



Research Scholar Awards

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS *(AMENDED 1/08/2008)*

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1. ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

Acronyms

ARC	Australian Research Council
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council

Definitions

Administering Institution* The institution that receives and administers the funds. For the purposes of GST arrangements, this institution is defined as the supplier.

Applications are lodged through the Administering Institution.

Research Institution* The institution at which the research will be undertaken

***The Administering Institution and the Research Institution may be the same institution.**

GST Goods and Services Tax imposed in accordance with the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999, and related Acts and Regulations.

Intellectual Property Includes all industrial and intellectual property rights including but not limited to copyright, patents, trade/business or company names, registered and unregistered trademarks, registered designs, trade secrets, know how, rights in relation to circuit layout and all other rights of intellectual property as recognised by the law in force in NSW.

Supplier Means the persons or bodies party to the written agreement engaged to perform the services and includes officers, employees, agents and authorised sub-contractors (and their employees and agents) utilised by the Supplier.

2. OVERVIEW OF CANCER INSTITUTE NSW RESEARCH PROGRAMS GUIDING PRINCIPLES, PRIORITIES AND CRITERIA

INTRODUCTION

The Cancer Institute NSW is Australia's first state-wide, government supported cancer control agency. We are saving lives through promoting the best cancer research, prevention, early-detection, and treatment and education initiatives. The Cancer Institute NSW is driving innovation in cancer care in New South Wales by working in partnership with the leaders in our field to deliver the best cancer results for the people of New South Wales.

Cancer research will provide the evidence that will drive rapid improvement in cancer prevention, treatment and the subsequent improvements in survival and quality of life of cancer patients. The cancer research supported in NSW must be performance driven and deliver meaningful and highly significant outcomes.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Cancer Institute NSW Research Program is not a duplication of the grants available from the NHMRC or ARC for cancer in NSW. Rather it is strategically designed to specifically address issues of capacity, relevance and competitiveness raised by the Wood's Report and the Cancer Institute NSW own review of cancer research in NSW.

The Cancer Institute NSW program will build and support a high quality cancer research workforce and provide enabling infrastructure. It will reward areas of relevance, excellence and strength by building complementary scientific depth in these areas. The program will support a high level of cooperation in NSW, nationally or overseas.

STATE CANCER RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The State Cancer Research Priorities are embodied within the research philosophy of the NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006 and include:

- The rapid translation of significant research findings into cancer practice.
- The development, recruitment and retention of outstanding cancer researchers and teams in NSW.
- The documentation of internationally competitive research with high research outputs.
- The attainment of competitive scientific depth by collaboration, co-locations or amalgamations of researchers and research teams.
- The further development of cancer research in NSW in areas including:
 - Molecular and cell biology and cancer genetics;
 - Clinical research;
 - Population health, health services and epidemiology research; or
 - Cancers within the top 10 for incidence and mortality especially prostate cancer, bowel cancer, breast cancer, melanoma, lung cancer and haematological malignancies.

- A demonstrated high level of connection between core research disciplines, skills and groups.
- The use and expansion of key state wide research platforms, expertise and technologies.
- Demonstrated success in obtaining research support from national and international funding agencies and industry.

CRITERIA OF THE CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAMS OF THE CANCER INSTITUTE NSW

The Cancer Institute NSW is committed to pursuing and supporting excellence and innovation in cancer research as a key method to improve cancer outcomes in NSW.

The recommendations of the recent review of research 'NSW Research: A Prescription for Health, State Cancer Research Priorities' and the above guiding principles provide the framework for the allocation of funds within the Cancer Institute NSW Research Program.

Applications in each of the programs will be reviewed and supported based on the specific criteria for each program and their adherence to the following broad criteria:

- Programs that are consistent with the State Cancer Research Priorities.
- Commits to excellence and innovation at an international leading edge.
- Commits to rapid translation of research findings to clinical practice and policy.
- Focuses on the importance and the outcomes of the research.
- Supports the development, recruitment and support of excellent cancer researchers for NSW.
- Promotes, enhances or complements areas with existing outstanding research strength in NSW including molecular or cell biology, cancer genetics, clinical research, population research or addresses major cancer problems facing NSW.
- Promotes attainment of additional scientific depth by collaboration, co-location, amalgamation or research involving a number of research disciplines.
- Uses and strengthens key research infrastructure, platforms, technologies and research expertise to increase the productivity of research.
- Supports the development of links with key national or overseas research programs and industry.
- Develops the research culture within the NSW health system.
- Identifies the relevance of the research to NSW.
- Responds to National and State priorities and community opinions about research.

