TTRA

DIABETES + CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Powered by MTPConnect

Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) Program

PILLAR 1 RESEARCH CENTRE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) NON-CONFIDENTIAL

Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
Industry Growth Centres
Australian Government
Department of Health
Medical Research Future Fund

TARGETED TRANSLATION RESEARCH ACCELERATOR PROGRAM, RESEARCH CENTRES

1.0 TTRA APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Expressions of Interest (EOIs) are now open to support the establishment of two Research Centres focused on disease related complications associated with diabetes or cardiovascular disease, respectively. Each Research Centre will be funded to a maximum of $10 million over four years. Each Research Centre will comprise a *Research Portfolio* and a *Training Program* as well as a strategy for continued financial viability, ongoing clinical impact and talent management of the entity beyond the four years of TTRA funding.

Each Research Centre must focus on at least two of the identified Priority Areas, with favourable recognition given to proposals addressing all three Priority Areas. Priority numbering does not reflect weighting or preference, it simply provides a convenient reference link to the Guidelines.

The Diabetes Research Centre's translational research, development and implementation science activities within the *Research Portfolio* must address at least two of the following Priority Areas:

- Priority 1: Diabetic kidney disease;
- Priority 2: Peripheral neuropathy and diabetic foot syndrome;
- Priority 3: Short-term complications of hypoglycaemia and/or hyperglycaemic hyperosmolar syndrome (HHS) and ketoacidosis.

The Cardiovascular Research Centre's translational research, development and implementation science activities within the *Research Portfolio* must address at least two of the following Priority Areas:

- Priority 1: Coronary artery disease (including angina and MACE);
- Priority 2: Cardiomyopathy / heart failure;
- Priority 3: Transient ischaemic attack (TIA) /stroke (ischaemic and haemorrhagic).

Research Centre funding is being made available through the $47 million Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) program, an initiative of the Medical Research Future Fund, delivered by MTPConnect.

The TTRA Research Centres will accelerate therapies toward clinical practice for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of the prioritised disease related complications associated with diabetes or cardiovascular disease. In this context, 'therapies' are defined as behavioural interventions, therapeutic pharmaceuticals, medical devices, diagnostic tools and digital health solutions. The Research Centres must also demonstrate how adoption and implementation of therapies will subsequently deliver health system outcomes, public health policy outcomes, consumer outcomes, commercial outcomes and reduce the burden of disease (QALY/DALY) and health inequalities in Australia.

The Research Centre funding will not support basic discovery research, or the advancement of therapies or clinical outputs that do not address the identified priorities.

Partnerships and co-contributions are strongly encouraged in order to maximise impact of investment and to provide opportunities for translation, commercialisation and implementation of research outputs into clinical practices and outcomes. For further direction, please see the TTRA Research Centre Funding Guidelines.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This funding is available through a competitive process.

The term for TTRA Research Centre funding is four years.

Applicants are encouraged to read the **TTRA Research Centre Funding Guidelines** carefully before commencing an application.

Although the operating model for partnerships is not prescribed by the TTRA Research Centre Funding Guidelines, a 'Lead Applicant' must be identified for administrative purposes and to submit the application on behalf of the partnership/consortium.

To be eligible for consideration, applications must satisfy all the requirements set out in the TTRA Research Centre Funding Guidelines. An application may be considered ineligible and excluded from further consideration if it contravenes an eligibility rule or other requirement as set out in the TTRA Research Centre Funding Guidelines.

Application for TTRA Research Centre funding is a multi-step process. The most meritorious Expressions of Interest will be invited to submit a Full Proposal and partake in an interview. The merits of an application are based on how well it meets the selection criteria and how it compares to other eligible applications.

Applicants whose proposals are awarded funding will enter into a funding agreement with MTPConnect to receive up to $10 million over four years. MTPConnect will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the funding agreement. Payments are subject to the Research Centre making satisfactory progress on the Research Portfolio and achieving agreed milestones. Payments cannot exceed $3 million per financial year.

