

2020 Interdisciplinary Seed Funded Research Grants

ROUND 6

The Hopkins Centre: Research for Rehabilitation and Resilience (the Centre) is committed to improving disability and rehabilitation practices, service delivery and systems by developing, translating and implementing interdisciplinary research evidence about real world problems.

Aims

The Centre Seed Grants are intended to support the establishment and conduct of interdisciplinary research that promotes applied research on priority issues and improvements relevant to disability and rehabilitation clinical practice, service delivery and systems. Seed grants provide funding to support interdisciplinary, start-up research; pilot work; translation of research; or the progress and/or upscaling of existing research. It is the Centre's expectation that interdisciplinary teams will support Early Career Researcher development and will consolidate collaborations that may lead to further funding for research and/or achieve specific practice or service delivery impacts.

The beneficiaries of the Centre Seed Grants are people living with the long-term consequences of acquired brain injury, amputation, persistent pain, and spinal cord injury as well as developmental, age-related and other life-long disabling conditions. It includes people's networks of support.

Priority Areas

Seed Grants are designed to progress research in priorities areas driven by the new Research Streams of the Centre. Successful projects will be able to demonstrate how the proposed research will value add to existing research activity occurring within these Streams and will also be able to display an affinity with the 4 Pillars of the Centre which reflect our values and approaches to research.

The Hopkins Centre now has 3 key Streams of research activity:

1. ***Spaces and places where people are at their best*** – positive environments and communities
This Stream is focused on: understanding complex interactions between service users; personal, wellbeing and their physical, social-political and economic environments.
2. ***Health interventions that people want and need*** – therapeutic interventions and practices

This Stream is focused on: developing, applying and measuring effective practices, techniques and technologies that support early intervention, optimize community participation and improve quality of life.

3. **Policy and systems that deliver fairness and equity** – policy, governance and service systems

This Stream is focused on: examining and assessing policy, legal and rights frameworks and operating systems that underpin service delivery, access and lifetime care.

These Streams are underpin by 4 Pillars that reflect the values and approaches to research in our Centre.

1. Maximising engagement of service users in the design and implementation of rehabilitation and disability services
2. Promoting translation through the exchange of relevant knowledge, improving the access and use of evidence, and enhancing implementation methods
3. Generating interdisciplinary cross-sectoral evidence to solve real-life complex challenges in disability and rehabilitation
4. Building collaborations and capacity between academics, policy-makers practitioners and communities to find creative solutions

Consultation with Stream Leaders

All applicants are encouraged to discuss their application with a Stream Leader prior to submission. Stream Leaders will offer applicants guidance in their submission and through a collaborative discussion will provide advice and links to relevant partners and existing projects to strengthen each application.

The first point of contact for each Stream is:
Professor Heidi Zeeman, Positive Environments and Communities Stream
h.zeeman@griffith.edu.au

Professor Michel Coppieters, Dr Kerrin Watter, Therapeutic Interventions and Practices Stream, m.coppieters@griffith.edu.au

Professor Michele Foster, Dr Karleigh Kwopil, Policy, Governance and Service Systems Stream, michele.foster@griffith.edu.au

Funding

Projects valued between \$20,000 and \$40,000 will be considered.

Conditions of Award

Proposal Eligibility

- a. Project must not be currently or previously funded from any source.
- b. Projects that have secured ethics or have a well-developed Project Protocol will be favourable considered.
- c. Eligible expenditures for seed funding include: direct research costs (research assistance, buy-out of clinical time to do research, consumables, justified fieldwork costs) and knowledge translation (e.g. events, publication cost, marketing collateral). The following items will not be supported: salary for research conducted outside of Australia; usual workplace infrastructure e.g. computers, printers; work funded by postgraduate scholarships or the funding of a scholarship; and conference/travel expenses unrelated to the conduct of the project. **Small equipment items will be considered if essential to the project and all avenues to access the equipment from host and partner organisations have been exhausted.**

Projects, which aim to progress existing quality improvement, clinical audit / chart review, needs analysis or systematic review into research or translation projects, will be considered.

- d. Seed Grant Projects can have a strong correlation to research funded as part of a THC Clinical Fellowship. However, applicants must clearly demonstrate how the seed project is a new and discrete project within the Fellowship and builds on the overarching objectives of the program of work.

Timeframe

- e. Seed Projects are 12 months duration with a possibility of extension to 16 months for exceptional circumstances.
- f. Lead Chief Investigators may seek approval to vary the timeframe for a Project, however funds must be expended within 12 months. To request a variation, the lead CI must email the Centre at hopkinscentre@griffith.edu.au outlining the justification and proposed new timeframe. The Management Committee (or nominated representative) will consider requests and grant approvals.

Ethics, Governance & Reporting

- g. All relevant research governance approvals must be obtained and documentation of approval provided to Centre (hopkinscentre@griffith.edu.au) prior to the commencement of a funded project.
- h. Successful applicants must be prepared to enter into a Research Agreement with The Hopkins Centre which will outline the Project Plan and budget for the project.
- i. A 6 month progress report is required and a final report one month after Project completion. Report templates will be provided to successful applicants.

Affiliation and Acknowledgements

- j. Successful investigators will be expected to acknowledge The Hopkins Centre (with approved branding) on all outputs and products developed during the grant period and into the future where these are related directly to the work generated from the Seed Grant.

