

CANCER COUNCIL SA BEAT CANCER PROJECT EARLY-CAREER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS FUNDING GUIDELINES

Closing Date for Applications: Friday, 15th September 2023 - 5pm ACST

Applications are invited for Early-Career Research (ECR) Fellowships offered through **Cancer Council SA's Beat Cancer Project**. The Beat Cancer Project is funded by Cancer Council SA and is administered by the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI). Further details are available on the Beat Cancer Project [website](#).

Aim of Early-Career Research Fellowship

The aim of the ECR Fellowship program is to build the cancer research workforce capacity in South Australia, primarily by advancing the careers of post-doctoral researchers and by addressing Beat Cancer Project objectives of scientific excellence, health relevance, research collaboration, translation of research results, mentoring and career development of early-career researchers, and fostering the acquisition of NHMRC and other research funding.

Applications are invited from researchers across the research spectrum, including biomedical, clinical, health services and population health research. The scheme is also highly suited to those individuals currently working overseas or interstate who are seeking support to return to a South Australian Institution.

Fellowships are open to research scientists, clinicians, allied and public health professionals, or professionals in health services administration.

Funding Available

Three (3) Beat Cancer Project ECR Fellowship Packages will be available in this round. The funding scheme aims to provide financial support through a package of up to **\$80,000 per annum for 3 years for a full-time position, with the value of the award adjusted pro-rata.**

The scheme will **only** support cancer researchers who can bring matched dollar-for-dollar funding, taking the collective value of each package to up to \$160,000 per year. **The matched funding component is essential and can be from more than one source. The matched funding cannot be provided by Cancer Council SA.**

Applications that are unable to provide matched funding will not be considered. In-kind support will not be considered as matched funding.

Funding includes provision for non-salary expenses. This may be complemented by Institutional funding, depending on the associated employing Institutions remuneration practices. The appointment will be for a 3-year period and will not be renewable.

Eligibility

The intent of the ECR Fellowship scheme is to provide salary support for early-career researchers and build the early-career workforce. **It is not possible to hold a Beat Cancer Project ECR Fellowship while simultaneously holding a Fellowship from another funding body e.g., NHMRC.**

To be eligible for an ECR Fellowship, applicants will usually have a PhD or equivalent qualification, but others without these qualification/s may be able to demonstrate an equivalent track record through evidence of postgraduate training, peer-reviewed publications, grant acquisitions and other

achievements.

Applicants **must be within 5 years of PhD** or equivalent qualification being attained by 31 December 2023 or must obtain a PhD by this census date (i.e 31 December 2023). Where applicable, evidence of PhD pass date, thesis submission or equivalent track record must be provided in the application.

Applicants must be employed by a South Australian Institution and be located and conduct their research primarily in South Australia for the duration of the funding period.

Assessment

Selection will be based on a written application which addresses the selection criteria (outlined below) and demonstrates innovative aspects and scientific merit of the proposed research and relevance to cancer control.

A peer-reviewed assessment process will be used. Referees may be contacted. Interviews of short-listed applicants will occur for final selection, if necessary.

The Beat Cancer Project reserves the right not to make an appointment.

KEY DATES

Applications Open: 4 August 2023

Application Close: 15 September 2023

Outcomes Notified: November 2023

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants should address each of the selection criteria below using the online application form, and where applicable, provide examples which best demonstrate their strength in the area.

Note: It is recommended that selection criteria be prepared in a Word document before pasting into the application form.

Research Output and Impact = 40% (1000 words max)

Applicants should outline:

- . The applicant's top 5 most significant publications, papers, reports or other contributions over the course of their career
- . overview of career pathway to date and future aspirations
- . contribution to clinical or public health policy and practice or health services development
- . research success relevant to opportunity.

Where relevant, applicants should describe their role in:

- . development of any intellectual property
- . development of any commercialisation activities (this could include pharmaceuticals, diagnostic tests, medical devices, granted/or lodged patents etc).

Applicants should describe:

- . general scientific impact that can lead to changes in current thinking and treatment strategies
- . how the research findings from this ECR Fellowship will be translated.

Professional Contribution = 10% (500 words max)

Applicants should describe their current performance and/or **future plans** in relation to:

- . supervisory experience
- . peer review contributions to grant schemes
- . peer review contributions to journal publications
- . other professional contributions e.g. Scientific bodies, government expert advisory committees leading to translation, etc.

Future Vision and Career Development = 10% (500 words max)

Applicants should describe their plans in relation to:

- . personal mentoring and career development, including the development and implementation of a formal mentoring plan within 12 months of the Fellowship commencing
- . strategies for building research independence.

