

Closing Date for full applications: 4pm, Monday 30 August 2021

Introduction and purpose

The Cancer Council Western Australia Research Fellowship program provides opportunities for outstanding biomedical, clinical and health researchers with proven track records in the field of cancer to undertake research that is of both major importance in cancer research and cancer control and significant benefit to Western Australian health and medical research.

Research Fellowships offered by Cancer Council Western Australia are prestigious awards and thus are highly sought after and extremely competitive.

Cancer Council Western Australia is calling for applications from qualified and established cancer researchers to take up a Fellowship in 2022.

A Cancer Council Western Australia Research Fellowship is a full or part-time time research appointment offering a maximum of \$120,000 per annum for four years. Full-time fellows must spend at least 80% of their time on research activities related to cancer. Part-time fellows may spend between 50% and 70% of their time on research activities related to cancer. There is scope for those in clinical settings to negotiate a fractional research appointment for Fellowships, to allow ongoing clinical activities to continue. Applications are also encouraged from outstanding cancer researchers from outside WA who wish to return or relocate to the State.

Timetable

Stage	Date
Advertising and promotion	14 July 2021
Deadline for submission of Application	30 August 2021
Short listing of candidates for interview	October 2021
Week in which interviews will be conducted	8-12 November 2021
Announcement of successful applicant	December 2021

Definition of cancer research Fellowship

The main purpose of the award is to support the salary of a research fellow and associated on costs. This could constitute:

- full or part costs of a researcher's salary
- 'buy out' of teaching or clinical commitments
- travel costs or other legitimate costs to the researcher in undertaking research

Funds are not available through this process for building, motor vehicles, major equipment purchases, or funding salaries other than that of the applicant.

The total funding available is \$480,000 with \$120,000 of this to be awarded in each year – 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Objectives

The Fellowship's objectives are:

1. To advance the quality and impact of cancer research in WA through the provision of dedicated cancer research Fellowships.
2. To contribute to the career advancement and research productivity of an established high quality cancer researcher working in a Higher Education Institution and/or a public Health Research Institution in WA.
3. To promote partnerships and collaboration in the conduct of high quality cancer research in WA.

Eligibility

1. The Cancer Council WA Fellowship can be applied to any legitimate area of cancer research. In circumstances where the applicant's main area of activity has not clearly been cancer-related, a case will need to be made providing evidence of a link with cancer.
2. The process is open only to researchers working in, or affiliated with, publicly funded, established cancer research institutions with a demonstrated track record of attracting research funding from bodies such as Cancer Council Western Australia, ARC or NHMRC.
3. Applicants from within and outside of WA are eligible to apply; however, it is a condition of the grant that the applicant reside in WA for the duration of the Fellowship and that the majority of the research work (assessed as 75% or more) be conducted in or through legitimate Western Australian research institutions.
4. Applicants must hold Australian citizenship, permanent residency or an appropriate visa to work in Australia. Applicants who do not hold Australian Citizenship or permanent residency must have their primary residence in WA and be employed by a WA research institution for the duration of the Fellowship, including holding a relevant visa. In the event that a successful applicant no longer complies with these requirements, Cancer Council Western Australia reserves the right to cease payment of funding.
5. Applications may involve a single institution, or two or more acting in collaboration. In the second instance, one of the institutions must be specified as the lead institution which will receive the grant and administer the Fellowship.
6. The applicant should be supported by funding from an additional agency or have existing research grant funding. There is no minimum contribution from external (institutional or other granting body) sources.
7. Institutions can use their own internal funds (for example from a university, company, endowments, government agency) to top up the contribution to the Fellowship from external sponsors. The application should include a summary of all input from the host institution including cash, buildings, laboratory space, technical support etc.
8. Previous recipients of a Cancer Council WA Research Fellowship are ineligible to apply.

Application – Building a Case for Support

The application should describe the achievements of the applicant and the program of research to be undertaken during the Fellowship. Failure to address all of the following criteria in a fully detailed submission may result in the application being rejected on the grounds of insufficient information.