The funding agreement will have a clear research and training plan which will include resourcing, timelines, milestones, go/no-go decision points and a risk matrix. Funding recipients will have regular reporting and audited financial obligations to MTPConnect.

EOI CLOSING DATE

EOI submission closes on **Monday 15 March 2021 at 16:00 AEDT (Australian Eastern Day-light savings Time)**. Late applications will not be accepted, and applicants are encouraged to submit their applications early to avoid congestion.

COMPLETING THIS EOI FORM

Please note that the email address used to create the SmartyGrants account to initiate the EOI will receive all correspondence throughout the TTRA *Research Centre* funding application process. Please check your Junk/Spam mailbox to confirm that correspondence has not been incorrectly filtered out of your inbox.

Please do not use abbreviations unless fully explained.

Where any data are provided to support the EOI, please indicate if this is from your own research, or from another research group or from existing literature. Please provide clear in-text references to supporting data uploaded.

Any supporting documentation requested as an upload must be prepared in accordance with the instructions outlined in the application form. Any material provided in excess of the page limits will not be reviewed.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are required. Please do not leave any answers blank. State for instance "not applicable" or "unknown at this stage”.

For assistance in completing the EOI, please contact:

- MTPConnect via ttra-dcvd@mtpconnect.org.au

For any technical enquiries, please contact the SmartyGrants Help Hub:

- +61 3 9320 6888
- service@smartygrants.com.au

2.0 APPLICATION SUMMARY

2.1 LEAD APPLICANT DETAILS:

Lead Organisation Name *

Lead Organisation ABN *

Lead Organisation Address *

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State, Postcode and Country are required in SmartyGrants

Lead Organisation Website *

Total number of staff employed by your organisation (if SME)

Total number of staff based in Australia (if SME)

Lead Organisation Key Contact *

Title	First Name	Last Name

Position *

Role in Proposed Research Centre *

Phone number *

Primary email address *

2.2 RESEARCH CENTRE INFORMATION

Research Centre Name *

Must be no more than 20 words

Research Centre Focus *

☐ Diabetes

☐ Cardiovascular disease

Please list the organisations involved in your Research Centre *

Organisation Name	Website	ABN (if applicable)	Location
+			

In a single document, upload letters of support for all Research Centre partners. Each letter of support should be on organisation letter head, signed by an appropriately authorised individual and include:

- details of the Research Centre partner;
- an overview of how the Research Centre partner will work with the lead organisation and any other partners in the group to successfully establish and operate the Research Centre;
- an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the Research Centre partner will bring to the group;

- the roles/responsibilities the Research Centre partner will undertake;
- cash, in-kind and/or other resources it will contribute (if any); and
- details of a nominated management level contact officer.

Please attach the single document as a pdf with a file name in the following format: TTRARCXXX_Research Centre Name_Letters of Support*

Attach a file:

2.3 PUBLIC SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH CENTRE

Please provide a public summary of your Research Centre. *

Must be no more than 300 words

Consent

Do you provide consent for MTPConnect to use the public summary for publicity purposes if your proposal is awarded funding? *

Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you provide consent for MTPConnect to use the information contained in the public summary as discussion points with industry who may have an interest in your research opportunity? *

Yes ☐ No ☐

3.0 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND FUNDING

Are all partner organisations applying for Research Centre funding eligible as defined by the Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015 and the Research Centre Funding Guidelines? *

Yes ☐ No ☐

State the funding amount requested through the TTRA program (all values must be in AUD and GST exclusive) *

$

Total amount must not exceed AUD $10 million

If applicable, state the total amount of cash co-contribution partners bring to the application (all values must be in AUD and GST exclusive)

$

If applicable, state the total amount of in-kind co-contribution partners bring to the application (all values must be in AUD and GST exclusive)

$

Are the activities described in this proposal already fully or partially funded by another grant program or other investment? *

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please outline which activities are supported and the source of this funding.