Strength of Research Team, Collaborators and Environment = 10% (500 words max)

Applicants should describe:

- . the track record of their team leaders
- . their collaborative relationships with other researchers (local, national and international)
- . any current engagement with a South Australian Local Health Network (LHN), or future plans to engage with LHNs.
- . skill mix and roles of the team in which they will work
- . access to research infrastructure and environment
- . access to partnerships for research translation.

Consumer and Community Engagement = 10% (500 words max)

Applicants should describe:

- . their track record relating to Consumer and Community engagement activities associated with health research, practice or policy
- . their Consumer and Community engagement strategy associated with this Fellowship.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Copies of the following documents will be required to be uploaded within the online application form:

- . Research Proposal
- . CV
- . Budget
- . Letter from applicants Faculty/Division/College Head
- . Letter of support from matched funding body
- . PhD Record/Thesis submission, or equivalent research track record.

Conformance with page limits and formatting requirements is strictly enforced. Applications that fail to comply with these requirements may be excluded from consideration.

If the assessor cannot read the application due to inconsistency with any of the required formatting, they are not compelled to consider the section in their assessment, or complete the assessment of the application, on the grounds that the application does not comply with the formatting requirements.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL = 20%

To ensure equity for all applications please follow the guidelines below for your Research Proposal:

- Layout - portrait orientation on A4 paper
- Font - minimum **11-point Arial**. Applicants must ensure that **all** font is readable when printed, including diagram/figure and image text.
- Page limit - 6 pages maximum including references.

Applicants are encouraged to include in their Research Proposal details outlining:

- . vision for the term of the ECR Fellowship
- . proposed research objectives and plan
- . a clear timeline in which the research plan will be achieved
- . the innovative quality and competitiveness of the research
- . expected outcomes of the research
- . importance to cancer control
- . how the research plan will assist in the development of the applicant's ability to perform original, independent self-directed research
- . references (1 page max).

CURRICULUM VITAE

Applications should include a current CV outlining:
(maximum 5 pages including publications)

- . record of publications in peer-reviewed journals
- . record of research grant success
- . record of speaking invitations at conferences
- . record of prizes and awards
- . record of professional qualifications gained.

BUDGET

Applicants must provide a detailed budget table which clearly outlines expenditure associated with this Fellowship. **The budget must include a breakdown of Beat Cancer Project funding and the additional matched funding, along with a clear description of how all funding will be utilised over the three-year project.**

Funding will only be for the direct cost (as defined by the [NHMRC Direct Research Costs Guidelines](#)) of research activities and research workforce development. Items not covered will include, but not be limited to, office space and services such as telephones, internet and basic IT facilities such as computers, mobile phones, tablets.

It is the responsibility of the grant holder to manage salaries and other expenditure within the limits of the grant.

The funds offered will not be supplemented. No additional claims may be made on the Beat Cancer Project to extend awarded packages.

Amounts granted are exclusive of GST.

SUPPORTING LETTER FROM FACULTY/DIVISION/COLLEGE HEAD

A letter must be attached to the application from the applicant's Faculty/Division/College Head indicating that they:

- . support the application
- . consider the project to be compatible with the applicant's interests, capabilities and career development needs
- . agree that all conditions of employment will be met by the supporting institution.

SUPPORTING LETTER FROM MATCHED FUNDING BODY

Matched dollar-for-dollar funding must be from sources external to Cancer Council SA. Supporting documentation outlining details of the matched funding must be included in the application in the form of a letter of support from the matched funding body signed by an individual with the authority to act on behalf of the Institution. **Applications that are unable to provide matched funding will not be considered.**

PhD RECORD

To support this application, one of the following documents needs to be uploaded:

- A record from the applicant's academic institution of the PhD pass date or evidence that the applicant's PhD thesis is currently under review
- Evidence of a PhD equivalent track record

GENERAL INFORMATION

Other Sources of Funding

Funding from further additional sources would be welcomed during the term of the package. Fellows must advise the Beat Cancer Project Manager of additional funding relevant to the scheme.

Payment of Funds

Payments will be made to the South Australian Administering Institution nominated in the grant application and will be paid in quarterly instalments upon receipt of a tax invoice.

Ethics, Compliance and/or Safety Approvals

If Ethics, Compliance and/or Safety Approvals are required, the applicants must ensure their Administering Institution has received all clearances required for the research activity before invoicing of funds can commence. Copies are to be provided to the Beat Cancer Project upon request.

Consumer Engagement

Cancer Council SA's Beat Cancer Project values the input and participation of consumers in health and medical research. Applicants will be required to address criteria relating to consumer engagement activities within their research. These responses will be reviewed and considered by a consumer representative on the peer-review panel as part of the selection process.

