Building at 50 Murray Street, Perth.

The project must have scientific concepts to produce outcomes that can be clinically translated. The Coordinating Principal Investigator should provide proof-of-concept, quality of evidence and data to support the value of the research proposal.

Specific criteria for:

Name of the Grant	Numbers of grants
Springboard Plus (ECU)	1

- In addition to the above criteria, the Investigating team must be representative of, at minimum, one member employed by ECU and one member employed by EMHS/RPH with demonstration of ongoing employment.

5. How to apply and key dates

Applications must be submitted using the RPH Research Foundation’s electronic Grants and Award management system Blackbaud Grantmaking™. Please click on the following link to access: RPH Research Foundation [Grant Applications Portal](#).

If you require any assistance or you have any queries about the electronic Grants and Award system, please email xavier@rphresearchfoundation.org.au

The applications will be assessed by a two-step process:

1. **Application Review Process:** the RPH Research Foundation will establish that the application meets the Eligibility and Suitability Criteria. Subsequently the Peer Review Panel will review the applications submitted and provide feedback as to whether the project concept has merit and is aligned with the vision statement of the Springboard Plus Grants.
2. **Interviews:** Applications that are eligible and judged by the Peer Review Panel to meet the assessment criteria, will be shortlisted. The applicants shortlisted may be required to be interviewed by an external advisory panel.

Proposals that have not met eligibility and suitability criteria or have not completed the online Application Form in full will not be considered by the Peer Review Panel.

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) reserves the right to make the final decision and can seek further information from applicants before making a final decision. The decision of the Scientific Advisory Committee is final.

The Scientific Advisory Committee will provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants where possible.

Stages of Application	Key Dates
Call for applications Open	25 March 2022
Application submission deadline	26 April 2022
Application Review Process Start	27 April 2022
Application Review Process Close	6 June 2022
Shortlisted applicants – Interviews (if required)	15 June 2022
Announcement of successful applicants	30 June 2022

6. Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed by an independent Peer Review Panel on the following criteria:

Criteria	Score
Applicant's track record	20
Novelty, originality, and Innovation of the proposed project	30
Clinical Translation. Potential to improve the burden of a disease/condition of the patient population	30
Quality and feasibility. Scientific quality and feasibility of the project and rationale considering team, budget, achievability of aims and timeline	15
Community Engagement plans – Consulting, informing, and collaborating with the community	5
TOTAL	100

7. Conditions of Grant

- The Grant Offer must be accepted in writing by the Coordinating Principal Investigator (CPI).
- The Coordinating Principal Investigator (CPI) must apply for ethics/research governance approval within six months of the date of the award if approval is not already obtained. The CPI may seek an extension of the grant due to a delay in ethics/governance approval. The Foundation may terminate this grant and reallocate the grant funding unless the CPI obtains this approval.
- The CPI will be the contact person for all administrative matters in relation to the project and is responsible for financial administration and internal reporting requirements.
- The CPI must ensure the research is conducted in accordance with RPH Research Foundation policy, including compliance with the Code of Conduct for Research and policies on human research ethics, animal experimentation ethics, requirements of the Office of Gene Technology Regulator, health and safety and intellectual property. No project may proceed unless the appropriate ethical or other required clearances have been obtained.
- The CPI must ensure compliance by the Team in relation to any instructions or conditions in the Offer of Grant relating to approved items of expenditure.
- The Investigator Team will be required to provide written reports and presentations on the progress and outcomes of the project as requested from time to time for events organised by the RPH Research Foundation.
- A formal final report on the outcomes of the project must be submitted within 1 month of the project's completion. Summaries of projects funded, and final project reports may be published.
- **The Awardee must return unspent funds to the RPH Research Foundation such as:**

- a) any residual monies that have not been spent when the research project activities have been completed
- b) any part of the grant used in breach of the Terms and Conditions, and/or due to unjustified interruption
- The Awardee must inform the RPH Research Foundation at once if there are significant factors that may adversely impact the research project activities or prevent compliance with the Terms and Conditions.

8. Project Delivery, Reporting and Approvals

The entire project team of Investigators must actively participate in the project delivery, i.e. undertake the program of research in accordance with the roles and responsibilities as set out in the proposal.

Applicants do not need to have Human Ethics, Animal Ethics or Biosafety Committee approval for their project before lodging an application. However, approvals must be in place within 6 months of the notification of the award. A copy of the approval/s must be provided for funds to be released.

The Coordinating Principal Investigator and participating team members will actively engage and communicate with the RPH Research Foundation Manager of Research on the progress of the funded project.

Funding will be committed on approval, but it will be delivered in tranches upon the achievement of milestones which must be included in the submission. The Foundation will not release funds until it is provided with the related progress report and evidence of the achieved milestone/s. The Foundation may request interim project reports or presentations during the project at its discretion.

A financial acquittal report must be submitted with each milestone report and Final Report. This will determine the quantum of the progressive payments.

All receipts, invoices, accounts, and other relevant documents relating to the research project must be retained as proof of expenditure and made available to the RPH Research Foundation upon request. The Final Expenditure Report must be provided within three (3) months of the end of the annual report.

The Coordinating Principal Investigator is responsible for delivering the final lay person and detailed scientific report within one month of completing the agreed completion milestone of the project. If the awardee fails to meet the reporting requirements on time, the Foundation will withhold further progressive payments until reporting requirements are met. Failure to meet reporting requirements will affect the Investigator's prospects of receiving future funding from the RPH Research Foundation.

9. Intellectual Property

The Coordination Principal Investigator must inform the Chief Executive Officer of the RPH Research Foundation promptly in writing as soon as they become aware that the work arising from the funded Grant may have commercial use or intellectual property rights.

10. Acknowledgement

Successful applicants must fully acknowledge the RPH Research Foundation support when opportunities arise (e.g., media, publications, forums, conferences, public discussions, etc.) as detailed in the Grant Agreement.

11. Liability

The RPH Research Foundation does not accept any responsibility for financial or other liability incurred by the applicants, any organisation, or any participant in the project, that may arise out of the grant activities.

12. Further Information

Prospective applicants can contact the Head of Research and Operations by email to discuss their proposal. Please use the subject header: “Springboard Plus 2022 enquiry”.

To keep up to date with news we have set up a [LinkedIn RPH Research Foundation](#) page to help you network with other RPH Research Foundation grant recipients and follow our grant round openings.

Role	Name of Contact	Email contact:
Head of Research and Operations	Xavier M. Fiorilla	xavier@rphresearchfoundation.org.au

13. Feedback

All applicants are encouraged to provide feedback to the Manager of Research on how we can improve our grant application processes.