**Western Australian Health Translation Network**

**Medical Research Future Fund Opportunities**

**Early Career Fellowship in Health Research Translation 2019**

**Expression of Interest**

***Submissions close 5pm Friday 24 August 2018***

**Background**

The Western Australian Health Translation Network (WAHTN) was established in 2015 and accredited by the NHMRC as an Advanced Health Research Translation Centre (AHRTC) in June 2017. The WAHTN is a state-wide collaboration that brings together Western Australia’s major hospitals, medical research institutes, universities and the Department of Health, to embrace and accelerate research translation. The vision of the WAHTN is to ensure that health and medical research are incorporated as essential elements of the health system in WA and that results are translated into policy and practice at the highest international standards, with the aim of improving the health and well-being of all Western Australians.

The WAHTN is one of seven AHRTCs and two Centres for Innovation and Regional Health (CIRH) that collectively form the Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA). As a National body, the collaborative leadership provided by AHRA has the capacity to break down barriers and accelerate the pace and scale of research translation, transforming the way research improves patient care and public health in Australia.

AHRA is supported in part by funding from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). MRFF is a Commonwealth initiative which provides grants of financial assistance to support health and medical research and innovation, with the objective of improving the health and wellbeing of Australians.

**WAHTN Opportunity**

WAHTN presents an opportunity to submit an expression of interest (EOI) for an Early Career Fellowship in Health Research Translation. The Fellowships will be funded by the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). This opportunity is presented in the context of the [*Medical Research and Innovation Strategy 2016-2021*](https://beta.health.gov.au/resources/publications/australian-medical-research-and-innovation-strategy-2016-2021)andthe[*Medical Research and Innovation Priorities 2016-18*](https://beta.health.gov.au/resources/publications/australian-medical-research-and-innovation-priorities-2016-2018).

The *Medical Research and Innovation Strategy 2016*–*2021* sets out the vision, aims, objectives, impact measurement and strategic platforms of the MRFF. The Strategy outlines that our health system must be innovative and responsive to future challenges, including new health technologies, communicable diseases, and an ageing population with complex, chronic health problems. Research is the best way to prepare for these challenges and contributes to health system safety and quality, ensures effectiveness of interventions, and enables better prevention and treatments. Priority focused research funded by the MRFF will complement largely investigator initiated research funded by NHMRC. The Strategy is focused on investment that cuts across the health system, is relevant to all National Health Priority Areas, delivers improved health for all Australians, and contributes to a sustainable system and significant economic benefit.

The Strategy is built on six strategic platforms under which lie the current Medical Research and Innovation priorities. These priorities note that AHRTCs will be supported to deliver research agendas in primary care, acute and sub-acute settings related to:

* Improving clinical pathways and care transition by building collaboration across the care continuum, enhancing data integration and strengthening health services, implementation, and public and preventive research capacity and activity.
* Clinical variation by driving data linkage and integration as key to understanding and reducing unwarranted variation in clinical care and outcomes.
* Improving the health of vulnerable groups including those with chronic co-morbidities, and disadvantaged ethnic and Indigenous groups.

**Health Research Translation Projects**

WAHTN is offering up to ten Early Career Fellowships to undertake projects in the following prioritised areas, aligned to MRFF, national and WAHTN priorities:

* Clinical quality registries: start-up investment in disease or therapy-focussed clinical registries supported by a national framework to maximise interoperability and value of research to clinical practice.
* Platform trials: These datasets and the means to analyse them are part of the future health system architecture and will drive new advances in healthcare. Research delivering new methods that avoid wasteful interventions, adopt best practice and foster information exchange will allow clinicians to benchmark with peers and lead to continuous quality improvement.
* End of life: Research can contribute to health system safety and quality, ensure effectiveness of health interventions, and enable Australia to develop better methods of addressing the challenges of caring for complex and chronic health problems associated with end of life care.
* Phenomics: MRFF provides support for international collaborative work in priority areas of health and medical research, capable of leveraging multiple agency, discipline, national or industry investment.
* Multi resistant organisms: Investment in this global challenge with a focus on research to bring to market point of care solutions. Enhance and coordinate research on national surveillance of and response to current, and emerging infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance*.*
* Implementation of state-wide health translational policy: Support to facilitate implementation of state-wide health translational policy and /or recommendations, such as the ‘Choosing Wisely’ and ‘High Value Healthcare’ recommendations.
* Research translation projects: Support to implement findings from projects which have previously been funded through the Department of Health Research Translation Projects funding stream.

**Description**

The Early Career Fellowship scheme is a one year Fellowship providing protected time to support future leaders to implement health care improvement and innovation projects, aligned to MRFF and health service priority areas. Funding can be sought for a part time to full time Fellowship costed up to $120,000 p.a. full time. Part time candidates must devote a minimum 0.5 FTE to achieving the outcomes of the Fellowship.