Personnel Requirements

Applications are invited from teams who **meet all of the following criteria**:

- k. An eligible lead Chief Investigator (CIA) must be identified on the application. The CIA must be a member of The Hopkins Centre and have a substantive position with Division of Rehabilitation (DoR), Metro South Health or Griffith University (at 0.5 FTE or above). If the CIA applicant is not currently employed at 0.5 FTE, a letter of support from their Manager must accompany the application indicating the CI can accommodate the project within their existing workload. The organisation that employs the CIA will be the administering organisation for the grant.

[DoR staff are eligible for CI status if they are medical, nursing or allied health clinicians working in one of the DoR clinical services (SIU, TRP, SPOT, ABIOS/STEPS, BIRU, BIRU Day Hospital, Jasmine Unit, PPMS, ABI-TRS and Amputee Rehabilitation Clinic). Allied health professionals working in DoR clinical services do not need to be directly line managed by DoR to be considered DoR staff, but do need to be able to demonstrate a significant and ongoing relationship with one of these services.]

- l. Within the investigator team there must be at least one investigator who has a substantive position with DoR and one investigator with a substantive position with Griffith University (as above).
- m. Preference will be given to projects that prioritise the development of early career researchers who are supported by experience Chief Investigators with demonstrated track records.
- n. Projects that also involve CI researchers from THC Affiliate Partner Organisations including Spinal Life Australia, Synapse, Health Consumers Queensland, Gold Coast Health Service – Rehabilitation, RACQ, NIISQ or Microsoft Health are strongly encouraged.

All Chief Investigators must be members of The Hopkins Centre. [Membership can be sought via The Hopkins Centre website or by emailing hopkinscentre@griffith.edu.au.]

- o. Investigators named on the team from other organisations [i.e. external to The Hopkins Centre] are also encouraged to build broader collaborations and should be named as Associate Investigators (AIs). AIs are unable to be the recipients of grant funds from a successful grant application.
- p. All Chief Investigators must provide a brief CV (max 2 pages) with the Application Form. The CIA may submit only one application for Round 6, 2020 Seed Funding Grants. If the CIA has received a Hopkins Centre seed grant in a previous funding round, consideration of a further application is conditional on demonstration of appropriate reporting [e.g. submission of progress or final reports] and sufficient evidence of output i.e. publications (published, in press or submitted for review only), funding submissions, conference papers or other dissemination.
- q. The CIA may be named as a Chief Investigator on one further application for a substantially different research project.

- r. The CIA must take intellectual responsibility for the project, including its conception, strategic decisions and communication of the results and have the time and capacity to complete the project objectives.
- s. The CIA must ensure that there are no impediments to The Hopkins Centre utilising the intellectual property generated by the Project. The planned use of background IP should be identified at the time of application. Any questions should be directed to hopkinscentre@griffith.edu.au
- t. The CIA must ensure there are experienced research assistants/staff to undertake the technical aspects of the project including ethics, governance, analysis and drafting peer review publications.
- u. The CIA must ensure the Project proceeds in accordance with the Project Plan, prepare reports in accordance with the schedule at the required times and ensure all expenditure of Project funds is for project related purposes and otherwise done in compliance with the Project Agreement.
- v. The CIA must notify the Centre [hopkinscentre@griffith.edu.au] if there are any changes in circumstances which may impact on the progress of the project, or his/her ability to conduct the project to completion.

If you are uncertain regarding eligibility in relation to proposed CIs and AIs please contact hopkinscentre@griffith.edu.au.

Selection and Assessment

Funding for Seed Projects will be awarded on merit in open competition. There are 4 steps in the selection process for Seed Project Grants.

1. Call for Full Applications
2. Presentation of Applications to a Selection Panel
3. Assessment by the Selection Panel
4. Approval by the THC Management Committee

1) Full applications are to be provided on the templated application form provided and must have the requisite signatures from Heads of Department approving the allocation of time and resources to undertake the project.

2) Presentations to the Selection Panel by the research team will align with the questions in the application and will involve a Q&A discussion. The purpose of presenting to the panel is to allow an opportunity for dialogue and feedback about the project to further strengthen the approach and team readiness. Further details will be provided to all applicants following the closing date for submissions.

3) The Selection Panel will comprise of both internal and external academics, clinicians and citizens with a lived experience of a traumatic injury.

4) The Hopkins Centre Management Committee will review the selection panels assessment and will make the final recommendations for funding to successful applicants.

Selection Criteria

Seed Grants must be feasible and have a high-quality research plan to deliver on the aims of the project within the 12 month timeframe allocated. In addition, successful projects will clearly demonstrate capacity to lead to change in practice or service delivery that ultimately benefits people with lifelong disabling conditions.

Applications will be assessed on merit with regard to the following criteria.

| Criteria | % |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Feasibility of the project and likelihood of meeting objectives within the stated timeframe | 25 |
| Quality of research plan | 25 |
| Significance and capacity to lead change in practice or service delivery (including identified opportunities for translation of new knowledge and use of evidence) | 15 |
| Strengths of the interdisciplinary collaboration and early career development opportunity | 15 |
| Strength of value add to existing research or meeting gaps in research at The Hopkins Centre. | 10 |
| Justification of budget | 10 |

Timeframe

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|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Monday 6 July 2020 | Calls for Applications |
| Friday 4 September | Closing date for Applications |
| September | Presentation to Selection Panel |
| September | Announcement of Successful Applicants |
| October 2020 | Projects Commence |
| October 2021 | Projects Complete |

Further information

Research Project questions please contact Prof Michele Foster on Michele.foster@griffith.edu.au

Further information about the structure of presentations to the Selection Panel will be provided to all applicants following submission.

Administrative questions please contact Macarla Kerr at Hopkinscentre@griffith.edu.au