

TPCH Foundation Innovation Grants 2021 Advice to Applicants

This document provides information about the application process, eligibility and the conditions to apply for a TPCH Foundation Innovation Grant.

Further information can be obtained from Dr Stephanie Yerkovich, Research Development Manager, by emailing Stephanie.Yerkovich@tpchfoundation.org.au. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to discuss their interest in this program prior to submission.

General information

1. Innovation Grants have been designed to provide a funding opportunity for new, innovative research projects that address a clinical need in the priority health areas of heart, lung, dementia and/or mental health. Projects are expected to be small, standalone studies that can be completed in one year.
2. Innovation grants will be awarded based on the idea, knowledge gain and significance of the research area, not on the track record of the Chief Investigators. However, the Chief Investigators must show that they can perform the research outlined in the proposal to ensure the research is feasible.
3. Innovation Grants are provided as a one-year grant and extensions must be approved by the TPCH Foundation.
4. The maximum amount that can be requested for an Innovation Grant is \$100,000. However, as this granting scheme is designed to support small, early stage studies, budgets should reflect this. Budgets and projects will be assessed for appropriateness. Funding may be used for any research expense, such as salary costs (including on-costs), consumables or other reasonable research requirements. It cannot be used to fund basic computer equipment, such as personal laptops, or institutional overheads. Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their application and budget prior to submission.
5. The research team must also remain within or associated with TPCH. Any changes to circumstances must be discussed with TPCH Foundation, and TPCH Foundation reserves the right to review the grant, and to terminate it if deemed appropriate.
6. CIs are not required to be employed by Queensland Health or Metro North Health and Hospital Service. The focus is on supporting research that is taking place at TPCH.

Obligations of awardees

Grant recipients are expected to disseminate their results through the normal channels. The support of TPCH Foundation must be acknowledged in any publication, media or presentation arising from the research.

The ability of TPCH Foundation to support research is dependent on our ability to raise funds through donations. Therefore, the ability to engage with potential donors is critical to our success, and it is a condition of accepting the grant that recipients will include TPCH Foundation in any publicity surrounding the research. In addition, TPCH grant recipients will be expected to provide regular research updates and may be called upon to participate in promotional activities.

Eligibility

1. Applicants will only be considered if the work is being undertaken at TPCH Campus, or in significant association with TPCH, in one of the priority areas of heart, lung, dementia and mental health.
2. Applicants who have outstanding TPCH Foundation progress reports are ineligible to apply. Applications will be ineligible and not assessed further if a CI is nominated who has outstanding progress reports.

Application submission

1. Applications will only be accepted online through <https://tpchfoundation.smartygrants.com.au/> and must be submitted by the due date. Late applications will not be accepted.
2. Signatures must be obtained from all Chief Investigators.
3. Any relevant departmental or institutional approvals must be obtained prior to lodging the application.

Assessment

Innovation Grants will be assessed by an independent research panel convened by TPCH Foundation. TPCH Foundation will review applications for eligibility, completeness and for alignment to TPCH. Applications that do not meet these requirements will not be assessed further.

The application process will be completed in two-stages. The first stage is an expression of interest, and the highest ranked applications (indicatively 15-20) will be invited to submit a full research plan and budget. The panel will then rank the applications based on the full application.

The EOI will be assessed on the research area, innovation and significance of the research being conducted, and the linkages with TPCH.

In the second stage, a project plan, maximum of 3 pages excluding reference and figures, must be submitted. The plan should describe the clinical/health need, the research plan and potential outcomes. A justified budget must also be presented with the research plan. The final assessment will be based on

- The innovation, knowledge gain and significance of the proposed research
- The feasibility of the research and the research team to perform the described research
- Appropriate and well justified budget

Administering Institution

Innovation Grants may be administered by an administering institution, such as Universities, however grant funds will fully remain within TPCH Foundation. Grant funds will not be transferred in full to another institution and will only be paid in arrears by tax invoice.

Reporting requirements

Innovation Grant recipients will be required to submit six monthly progress reports, due in April and October each year. It is the responsibility of the grant holders to submit these in a timely manner. Failure to submit a progress report will result in all CIs being ineligible for future funding from TPCH Foundation.

Key Dates

Innovation Grants EOI open – 19 July 2021

Innovation Grants EOI close – 02 August 2021

Applicants notified, and successful applicants invited to the next stage – 30 August 2021

Research plan due – 27 September 2021

Applicants notified of the outcome – early December 2021