Must be no more than 200 words

If applicable, provide details of any pending applications that fully or partially fund the activities in this proposal.

Must be no more than 200 words

4.0 PROPOSED RESEARCH PORTFOLIO

4.1 RESEARCH PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

Outline the proposed TTRA Research Centre Research Portfolio, including the products/solutions in the Research Portfolio and how they address prevention, diagnosis, treatment and/or management of the Priority Areas. *

Must be no more than 500 words

4.2 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In order to support your EOI, a single document of up to 3 pages may be uploaded below. Documents can have up to 6 legible figures (relevant tables, graphs, images, diagrams, designs and/or drawings) per page that are clearly labelled in a font size of no smaller than 12 pt. All figures and/or pages over these specified limits will not be reviewed. Please note that EOIs are to be non-confidential.

In text responses should reference the relevant figure / table number.

Please attach the single document as a pdf with a file name in the following format:
TTRARCXXX_Research Centre Name_Supporting Information

Attach a file:

Upload a 1-page, legible Gantt Chart to outline the Research Centre activity timeline (Research Portfolio and Training Program). Any pages over the specified limit will not be reviewed. *

Please attach the single document as a pdf with a file name in the following format:
TTRARCXXX_Research Centre Name_Gantt Chart

Attach a file:

4.3 TECHNICAL MERIT

For each of the priorities your Research Centre will address, please indicate all of the domains of intervention that are relevant to the products/solutions within your Research Portfolio *

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Digital Health	☐	☐	☐
Medical Devices	☐	☐	☐
Therapeutics	☐	☐	☐
In vitro Diagnostics	☐	☐	☐
Behavioural Interventions	☐	☐	☐

Other	☐	☐	☐

If you have selected 'Other' please outline what your intervention is.

Must be no more than 20 words

For each of the Priority Areas your Research Centre will address, provide details of the products/solutions that will be developed as part of your Research Portfolio, including the following*:

- Indicate the stage of development of your product/solution now and at the end of the funding period;
- Describe any research/development that has been done to date and the key activities, including brief methodology, that will take place within the funding period;
- Identify current and emerging competitors (commercial, clinical and research); and
- Describe how products/solutions within your Research Portfolio will be differentiated, and how it would address the unmet needs of end-user/consumers.

If your Research Centre is not addressing all Priority Areas, please outline the reason why / provide justification for this under the priority that is not a focus.

4.3.1 PRIORITY 1

Must be no more than 1000 words

4.3.2 PRIORITY 2

Must be no more than 1000 words

4.3.3 PRIORITY 3

Must be no more than 1000 words

4.4 CLINICAL IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

Describe the clinical impact and outcomes of the Research Portfolio, including how you will; i) achieve commercial proof of concept or reach other important translational milestones for the products/solutions within the Research Portfolio; and ii) deliver health system outcomes, public health policy outcomes, consumer outcomes, commercial outcomes, health economic benefits and reduce the burden of disease (QALY/DALY) in Australia. *

Must be no more than 600 words

Describe how your Research Centre and Research Portfolio will have national reach, reduce inequalities and health disparities, and meet the needs of high risk and underserved populations *

Must be no more than 400 words

5.0 COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL AND HEALTH ECONOMIC BENEFITS

5.1 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP)

Describe any disclosure of innovations associated with your Research Portfolio. * [Tips: Disclosures include, but are not limited to, academic Technology Transfer Office, conferences, publications and patents.]

Must be no more than 200 words.

Briefly describe how the Research Centre will manage IP and describe the proposed IP arrangements between Research Centre partners. * [Tips: include reference to background IP and Research Centre or project IP.]

Must be no more than 200 words.