Please note $1,000,000 is available for distribution across this scheme in 2019.

**Objectives**

Fellowships will be open to clinicians and to health service managers, health science researchers and health informatics personnel.

The Fellowships are designed to increase engagement of research-focused clinicians and other health care professionals in problem-solving and the translation of research into clinical practice. The Fellowship provides protected time for Fellows to develop the range of skills needed for leadership in data driven health care improvement and to apply evidence to improve health care, health systems, health policy and/or public health.

Clinical focused Researcher Fellowships are a key priority under the Capacity and Collaboration Platform of the [*Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities 2016-18*](https://beta.health.gov.au/resources/publications/australian-medical-research-and-innovation-priorities-2016-2018)*.*

**Who should apply?**

Early Career Fellowships provide support for WA based:

* Clinicians (e.g. medical specialists, general practitioners, public health practitioners, allied health providers, nurses, midwives, and other health providers working in the clinical setting)
* Other health care professionals (e.g. health service managers, health science researchers and health informatics personnel)

**Applicants should be <10 years post primary degree, or within 5 years of a postgraduate degree eg PhD, with consideration given for career breaks and/or career changes.**

Due to time constraints imposed by the MRFF funding rules, Fellowships will be for the 2019 calendar year and ideally should be used to enhance a translational research project that is ready to commence on or before January 2019. Project proposals focusing on Biostatistician, Health Economist or Allied Health Clinician Fellowships will be viewed favourably.

**Part-Time Employment**

Early Career Fellowships are for part-time to full-time research and translation and it is expected that successful applicants will devote 0.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) at a minimum to achieving the outcomes of the Fellowship. Applicants may, for their non- fellowship time, be employed in a part-time capacity ranging from 0.1 to 0.5 FTE.

**Assessment criteria**

* Submissions will be via EOI using the standardised form attached.
* Submissions will be assessed based on the quality of the Fellowship applicant (see dot point below) and the quality and relevance of the proposed project, including track record of the supporting team members.
* Fellowship applicants will be assessed against their research, clinical and industry track record, relative to opportunity, and career aspirations. Leadership and prior relevant project implementation experience is advantageous, however the Fellowship applicant is expected to nominate a senior researcher/mentor in the team that can provide this expertise.
* Project proposals must result in a translational health outcome and include a measure of impact.
* Proposals must include consumer involvement at all relevant stages of the project.
* Projects must be genuinely collaborative and where possible include at least two WAHTN Partners.
* Findings must be scalable (i.e. have the chance of being adopted across the state and/or the nation).
* Projects must demonstrate some degree of matched funding, this can be in the form of financial or ‘in-kind’ support.
* Project proposals need to address one of the prioritised areas and be completed within 12 months.

**Eligibility**

To be eligible to apply:

* The applicant must be an employee of a WAHTN Partner organisation at the time of application.
* The applicant will at the time of application hold, as a minimum, a relevant Bachelor’s degree or tertiary qualification.
* Post graduate degrees and relevant accreditations will be advantageous in peer review.
* The applicant can only apply for one Fellowship per round.

**Selection process**

Please submit your completed Expression of Interest form to the WAHTN ([info@wahtn.org](mailto:info@wahtn.org)) by **5pm Friday 24 August 2018**. The EOI character limits must be adhered to and late applications will not be accepted.

Applications will be reviewed by an independent panel and treated in confidence. Suitable candidates may be shortlisted for an interview as part of the selection process.

Questions regarding this process should be directed to the WAHTN via email: info@wahtn.org or ph: 6151 0887

