

2023 Innovation Grants Advice to Applicants

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

Further information can be obtained from Dr Megan Grace, Research Development Manager, by emailing Megan.Grace@tpchfoundation.org.au. Applicants are 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 relevant to TPCH. Projects are expected to be small, standalone studies that can be completed within 1-2 years.
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 (CIs). However, the CIs must show that they can perform the research outlined in the proposal to ensure the research is feasible.
3. Innovation Grants are provided for up to 2 years, 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 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.
5. The research team must 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. Applications addressing one or more of the Foundation's priority areas of heart, lung, dementia, and mental health will be highly regarded. However, high-quality applications addressing other health issues relevant to the Foundation's mission to "help people live healthier for longer" will also be considered for funding.
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 1pm on 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 alignment to TPCH. Applications that do not meet these requirements will not be assessed further.

The application process will be completed in two-stages:

1. Expression of Interest (EOI). The highest ranked applications (indicatively 15-20) will be invited to submit a full research plan and budget. EOIs will be assessed on:
 - Innovation, knowledge gain and significance of the proposed research
 - Potential clinical impact
 - Relevance of the project to TPCH
2. Full Application. Invited applicants will submit a project proposal (maximum of 3 pages excluding references and figures) describing the clinical/health need, research plan, potential outcomes, budget, and budget justification. The final assessment will be based on:
 - Study design
 - Innovation, potential outcomes and impact, and plan for translation or implementation
 - Feasibility of the project and ability of 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

Expressions of Interest open – 23 June 2023

Expressions of Interest close – 14 July 2023

Applicants notified, successful applicants invited to stage two – 7 August 2023

Full Applications due – 4 September 2023

Applicants notified of final outcome – early November 2023