All research disciplines will be supported by the Cancer Institute NSW Cancer Research Program including behavioural, biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, health services, and psycho-social research unless otherwise stated within the individual program. The Cancer Institute NSW research programs are available in the NSW Cancer Plan 2004-06, found at the web site www.cancerinstitute.org.au

3. INTRODUCTION TO THE CANCER INSTITUTE NSW RESEARCH SCHOLAR AWARDS

- 3.1 The Cancer Institute NSW Research Scholar Awards will provide funding opportunities to develop and support outstanding students enrolled in a higher degree who have the potential to develop highly significant careers in cancer research.
- 3.2 Applicants will have secured a scholarship from the NHMRC or their University of enrolment or other source. The Cancer Institute NSW Research Scholar Awards provide additional funding for the scholar's research project and for travel purposes, to ensure the project is supported at a level that will allow significant progress.
- 3.3 The Cancer Institute NSW Research Scholar Awards are valued at a total of \$25,000 per annum, for up to three years, to commence January 2009. It is a condition of the Cancer Institute NSW Research Scholar Awards that the recipient attends at least one major overseas conference during their candidacy.
- 3.4 The Cancer Institute NSW Research Scholar Awards are open to students who are engaged in any discipline of research relevant to cancer, including but not limited to:
- Behavioural
 - Biomedical
 - Clinical
 - Epidemiological
 - Health economics
 - Health services
 - Psychosocial

4. OBJECTIVES

Research Scholar Awards have been designed to:

- Develop the careers of outstanding graduates in cancer research.
- Increase the retention of talented young researchers with outstanding potential in cancer research.
- Encourage national and international competitiveness

5. ELIGIBILITY

5.1 *Administering Institution Eligibility*

5.1.1 Applications will only be accepted from individuals whose research will be conducted under the auspices of a University, Hospital or major research institution located within NSW.

5.1.2 The Administering Institution must have in place policies and procedures for the management of public funds; for the management of Intellectual

Property; for the proper conduct of research in relation to ethics and good scientific practice, and will provide appropriate infrastructure support to allow the research to be completed.

5.1.3 The institution must provide a supportive environment for the research in terms of infrastructure, track record of international competitiveness and mentoring opportunities for the applicant.

5.1.4 A single institution must be nominated as the Administering Institution.

5.2 **Scholar Eligibility**

Scholars:

5.2.1 Must demonstrate that he/she has secured arrangements to undertake a full-time PhD in cancer research at a University in NSW.

5.2.2 Must demonstrate that he/she has secured a scholarship from NHMRC or their University of enrolment or other source.

5.2.3 Must reside in NSW for the duration of the Award.

5.2.4 Must have the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research.

5.2.5 Non Australian Citizens/Non Permanent Residents are welcome to apply. You will need to provide proof of residency to the Cancer Institute NSW if the application is successful.

6. **SELECTION CRITERIA**

In awarding a Research Scholar Award, the following criteria will be taken into account:

6.1 **Scientific Quality (40%)**

(Including the clarity of the aims and objectives, the strengths and weaknesses of the experimental design and feasibility);

6.2 **Significance and/or Innovation (20%)**

6.3 **Track record (20%)**

(including evidence of an outstanding academic record)

6.4 **Consistency of the research with the broad research principles of the Cancer Institute NSW (20%).**

7. **REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS**

7.1 Upon receipt, applications will be reviewed for completeness and for eligibility by the Research Secretariat. *Late, incomplete or ineligible applications will not be accepted.*

7.2 The independent, interstate Cancer Institute NSW Research Grants Review Committee will score and rank applications based on:

- An assessment of merit against the stated selection criteria.

- Consideration of independent assessor or referee reports if required.

- 7.3 Applications may be reviewed by appropriate independent assessors.
- 7.4 Recommendations for Research Scholar Awards will then be made by the Research Grants Review Committee to the Board of the Cancer Institute NSW.
- 7.5 The lodging of an application does not confer any entitlement upon the applicant.
- 7.6 The making of a recommendation is totally within the discretion of the Cancer Institute NSW.
- 7.7 The Research Grants Review Committee requires its members and independent assessors to declare conflicts of interest and to withdraw from considering applications where such conflict exists.