Is patent filing part of your IP protection strategy? *

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

If patent filing is part of your IP protection strategy, have any patent applications already been filed? *

Yes ☐ No ☐

If patent(s) have been filed, provide details in the table below. * [Tips: provide the PATENTSCOPE reference for PCT applications, or national patent office references for non-PCT applications.]

Patent ID	Priority Date	Status (Provisional, PCT, National Phase)	Type (method of use, method of manufacture, composition of matter, device, system, software, other)	Ownership	Reference (URL)

+					

Please comment on the status of your current portfolio and future patent strategy and describe the strategy to protect your innovations and proprietary knowledge and information in addition to patents. [Tips: geographic coverage, breadth of claims, freedom to operate, findings of **International Search Reports (ISR).** Other forms of IP include know-how, copyrights, trade secrets, trade marks, designs, plant breeder's rights and circuit layouts.] *

Must be no more than 200 words.

If patents have not, or will not, be filed, describe the strategy to protect your innovations and proprietary knowledge and information. * [Tips: Other forms of IP include know-how, copyrights, trade secrets, designs, plant breeder's rights and circuit layouts.]

Must be no more than 300 words.

5.2 MARKET OPPORTUNITY AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Describe which markets will be targeted by your products/solutions. Indicate the size and value of the markets of interest (e.g. Australia, USA and/or other major markets). * [Tips: provide justification for your estimates.]

Must be no more than 300 words.

Explain your clinical development plan for your products/solutions. * [Tips: for example, include endpoints and clinical outcome claims, associated timeframes, cost per phase etc.]

Must be no more than 300 words

Describe the regulatory pathway for your products/solutions and any plans already in place. * [Tips: for example, if you or a partner will be responsible for regulatory filing, completed or intended interactions with regulatory authorities, supporting studies to ISO/GLP standards.]

Must be no more than 300 words.

Describe the commercialisation or implementation/adoption strategy for your products/solutions. Where relevant, describe who will pay for the products/solutions and how it will be commercialised or implemented/adopted. * [Tips: commercialisation strategy could involve partnerships, license or sale of IP, organic growth, or an alternative go-to-market/exit strategy. If aligned with your strategy, outline why it will be attractive to venture capital firms or other investors. For strategies where the Research Centre is taking a product/solution to market itself or will facilitate end-user uptake (patients, health professionals, health systems), provide evidence of willingness to pay, which may be demonstrated by e.g. voice of customer studies or adoption of similar solutions.]

Must be no more than 500 words

Outline and provide a justification for the potential health economic benefits provided by your product/solution. * [Tips: this may reference current cost inefficiencies experienced by use of inferior solutions/workarounds.]

Must be no more than 300 words

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY AND TRAINING

Describe your plan for the ongoing sustainability of your Research Centre beyond the funding term. Include the sustainability of your business model and commercialisation/implementation strategy for products/solutions you develop as part of your Research Portfolio. Include a feasibility assessment of your sustainability plan. *

Must be no more than 300 words.

Outline future capital requirements and from where you will source funding. Outline why products/solutions developed or in development as part of your Research Portfolio will be attractive to investors [Tips: provide recent examples of comparable deals.] *

Must be no more than 200 words.

Describe your Training Program and the opportunities that will be created as part of the Research Centre. [Tips: For example, co-supervision of postgraduate students, development of an industry PhD program, commercialisation training and mentoring, industry placements for students and early career researchers, and/or teaching.] *

Must be no more than 300 words.

Describe the ongoing benefit of your Training Program beyond the funding period and how this will contribute to the sustainability of your Research Centre. *

Must be no more than 200 words.

Describe your strategy for knowledge translation and disseminating the impact and outcomes of your Research Portfolio and Training Program, including, but not limited to, academic outputs and engagement with industry, clinicians, end users, and the wider public. Outline how you will assess on-going impact derived from the TTRA funding. *

Must be no more than 200 words.