Mentors

The applicant must include details of a mentor who has expertise in the field of research relevant to the project. Details of the mentoring process and goals should be clearly set out in the relevant section of the selection criteria in the online application form.

Career Disruption

Where applicable, applicants may wish to claim a career disruption for consideration by the review panel. Details regarding this should be included in the relevant section in the online application form. The Beat Cancer Project has chosen to align with the NHMRC definition of career disruption/relevant to opportunity as outlined below:

A career disruption involves a prolonged interruption to an applicant's capacity to work, due to:

- *Pregnancy;*
- *Major illness/injury; or*
- *Carer responsibilities.*

Interruptions must involve either a continuous absence from work for periods of 28 calendar days or more and/or a long-term partial return to work that has been formalised with the applicant's employer.

The period of career disruption may be used:

- to determine an applicant's eligibility for a scheme;
- to allow for the inclusion of additional track record information for assessment of an application; or
- for consideration by the panel during their deliberations.

Publicity

Successful applicants may be asked to assist with promotion of funded research and of Funding Parties of the Beat Cancer Project. The applicant's capacity to act as an ambassador for the Cancer Council SA's Beat Cancer Project will be considered. There will be requests to provide media publicity through interviews or other means and we ask that successful applicants participate when these opportunities arise. We also ask successful applicants to advise the Beat Cancer Project, Project Manager if promotion of the funded work is planned through their Administering Institution.

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Include the following statement in all communication activities relating to the funded research:

'Undertaken with the financial support of Cancer Council SA's Beat Cancer Project on behalf of its donors.'
- Establish an Email signature block that acknowledges their Cancer Council SA's Beat Cancer ECR Fellowship role.

Successful applicants cannot make any public announcement regarding the ECR Fellowship or the Beat Cancer Project without the prior written approval of the administering body, SAHMRI (and acknowledges that SAHMRI may need to obtain the approval of the Funding Parties for any such announcement), unless such announcement is required by law or a regulatory body.

Successful applicants are required to adhere to all obligations required of SAHMRI as the administering body, by the Funding Parties with regard to acknowledgement and announcements, and shall use their best endeavours to assist SAHMRI to adhere to any contractual obligations in this regard.

Changes to Applications

Modifications to applications after final submission will not be allowed. The Beat Cancer Project must be notified of any changes that may impact on the application such as withdrawal of matched funding. If an applicant's employment circumstances change the Beat Cancer Project, Project Manager must be notified immediately.

Commencement Date and Time commitment

Commencement date is negotiable but must be within 3 months of the formal date of offer.

Cancer Council SA's Beat Cancer Project recognizes that personal circumstances may see the need for a Fellow to work in a part-time capacity at some point during their Fellowship.

In all cases where part-time status is applied for and approved, payments will be adjusted to the appropriate pro-rata rate, determined by the percentage of time spent on research. The duration of the Fellowship will be extended accordingly.

Referee Details

Applicants will be required to provide the names and contact details of three referees in the application form. Referee reports may be requested during the assessment phase.

Reporting Requirements

The Beat Cancer Project, Project Manager will liaise with researchers to provide further details on reporting requirements. A final report will be required, plus other reports on research progress and financial status. Failure to submit requested reports may make researchers ineligible for further funding. The information provided in reports will be made available to SAHMRI and the Funding Parties.

An agreement with the Administering Institution will be finalised setting out terms and conditions of funding including reporting requirements.

Tobacco Policy

Funding will not be offered for individuals or institutions that receive support directly or indirectly from, or are involved with organisations that are part of or funded by, the tobacco industry. Applicants are asked to disclose any current or recent relationship with the tobacco industry. Unless counter-evidence is supplied, such relationships will be taken as conflict of interest and render applicants ineligible.

Unspent Funds

At the completion of the ECR Fellowship scheme, unexpended money must be returned to SAHMRI as the administering body to manage on behalf of the Beat Cancer Project.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

The Beat Cancer Project online application portal will be available on the [website](#) from Friday, 4th August 2023.

Applications must include:

- A complete online application form including answers to the Selection Criteria
- Research Proposal
- Budget, which includes clear evidence of matched funding sources
- CV
- Letter from applicants Faculty/Division/College head confirming that they:
 - . Support the application
 - . Consider the project to be compatible with the applicant's interests, capabilities and career development needs
 - . Agree that all conditions of employment will be met by the supporting institution
- Letter of support from matched funding body
- PhD Record.

Contact for further information

Project Manager - Cancer Council SA Beat Cancer Project

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