1. The Individual

- a) Publications – quality in terms of significance of contribution to the relevant field of cancer related knowledge, standing of journals in which papers are published, quantity and consistency of publications, nature and standing of groups involved in multi authored papers.
- b) Current and previous grants – nature of grants (e.g. major international competitive grants are acknowledged as of higher standing than local employing institutions or similar) the number, size and specific role of applicant in attracting grants.
- c) Peer recognition – invitations to speak at major international or national meetings, contribution to decision making fora, contribution to peer review processes of research funding or institutions.
- d) Prizes and awards – applicants may list any previous research prizes or awards (other than program/project grants) they have been awarded to support their research career.
- e) Other Fellowship applications – it is required that applicants identify if they have made a recent application (within the past 12 months) for a research Fellowship from any other source. Applicants are asked to provide information on the current status of any such application.
- f) Research translation – the contribution of the applicant to advancing cancer control through clinical impact and application of research, public health activities and influence in public policy practice or related advocacy or commercialisation of research findings.
- g) Research training and mentoring – the level of contribution to supervision and mentoring of PhD and other post graduate students, postdoctoral and other research staff.
- h) Professional and community activity – contribution to professional associations, community bodies such as Cancer Council WA and other relevant activities.

2. The Institution

Institutional resources – outline the additional resources available to undertake the program of research, the contribution from external sponsor(s) or other sources of funding - including details of any funding offered, any 'in-kind' support, and any other (collaborative) activities to be carried out in support of the research. Include a summary of all input from the host institution including any buildings, laboratory space, related staff salaries, technical support, travel costs, equipment, maintenance, consumables etc. offered in support of the research in addition to any cash offers.

3. The Research Plan

- a) Outline the major areas of research to be pursued under the Fellowship: what grants will be sought; what publications are anticipated; and what other outputs are likely to be produced.
- b) Applicants must clearly demonstrate the specific and measurable cancer control/cancer research impact that would be achieved by the proposed Fellowship.
- c) Complete the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) table, outlining 6-10 KPIs you aim to achieve over the duration of the Fellowship. (*More guidance can be found in Appendix 1.*)

4. Community Review

The Community Review section of the application is very important and will form part of the assessment of your application so please read the **Guidance on community review criteria** which can be found on our website.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Significance to cancer; the impact on cancer research/cancer control of the work conducted under the Fellowship.
2. The scientific quality of the work to be conducted under the Fellowship; applicants should provide a detailed description of the scientific projects the Fellow will engage in.
3. The qualifications and track record of the applicant; (including both research excellence and the level of previous and/or existing Cancer Council/NHMRC/ARC/Other support). It is anticipated that applicants will have completed a PhD or equivalent and be an active cancer researcher. Candidates without a PhD may apply but will need to make a strong case based on publications and other achievements.
4. Collaboration; Cancer Council Western Australia places a high value on research collaboration as a means of maximising research outcomes. Priority will be given to applications which demonstrate high levels of collaboration with research groups/institutions both within and outside the applicant's institution.
5. The contribution the investment will make to the cancer research infrastructure in WA including;
 - i. how the Fellow will contribute to the existing facilities in the department(s) or institution(s);
 - ii. how well the department and/or research group can support the Fellow in terms of supervision and guidance, technical expertise and physical and financial infrastructure;
 - iii. whether the Fellow is able to contribute to multi-disciplinary research;
 - iv. how the Fellow could contribute to research training and mentoring.
6. The Key Performance Indicators (see Appendix 1).
7. Cost effectiveness; including the amount of external sponsorship and the credibility of the financial proposals. It is anticipated that there will be some institutional contribution to each application. 'In-kind' support such as provision of space, technical support etc. will also be considered.
8. Community Review Criteria.

Assessment

1. Cancer Council Western Australia will assess the applications using the Research Grants Advisory Committee, external peer review. Applications will be assessed against the Fellowship criteria outlined above.
2. Applications falling outside of the Cancer Council's remit will be rejected. Negotiations will not be entered into. Multidisciplinary applications spanning research other than that specifically related to cancer may be considered if the majority of the research relates to cancer control issues.
3. The Research Grants Advisory Committee may invite applicants to attend an interview process to further examine the proposals under consideration. During the assessment process, some applicants may be assessed through contact with third parties regarding applicants' standing in the research community.
4. Applicants should suggest 2 referees external to their group who might support or give further information regarding their proposal, in addition to the Director of their proposed host institution.

