

Applying for research funding

Scott Crowe

Funding bodies

- Listed on Australian Competitive Grants Register
 - Australian Research Council: Discovery programme, Linkage programme
 - National Health and Medical Research Council: Program Grants
 - Cancer Australia: Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme
- Local funding
 - Cancer Council Queensland: Research Project Grants
 - Advance Queensland: Innovation Partnerships
 - Institutional funding, including RBWH Foundation, PA Research Foundation, Wesley Medical Research, etc.

Alignment with priorities

- Funding bodies often identify research priorities
- Themes from PdCCRS:
 - Aetiology; prevention and risk
 - Early detection
 - Particular tumour types (even including 'cancer of unknown primary')
 - Particular populations (e.g. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; Young women; Non-smokers with lung cancer)
- Most are very general:
 - Test in a preclinical model a treatment / therapy / intervention for cancer or for management of a problem experienced by cancer patients as a result of their cancer, and the major health focus of the study is cancer (Cancer Council QLD)
 - Research addressing cancers of the lung, colon and rectum, pancreas, cancer of unknown primary, lymphoma, kidney, bladder, stomach or oesophagus is strongly encouraged. (Cancer Australia)

Applying for grants

- Need to start as early as possible
- Universities require notifications of intent to apply months in advance for applications for the big projects
- RGMS (used by NHMRC, Cancer Council, Cancer Australia) requests a lot of information for entry in online forms or by populated CSV files
 - Entered in online forms
 - Personal details, qualifications, employment history, publications, editorial responsibilities, career disruptions, conference participation, community engagement, professional memberships, translation into practice, supervision, etc.
 - Ongoing availability (not just during grant season).

Investigators

- Investigators need to have defined time commitments (e.g. 0.1 FTE).
- Chief Investigators
 - Track record is a significant factor in assessment
- Associate Investigators / Partner Investigators
 - NHMRC grants – track record not as important, named when involvement would, for example, warrant inclusion as an author on publications (up to 10 named)
 - ARC grants – place of employment is a consideration of CI/AI distinction
- Track record
 - Field of Research ‘Other Physical Sciences’ (code 0299) contains Medical Physics (code 029903).
 - Average annual output of 1.6 publications per annum per person

What needs to be written

- NHMRC
 - 9 pages describing project proposal
 - 2 pages describing references
 - 1 page describing team quality
 - 2 pages per chief investigator
 - In addition to populated RGMS records, summaries of proposal & proposed budget
- ARC
 - 10 pages of project description
 - For each investigator (in addition to personal details, current employment, etc.):
 - Details of career and opportunities for research
 - Significant research outputs (books, journal articles, conference papers, grants)
 - Ten career-best research outputs
 - Achievements other than research output, impact relative to opportunity
 - All in addition to summaries of proposal & proposed budget

Other notes

- “Administering Institution”
 - Administering institutions are generally the employers of the investigator
 - Not all of our employers qualify as ‘administering institutions’ for research funding
 - CIAs whose primary employer is a State or Territory health department can have a university (or other organisation) act as administering institution by organising a formal academic appointment
 - NHMRC approved institutions include:
 - Metro South Hospital and Health Service, Princess Alexandra Hospital
 - Queensland University of Technology
 - University of Queensland
 - Griffith Universities
 - Queensland Institute of Medical Research
 - Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group