



SEED FUNDING POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy confirms that the Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccine & Infectious Diseases (WCVID) is committed to supporting high quality research by providing support in terms of seed funding for researchers to undertake research activities of high priority to the WCVID and, in doing so, enable researchers to develop good ideas and grow them into fundable competitive grants. This funding scheme has been expanded to include scientist and clinician partnerships to highlight the importance of these relationships to the development of research within the WCVID.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to any researcher who applies for Seed Funding through the WCVID.

DEFINITIONS

General definitions can be found on the Policy Library website [here](#).

Definitions specific to this document:

TERM	DEFINITION
Seed Funding	Funding for seed activities that will support a major competitive grant application (not for support of a complete project), and/or seed activities that commence under a new partnership of scientist and clinician or a seed project for a current ongoing partnership of scientist and clinician
GRP	Grant Review Panel
WCVID	Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccines & Infectious Diseases
VIDAG	Vaccine & Infectious Diseases Advisory Group
Current application	The application form for that grant round and year that outlines key questions, due date and required attachments
Scientist	A scientist is engaged in scientific research including but not limited to laboratory research, qualitative research, epidemiological research, health data research or other research techniques
Clinician	A clinician is a health professional engaged directly with caring for patients in a hospital or other care setting

PRINCIPLES

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLE

- 1.1. Seed Funding is available to researchers to provide opportunities to develop ideas into fundable competitive grants to assist the WCVID in achieving its objectives.
- 1.2. Seed Funding is for new research activities to encourage and develop new projects and/or new or existing collaboration between scientist and clinician. It may be used to further develop a previous seed funding project.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be considered eligible the application and applicant must meet the following criteria.

2.1. ELIGIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT

- 2.1.1. The project team as outlined in the application must include at least one member who is a student, employee, or honorary researcher of the Telethon Kids Institute.
- 2.1.2. It is essential that the project team can demonstrate that at least one investigator on the team has made a substantial contribution to the WCVID. This could be through participation in WCVID meetings, involvement in the VIDAG, supervision and mentorship of students, and participation in internal peer review. Opportunity to contribute will be considered as part of this assessment.
- 2.1.3. Previous recipients of Seed Funding and/or Scientist-Clinician Partnership Grants are only eligible to apply for further funding to build on earlier seed activities on provision of evidence of previous deliverables being met.

2.2. ELIGIBILITY OF THE APPLICATION

- 2.2.1. The project proposal must consist of research that aims to reduce the burden of important childhood infectious diseases by finding better prevention and treatment options.
- 2.2.2. The research must directly align to the WCVID's objectives:
 - 1 *Childhood Infections: reducing the burden of childhood infections*
 - *Reduce vaccine preventable diseases, preventing hospitalisation and morbidity*
 - *Develop, trial, and evaluate infection prevention and treatment strategies*
 - *Enhance sepsis recognition and treatment to improve childhood outcomes*
 - 2 *Aboriginal Health: ensuring equity and reducing health disadvantage*
 - *Prevent ear, skin, and lung disease, improving short and long-term outcomes*
 - *Prevent rheumatic heart disease, saving lives and closing the gap*
 - *Ensure all research occurs in partnership with community and is guided by a strong Aboriginal voice*
 - 3 *Global Public Health: promoting health through research and partnerships*
 - *Develop novel approaches to reduce emerging threats including antimicrobial resistance and vaccine hesitancy*
 - *Prevent the health harms of COVID-19 and emerging pathogens*
- 2.2.3. The application form must be complete. All sections of the current application must be complete, and any attachments outlined as required within the application form must be attached.
- 2.2.4. Set word limits within sections of the application form must be strictly adhered to and any response over the prescribed limit will not be considered.
- 2.2.5. To be considered eligible, the application must be received on time. The due date is outlined in the current application form.
- 2.2.6. To be considered eligible, the application must be received in the format as outlined in the current application form and via the method outlined.

2.2.7. The budget for the project outlined in the applications must not exceed \$25,000.

2.3. APPEAL FOR ELIGIBILITY

2.3.1. An appeal against a decision of ineligibility of an application according to 2.1 or 2.2 must be made in writing to the WCVID Manager.

2.3.2. The decision to consider the appeal will be made by the GRP or their representative. The decision to consider or uphold the appeal will be solely at the discretion of the chair or their representative and their decision will be based upon Rules of Procedural Fairness.

3. AWARD AND POST-AWARD MANAGEMENT

3.1. Successful applicants will be advised in writing of the outcome.

3.2. Feedback will be provided to all applicants. Resubmissions in subsequent rounds are encouraged.

3.3. Award of funding will be contingent upon completion of actions as identified in item 4.4 and 4.5 of the *Application for Seed Funding Procedure*.

3.4. Successful applicants will be published on suitable internal Telethon Kids Institute communications.

3.5. To ensure continued support for the duration of the seed project, successful applicants must comply with the *Application for Seed Funding Procedure* compliance and reporting obligations.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

INTERNAL DOCUMENTS

WCVID Application for Seed Funding Procedure

WCVID Call for Seed Funding Applications

WCVID Seed Funding Application Form

WCVID Seed Funding Scoring Matrix

Budget Template for Research Funding Applications

WCVID Guidelines Logo

WCVID Funding Financial Acquittal

EXTERNAL DOCUMENT

Australia Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about this policy can be obtained by emailing WCVID@telethonkids.org.au.

VERSION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Approval date	Review date	Sections modified	Owner	Author
1.0	Kylie Sullivan	19/11/2020	19/11/2021	New policy	WCVID	Marie Nadal-Sims
1.1	Marie Nadal-Sims	22/11/2021	22/11/22	Further information	WCVID	Marie Nadal-Sims
1.2	Sarah Brazier	08/03/2022	08/03/2022	All	WCVID	Marie Nadal-Sims
1.3	Sarah Brazier	31/08/2022	31/08/2023	Principles	WCVID	Marie Nadal-Sims
2.0	Sarah Brazier	22/03/2023	22/03/2024	Change from 'Seed & Partnership Grants' to 'Seed Funding'	WCVID	Marie Nadal-Sims
2.1	Sarah Brazier	14/02/2024	14/02/2025	Definitions	WCVID	Marie Nadal-Sims