Other conditions

1. Cancer Council Western Australia will decide the amount of each grant.
2. Cancer Council Western Australia will expect all expenditure to be completed within four years of the commencement date. Applicants expecting expenditure to take place over a longer time period (e.g. where other funding sources are drawn upon) can specify the requested grant duration and must justify this in the case for support.
3. **Cancer Council WA has the right to make the final decision over which research it funds. This may include making no award, or awarding part of the total funding pool.**

The Tobacco and Other Industries

The Cancer Council will not provide a research grant to any researcher who is an applicant for or is in receipt of funds from:

- I. Companies or other entities receiving money or revenues from the tobacco industry or having arrangements or dealings with the tobacco industry in which may actually, potentially or perceivably compromise tobacco control initiatives. This includes:
 - a) Tobacco manufacturers or wholesalers, and their subsidiaries or other entities within that group of companies;
 - b) Entities or individuals whose sole or principal business is the retailing of tobacco products;
 - c) Other entities identified to have links of a commercial, strategic or public nature with tobacco manufacturers or wholesalers
- II. Companies or other entities involved in manufacturing, distribution, promotion or sale of any other product or service known to cause cancer or to increase cancer risk (including, but not limited to, solarium, asbestos, alcohol, environmental carcinogens, sugared beverages, and other energy dense nutrient poor foods).

Cancer Council WA will terminate its support for a research project if the above provisions relating to support from these industries are breached or it believes that the integrity of the research is threatened by influence from tobacco or other interests.

Researchers in receipt of funds from other organisations in conflict with the prevention of cancer will be examined closely to determine if a conflict of interest exists.

How to make an application

1. A full application is invited from all interested candidates.
2. The Application must be accompanied by a letter of support from at least 2 external sponsors/collaborators.
3. Use the **pro-forma** available for this initiative on our website.
4. Applications must be completed in 11 point Arial typescript and 1.5 line spacing in paragraphs.
5. Before sending your application, please ensure all sections have been completed as specified, including the required signatures in the certification section.

NOTE: Applications are to be submitted electronically through the research office at your Institution. No hard copy applications are required.

To be emailed to **CancerCouncilWA.Research@cancerwa.asn.au**

Please send as three separate files:

- 1 x Sections A, B and E, including relevant documents ie qualification document/s, host institution letter of support, and proof of citizenship / permanent residency / relevant visa's
- 1 x Section C
- 1 x Section D

Obligations of the Fellow & the Administering Institution

There will be only one administering institution for each awarded grant. Cancer Council WA will make payments to the administering institution nominated by the successful application. Payments are made within the terms and conditions specified in the grant offer, and in which the administering institution will be held responsible for the proper administration and expenditure of the grant and for ensuring that all reports required by the Cancer Council WA are provided on time.

Publicity and Acknowledgment

The ability of Cancer Council WA to fund research is dependent entirely on its ability to raise money through public donation. Public awareness of the Cancer Council's role in funding research, particularly successful research, is therefore crucial.

Where a media release or conference is planned, it is the responsibility of both the fellow and the institution's media office to give Cancer Council WA adequate notice of the release or organisation of the conference, and to accommodate reasonable requests for the Cancer Council WA's participation in the publicity.

In addition, Researchers may be called on to participate in Cancer Council WA's promotional initiatives such as presentations to major donors, the preparation of promotional materials and providing a verbal presentation at research events organized by Cancer Council WA.

Cancer Council WA will invite successful applicants to attend our annual Research Awards Lunch where they will be awarded a Certificate of Achievement recognising their success in this research grant round. This event will provide an opportunity to showcase leading researchers and to create a forum where researchers and donors can meet. We ask that the successful applicant ensures they are available to attend this event annually for the duration of the fellowship .

Cancer Council WA will publish plain language summary information provided by the successful applicant in section C of their application at the lunch and on the Cancer Council WA website, please note that information may be shared on social media platforms. Cancer Council WA may also, at its own initiative, ask investigators to participate in release of details of their research to the media. Sensitivities relating to pre-publication release will be respected in such circumstances.

Publications arising from the funding

Cancer Council WA encourages the publication of results and the dissemination of other information from the research we fund. Such publications would occur through the normal acceptable scientific channels and there should always be an acknowledgment that Cancer Council WA funding has been provided (with the following footnote included: "[name of Research Scholar or Fellow] was supported by a Cancer Council WA Research Fellowship". A copy of the published paper should also be forwarded to us.

Reporting Obligations

In fulfilment of the conditions of an award, successful applicants must provide proof of progress in their research program. They are therefore expected to submit written reports in each of the four years of the operation of the Research Fellowship. Reports should be prepared against the claims made in the detailed application, with continued funding for the subsequent years of the fellowship being contingent upon a satisfactory report being received by the end of November (or a timeframe negotiated subject to start date) of each year. All reporting templates, including the progress-extensions request template, can be

found on our website:

www.cancerwa.asn.au/research/successfulresearchfunding/successfulresearchfellowships/

Intellectual Property Policy

In the event of any discovery with a potential for commercial exploitation that arises as a result of research supported by Cancer Council WA funds, the Applicant is bound by the conditions of the award to notify the Cancer Council WA accordingly. Award Intellectual Property will be owned by and immediately vest upon the administering institution, or with whoever they assign it to. The Applicant agrees to disclose in confidence to the Cancer Council WA, any inventions or discoveries that arise in the course of the research.