7.0 TEAM AND CAPABILITIES

List the organisations that form your Research Centre partnership/consortium and the key individuals from each organisation. * [Tips: key individuals could be the Research Centre director and other leadership positions, specific personnel critical for aspects of the Research Portfolio, clinicians and other strategic experts involved in the Research Centre.]

Partner Organisation	Location	Key Personnel	Role within Research Centre
+			

Describe the proposed business/partnership model of the Research Centre, including governance structure and operational strategy. How will Research Centre members collaborate to successfully execute the Research Portfolio and Training Program. *

Must be no more than 300 words.

Describe the requisite experience or track record of the team to achieve the proposed objectives of the *Research Portfolio* and the *Training Program*. Describe your strategy for ensuring diversity of the Research Centre team. * [Tips: refer to the experience and track record of the entire team, not just the Research Centre director or leads. Diversity can include, but is not limited to, gender, career stage and/or different cultural backgrounds.]

Must be no more than 500 words.

Describe your strategy for identifying and engaging with strategic experts, end-users and consumers (including regional, rural, remote, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, or other high risk and underserved populations) to support your proposed *Research Portfolio* and *Training Program*. *

Must be no more than 300 words.

What resources and infrastructure do you have access to in order to achieve the objectives of your Research Portfolio and Training Program? * [Tips: describe capacity, capabilities, major equipment required, laboratory set-ups, animal models, patient populations etc.]

Must be no more than 300 words.

8.0 VALUE AND RISK

8.1 BUDGET

Total Amount Requested*

Outline the source and amount of any cash or in-kind co-contribution to the project (all values must be in AUD and GST exclusive) and comment on the level of commitment (e.g. secured, committed, fundraising, discussions etc) and any relevant key dates. *

Source of Contribution (Organisation)	Cash	In-kind	Comments
+			
Total	**$**	**$**	

Upload a 1-page, legible, high-level budget for the Research Centre over the funding period ($AUD and GST exclusive) illustrating expenditure of TTRA funds, and any relevant cash and/or in-kind contributions across the Research Portfolio, Training Program and/or Sustainability Plan. Any pages over the specified limit will not be reviewed. * NB: Please separate salary on-costs from salary costs. Salary on-costs cannot exceed 30% of salary costs. TTRA funding cannot exceed $3 million per year.

Please attach the single document as a pdf with a file name in the following format: TTRARCXXX_Research Centre Name_Budget

Attach a file:

8.2 RISK

Indicate the major risks associated with your Research Centre and strategies to manage or mitigate these. *

Must be no more than 300 words

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AUTHORISATION

9.1 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Does the project lead, any other investigators and/or key individuals in the applicant organisation (CEO, CSO, Board) have any perceived or actual conflicts of interest with regard to the TTRA Program, MTPConnect, partners and/or the MRFF Program? *

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please detail any perceived or actual conflicts of interest. *

Must be no more than 200 words

9.2 DISCLAIMER/DECLARATION

I am authorised on behalf of the applicant to submit this application and I certify that the information in this application and attachments is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct. I will notify MTPConnect of any changes to this information and any circumstances that may affect this application.

I acknowledge that MTPConnect may refer this application to external parties for assessment, reporting, advice, comment or for discussions regarding alternative or collaborative funding or partnering opportunities.

I acknowledge and agree that this application does not contain confidential information and will not be treated as confidential by MTPConnect. I confirm that consent has been granted for MTPConnect to use and disclose any personal information contained herein. Accordingly, MTPConnect may publish, use and disclose the contents of this application.

I understand that this is an expression of interest only and will not result in funding approval. Following evaluation, applicants may be invited to the next stage of the TTRA Program. Shortlisted applications will require further submission and review.

Any funding offers will be subject to MTPConnect's receipt of funding from the Commonwealth and the terms of MTPConnect's standard funding agreement with awardees.

I have read and agree to the above *

Yes ☐ No ☐

Authorised representative*

Title	First Name	Last Name
Organisation		
Position		

Email

APPLICATION END