8. ADMINISTERING INSTITUTION RESPONSIBILITIES

- 8.1 The Administering Institution is responsible for the administration of the research funds in accordance with the executed agreement and accepts financial responsibility.
- 8.2 Payment of the funds will be made to the Administering Institution in accordance with the payment schedule in the executed agreement. Funds may only be used for the purposes approved under the Research Scholar Awards.
- 8.3 It is expected that the research will also be supported within the respective Research Institution.
- 8.4 It is the responsibility of the Administering Institution to ensure that appropriate ethical clearances are obtained before the research commences.
- 8.5 These Awards may be regarded as a “taxable supply” and therefore a Goods and Services Tax may be payable. The Award will be increased by 10% and the Research Institution will be required to collaborate in the recovery of the GST component. The written agreement with the Cancer Institute NSW will therefore include the following clauses:
- *To the extent that the Supplier is liable to pay GST in connection with services supplied under this Agreement, the fees specified in this Agreement are inclusive of GST.*
 - *The Supplier will forward their Australian Business Number ("ABN") to Cancer Institute NSW at the commencement of the Agreement. Where no ABN is supplied, Cancer Institute NSW will withhold from any payments an amount of 48.5% in accordance with GST legislation unless appropriate documentation is provided.*
- 8.6 For the purposes of payments under this agreement, the Supplier (the Research Institution is the Supplier) will provide invoices to the Cancer Institute NSW in the form a GST Tax Invoice as prescribed in the GST legislation.

9. PERMITTED USE OF RESEARCH SCHOLAR AWARDS FUNDS

- 9.1 The Research Scholar Awards are valued at a total of \$25,000 per annum (\$5,000 Scholar allowance, \$20,000 for research materials and travel) for up to three years, to commence January 2009.
- 9.2 It is a condition of the Research Scholar Awards that the recipient attends at least one major overseas conference during their candidacy.
- 9.3 Funds awarded shall not be used for any purpose associated with overhead infrastructure costs (i.e. institutional overheads or administrative levies).

10. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- 10.1 Recipients will be required to submit **Progress Reports** at the end of each calendar year that includes information on the progress made in the Research Scholar Awards.
- 10.2 **Progress Reports** must be submitted to the Research Secretariat, within 45 days of the end of each calendar year. Report proforma's are available at www.cancerinstitute.org.au.
- 10.3 The Research Grants Review Committee reserves the right to recommend the suspension of a Research Scholar Award if progress is unsatisfactory.
- 10.4 Recipients will be required to submit **Financial Reports** at the end of each financial year that includes information on the expenditure of funds in relation to Research Scholar Awards.
- 10.5 **Financial Reports** must be submitted to the Research Secretariat, within 45 days of the end of each financial year. Report proforma's are available at www.cancerinstitute.org.au.
- 10.6 The Research Grants Review Committee reserves the right to recommend the suspension of a Research Scholar Award if expenditure of funds is not consistent with the terms in the funding agreement.
- 10.7 Where a Research Scholar Award recipient fails to submit satisfactory reports, as required, the Cancer Institute NSW may determine that funds have not been used in accordance with conditions applicable to the Research Scholar Award, and that all or part of the Research Scholar Award must be repaid. In this case, the Cancer Institute NSW may withhold the remainder of the Award payments for the current year or initiate recovery Research Scholar Award money.
- 10.8 Recipients may be required to participate in and present at forum(s) at the request of the Cancer Institute NSW.

11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUPPORT

- 11.1 All publications, media releases or discussion of results from research carried out with the assistance of a Cancer Institute NSW Research Scholar Award must acknowledge the support of the Cancer Institute NSW.

- 11.2 Researchers must indicate their status as recipients of Cancer Institute NSW Research Scholar Award support in scientific publications and programs of scientific meetings and in any other public connection.

12. PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- 12.1 Documents containing personal information will be handled and protected in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998. Personal information would be disclosed only with permission of the individual to whom it relates or where the Act allows.
- 12.2 Applicants consent to the information supplied as part of their application being disclosed for the purposes of the assessment of their application and for purposes connected with the making and administration of the Research Scholar Awards. Such disclosure includes, but is not limited to, disclosure to members of the Research Grants Review Committee, independent readers/assessors requested by the Committee to provide advice, and relevant employees of the Cancer Institute NSW and Government involved in the Award process.
- 12.3 Applicants acknowledge that announcement of the Research Scholar Awards will involve the dissemination of information to the public about the general nature of the research funded including the lay description provided in the application, the researchers involved in the research project, and the research organisations at which the research is being carried out.
- 12.4 Information contained in applications will be regarded as confidential.

13. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Applicants must adhere to an Intellectual Property Policy approved by the governing body of the host research organisation that is congruent with the document "National Principles of Intellectual Property Management for Publicly Funded Research" released in September 2001: http://www.arc.gov.au/pdf/01_01.pdf

14. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All parties involved in or associated with Cancer Institute NSW funded research proposals/projects are required to disclose to the Cancer Institute NSW, any conflict of interest which has the potential to influence, or appear to influence, the research and activities, publications and media reports, or requests for funding related to the proposal/project. Such conflicts must be disclosed to the Cancer Institute NSW at the time of the submission of a proposal, and in reporting on Cancer Institute NSW-funded research projects as soon as practicable after the conflict of interest is identified.

15. FUNDING AGREEMENT

- 15.1 All parties involved in a Proposal should familiarise themselves with the standard Funding Agreement (available at www.cancerinstitute.org.au), but only the Administering Institution and the Cancer Institute NSW will be parties to the Funding Agreement. Parties involved in a funded project must accept the terms of the Funding Agreement and the Administering Institution must sign the Funding Agreement before payments commence.
- 15.2 Projects must commence as required by the Funding Agreement. Failure to do so may result in termination of the Funding Agreement.
- 15.3 Administering Institutions should note that the Funding Agreement covers post-award management, including reporting requirements and financial management. The standard Funding Agreement can be viewed on the Cancer Institute NSW's Web Site.

16. VARIATIONS TO THE FUNDING AGREEMENT

Requests to vary the Funding Agreement must be forwarded in writing by the Administering Organisation to the Cancer Institute NSW. Forms are available on the Cancer Institute NSW's Web Site. Amendment of any clauses of the Funding Agreement will be at the Cancer Institute NSW's absolute discretion.

17. TIMEFRAME

<i>Action</i>	<i>Date</i>
Call for applications	7 th July 2008
Applications close	5 th September 2008
Review	October 2008
Advice to Applicants	October 2008
Funding commencement	January 2009

18. SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

18.1 How to Apply

Applicants must use the Cancer Institute NSW Research Scholar Awards Application Form. This is available from the Cancer Institute NSW web at: www.cancerinstitute.org.au from the Research Secretariat on 02 8374 3561, email research.secretariat@cancerinstitute.org.au

18.2 Format

Paper: Double sided, A4
Margin: 2cm on each side
Font: At least 12 point
(preferred fonts are Times New Roman, Arial and Helvetica).

18.3 Submission Date

Applicants must submit **BOTH** electronic and hard copies of the application to the Cancer Institute NSW by close of business on 5th September 2008.

18.4 Electronic Copy

Must be submitted in PDF format, to research.secretariat@cancerinstitute.org.au

18.4.1 You must not convert scanned documents into PDF. All attachments are to be converted from the original electronic document (e.g. Word) – signatures are not required on the electronic version of the application.

18.4.2 You must name the PDF file in the following way: RSA_Applicants Surname
(e.g RSA_Smith)

18.5 Hard Copy

16 hard copies (1 original plus 15 copies) double sided, stapled on top left hand corner of the application should be lodged with the Research Secretariat.

Original documents should be sent to:

Courier address

Research Secretariat
Cancer Institute NSW
Level 1, Biomedical Building
Australian Technology Park
1 Central Avenue
Eveleigh 2015

OR

Mail Address

Research Secretariat
Cancer Institute NSW
PO Box 41
ALEXANDRIA NSW 1435

19. ENQUIRIES

Enquiries about the Cancer Institute NSW Research Scholar Awards can be directed to the Research Secretariat at research.secretariat@cancerinstitute.org.au; telephone: 02 8374 3530 or 8374 3561.