Ongoing operation of the Research Fellowship

If for any reason a successful Research Fellowship recipient is unable to complete the full four years of the Fellowship they and their institution have the responsibility to inform Cancer Council WA. The specific circumstances will be assessed and a recommendation made as to how the Research Fellowship will be managed from that point.

Failure to inform the Cancer Council WA of significant changes in circumstances relating to the operation of the Research Fellowship will result in withdrawal of the Research Fellowship and consideration given to the future relationship between Cancer Council WA and the Host institution.

Matters not otherwise specifically addressed

For matters relating to process and policy not covered in detail in this guide to applicants, the Cancer Council Western Australia Research Grants Advisory Committee will use the policies and processes applied by the National Health and Medical Research Council as a reference point. The prime objective remains to operate a fair, open process which seeks to allocate the funds in a way that is consistent with the values of Cancer Council Western Australia so as to allocate donors' funds in the most effective manner in pursuing the mission, goals and strategies of Cancer Council Western Australia.

Further information

Queries about completion of the Fellowship process should be addressed to:

Michelene Petrofski
Research Administration Officer
Cancer Prevention and Research
Cancer Council Western Australia
Level 1, 420 Bagot Road, SUBIACO WA 6008
Phone: (08) 9338 4343
Email: CancerCouncilWA.research@cancerwa.asn.au
www.cancerwa.asn.au

Appendix 1: Research Outcome Categories for Development of Fellowship Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Notes:

- This is intended as a “menu” of possible outcomes to use a starting point to develop appropriate KPIs for an individual Fellowship.
- We generally expect 6-10 KPIs for each Fellowship.
- There is no requirement to have KPIs for all 6 categories and commonly Fellowship KPIs are most likely to come from categories 1-3; however, we encourage you to consider if there are any appropriate KPIs from categories 4-6.
- KPIs should be specific, measurable and include a timeframe. For example: to publish 6 papers a year in high quality journals; to obtain \$200,000 of project funding by the end of 2022 to conduct research into x; to set up a consumer panel by June 2022 to provide input into the development of our research design, participation information sheets and consent forms; to have our recommendations adopted as a policy platform by at least one of the major political parties by the end of the Fellowship; my recommendations for changes to the process for treating x will have been adopted by at least one of the major Perth cancer hospitals by the end of 2025.
- KPIs should be stretching but achievable. This will be assessed as part of the selection process.

1. Knowledge production	2. Research capacity	3. Community dissemination & engagement	4. Informing decision making & development	5. Behaviour changes/ adoption	6. Final outcomes (health & economic)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of journal articles & citation rates • No. & type of conference presentations • Other publications e.g. books & chapters, research reports, editorials • Patents granted • Awards received (& other recognition) • Other research outputs e.g. research databases, research models, non-traditional outputs 	<p>Personnel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New skills developed/techniques mastered • Training attended • Career progression during/after Fellowship • New collaborations formed &/or existing collaborations maintained/expanded • Involvement with research networks • Supervision of research staff/students <p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of new grant applications developed (& scores where possible) • Amount & type of further funding gained • Access to new/enhanced research tools, platforms, equipment, facilities <p>Future research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of new research studies/ideas • Improvements to research methods &/or development of new research methods • Improved capacity to use existing research knowledge from elsewhere <p>Academic service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New responsibilities taken on e.g. committee or board memberships, editorial and review activities, teaching (NB. must be additional to what was in place at the start of Fellowship) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations to non-academic audiences • Media stories • Articles in newsletters etc. • Lab tours • School visits • Consumer involvement (no. involved, how involved, impact on research) • Industry/ government partnerships 	<p>Decision making/ policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved info bases for decision making • Changes to policies (new/revised) • Changes to processes (new/revised) • Changes to guidelines • New/improved public health campaigns <p>Product/technique development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of new pharmaceuticals or therapeutic techniques • Clinical trials undertaken • Spin-out companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of new policies/ practices by health practitioners • Use of new pharmaceuticals & therapeutic techniques • Behaviour changes by patients and the public • Disinvestment in ineffective or redundant treatments or services • Improvements to services 	<p>Health benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less people get sick (reduced morbidity) • Better outcomes for those who get sick • Improved equity • Improved quality of care <p>Economic benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased efficiency • Cost savings • Income from commercialisation