**Western Australian Health Translation Network**

**EOI form for Early Career Fellowship in Research Translation 2019**

***Submissions close Friday 24 August 2018, 5pm***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| APPLICANT DETAILS | |
| 1. Applicants details | |
| Surname: | **First Name:** |
| 1. Applicants contact details: | |
| Phone: | |
| Email: | |
| 1. Applicants current employer *(this should be a WAHTN partner organisation, refer to list provided in qn.16)* | |
|  | |
| 1. Current job title: *Applicants should be healthcare professionals, health service managers, health science researchers, or health systems personnel. Refer to page 3, ‘who should apply’* | |
|  | |
| 1. Current employment FTE: | |
|  | |
| 1. Qualification/s and year awarded: *Applicants will at the time of application hold, as a minimum, a relevant Bachelor’s degree or tertiary qualification. Additional qualifications preferred.* | |
|  | |
| 1. Please indicate the focus area of your Fellowship: *Note project proposals focussing on Biostatistician, Health Economist or Allied Health Clinician Fellowships will be viewed favourably.* | |
| Health Economics  Biostatistics  Allied Health  Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| 1. Describe how your research, clinical and/or industry track record value add to the implementation of this project *(maximum of 350 words)* | |
|  | |
| 1. Describe how your career aspirations and interest align with the project you wish to undertake *(maximum of 350 words)* | |
|  | |
| 1. Describe how the project will build capacity and enhance your career aspirations in health care improvement and innovation *(maximum of 250 words)* | |
|  | |
| 1. Applicants biography - please submit CV with this application *(maximum of 3 pages)* | |
| CV attached | |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| PROJECT INFORMATION | | |
| 1. Title of research or translation project/initiative | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Describe your proposal in lay terms. Include the aims, significance and brief project plan *(maximum of 400 words)* | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Describe the expected health care impact of the project and how this will be evaluated *(maximum of 350 words)* | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Describe the skills of your project team, how the team will integrate to genuinely partner, including the responsibilities of each team member and their identified organisation  *(maximum of 350 words)* | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Participating organisations - list all WAHTN Partners organisations and key external agencies *(note projects should be genuinely collaborative and where possible include at least two WAHTN partner organisations)* | | |
| North Metropolitan Health Service  South Metropolitan Health Service  East Metropolitan Health Service  Child and Adolescent Health Service  WA Country Health Service  Pathwest  WA Department of Health  Ramsay Health Care  St John of God Healthcare  WAHTN Associate Member) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ­­­­­NHMRC AHRTC’s or CIRH’s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | Telethon Kids Institute  Harry Perkins Institute  Ear Sciences Institute  Lions Eye Institute  Institute for Respiratory Health  Perron Institute  University of W  Curtin University  Edith Cowan University  Murdoch University  University of Notre Dame |
| 1. Prioritisation *(projects must align with at least one WAHTN and/or MRFF priority area listed below, please check all applicable)* | | |
| 1. Clinical quality registries  2. Platform trials  3. End of life  4. Phenomics | 5. Multi resistant organsisms  6. Implementation of state-wide health translational policy  7. Implementation of successful research translation projects | |
| 1. Ministerial priorities and MRFF Australian Medical Research and Innovation priorities 2016-2018 *(please check all applicable)* | | |
| Vulnerable groups (incl. ethnic and indigenous groups) chronic & complex care  Aged care or wound care  Care across the continuum, primary care or community health engagement  Evidence of consumer and community prioritisation and engagement  Systematic review/objective evidence gap, evidence practice gap or addresses clinical variation  Relates to national Health Priority Area or regional burden of disease  Potential to leverage additional strategic funding  Evidence of external prioritisation e.g. College/Society/Network/Industry or - Government policy/priority  Early or mid-career researcher | | |
| 1. Describe how your project findings can be scaled i.e have the chance of being adopted across the state and/or nation *(maximum of 250 words)* | | |
|  | | |
| PROJECTBUDGET | | |
| 1. Requested budget *($)* | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Budget details / justification. Please include matched or in-kind funding *(maximum of 350 words)* | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Please provide a project timeline, noting that projects must be completed by Dec 2019 *(maximum of 350 words)* | | |
|  | | |
| PROJECT TEAM | | |
| 1. Project lead Details | | |
| First Name | | |
| Surname | | |
| WAHTN Partner Organisation | | |
| Work Phone | | |
| Email | | |
| 1. Project lead biography and project role *(maximum of 250 words)* | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Contact person for grant administration *(if applicable)* | | |
| First Name | | |
| Surname | | |
| WAHTN Partner Organisation | | |
| Work Phone | | |
| Email | | |
| 1. Team Member 1 | | |
| First Name | | |
| Surname | | |
| WAHTN Partner Organisation | | |
| 1. Team member 1 biography and project role  *(maximum of 250 words)* | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Team Member 2 | | |
| First Name | | |
| Surname | | |
| WAHTN Partner Organisation | | |
| 1. Team member 2 biography and project role *(maximum of 250 words)* | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Team Member 3 | | |
| First Name | | |
| Surname | | |
| WAHTN Partner Organisation | | |
| 1. Team member 3 biography and project role *(maximum of 250 words)* | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Team Member 4 | | |
| First Name | | |
| Surname | | |
| WAHTN Partner Organisation | | |
| 1. Team member 4 biography and project role *(maximum of 250 words)* | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Team Member 5 | | |
| First Name | | |
| Surname | | |
| WAHTN Partner Organisation | | |
| 1. Team member 5 biography and project role *(maximum of 250 words)* | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Team Member 6 | | |
| First Name | | |
| Surname | | |
| WAHTN Partner Organisation | | |
| 1. Team member 6 biography and project role *(maximum of 250 words)* | | |
|  | | |

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***Links to relevant information:***

<https://beta.health.gov.au/resources/publications/australian-medical-research-and-innovation-strategy-2016-2021>

<https://beta.health.gov.au/resources/publications/australian-medical-research-and-innovation-priorities-2016-2018>

<https://www.wahtn.org/>