

NSW CVRN Research Innovation Grant 2021 Guidelines

Background

The NSW Cardio Vascular Research Network (CVRN) is focussed on developing and supporting world class cardiovascular research through the facilitation of cross disciplinary and institutional collaboration. With our 14 Umbrella organisations and over 300 members our goal is to form alliances to deliver integrated solutions to key knowledge gaps and unmet needs in cardiovascular disease and health in NSW. One of our main priorities is to build capacity and capability of our Early – Mid Career Researchers by providing career development opportunities.

The CVRN and the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute (VCCRI) have partnered to offer the NSW CVRN Research Innovation Grant 2021. This opportunity provides access vouchers of up to \$5,000 to equipment and expertise of the VCCRI Innovation Centre. This opportunity is open to early to mid-career researchers, for short term projects focussed on cardiovascular health and disease.

This new opportunity is a pilot, offering 5 vouchers in this round with the intention, if successful, of offering another round in 2021.

Proudly supported by the NSW Government, the VCCRI Innovation Centre gives researchers access to state-of-the-art equipment and cutting-edge technologies, as well as expert staff who can assist with everything from project planning through to data analysis and interpretation. The Innovation Centre boasts 7 Facilities:

- Stem Cell Production Facility
- Cell Function & Screening Facility
- Micro Imaging Facility
- Preclinical Imaging Facility
- Clinical Imaging Facility
- Metabolomics Facility
- Cryo-EM Facility

For more information regarding the Innovation Centre, please refer to the website (<https://www.victorchang.edu.au/innovation-centre>) or contact Dr Johanna Barclay, Manager, at j.barclay@victorchang.edu.au.

Scheme Objectives and Assessment Criteria

The CVRN Research Innovation Grant Scheme 2021 aims to support early to mid-career cardiovascular researchers by giving them access to the world-class technologies, training and expertise in the VCCRI Innovation Centre.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Focus on knowledge gaps in cardiovascular health and diseases, particularly in NSW;
- Would be ready to commence within 3 months of the grant being awarded;
- Can be completed within 12 months; and
- A likely to lead to tangible outcomes.

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

CRITERIA	WEIGHTING
The likelihood that the research project will address an important gap, and lead to significant new knowledge in this area.	20%
The quality and feasibility of the research project (incorporating quality of the proposed project budget and timeline)	40%
The track record of the applicant, relative to opportunity.	20%
The likelihood that the project will lead to tangible outcomes, including career development of applicant.	20%

Eligibility of Applicants

The CVRN Research Innovation Grant scheme is open to early to mid-career researchers:

- Who **have been awarded a PhD no more than 10 years prior to the application closing date, unless valid circumstances for career disruptions can be demonstrated;**
- Whose research is in the field of cardiovascular disease and related conditions;
- Are employed in a NSW based institute (e.g. university, research organisation, not for profit or LHD); and
- Are CVRN members (membership can be organised prior to the application being lodged – see application form for details).

Eligible use of Funds

Each grant will be in the form of a \$5,000 voucher to access any of the VCCRI Innovation Centre Facilities. This voucher can be used across multiple Innovation Centre Facilities if justified in the application.

Funds can be used for the following services from the VCCRI Innovation Centre:

- Project development and planning
- Training
- Instrument time
- Data processing
- Data analysis
- Fee-for-service

Funds cannot be used for the following services:

- Consumables
- Travel to or from the Innovation Centre (although travel and accommodation support will be considered for regional members - see application form)
- Transport of samples/consumables to or from the Innovation Centre

Application and Funding Process and Timelines

Applications must be prepared using the CVRN Research Innovation Grant 2021 Application Form, and submitted to grants@victorchang.edu.au. Please include CVRN Research Innovation Grant in the subject and body of the email.

Applications will be assessed by an independent cardiovascular scientific review panel against the Assessment Criteria. Where there is a perceived or existing conflict of interest with an assessor and an application, the assessor will be removed from the review process for this application.

ACTIVITY	DATE*
Scheme open for submissions	November 2020
Deadline for application submission	12 noon 22 December 2020
Assessment period	January 2021
Applicants notified of outcomes	Week commencing 15 February 2021

* Please note, timelines are indicative only and may need to be adjusted if circumstances change.

Obligations - post award

- Acknowledgement of CVRN, VCCRI and OHMR in any publications or presentations.
- Provide a final report to the CVRN within one month of completion of the project.