



NRL BEANIE FOR BRAIN CANCER

Early to Mid-Career Research Fellowship Funded by
The Mark Hughes Foundation

\$500,000 over 3 years

Guidelines

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 5pm Monday 17 February 2020.

Overview

The HMRI Early to Mid-Career Research Fellowship Scheme funded by the Mark Hughes Foundation has been established to stimulate research activity in Brain Cancer and support outstanding clinicians, early and mid-career researchers to further their research career.

This Fellowship is generously funded by The Mark Hughes Foundation from the 2019 Beanie for Brain Cancer NRL campaign.

Applications are invited from people working in a clinical or pre-clinical environment, with less than 15 years post-PhD or equivalent Doctoral qualification, currently employed by an employer based in Australia.

It is anticipated that applicants will be employed as a research academic or clinical research fellow with an Australian university, local health district or medical research institute. Clinical research fellows will have a clinical load not exceeding 0.4 full-time equivalent (FTE); whilst research academic fellows will contribute to teaching and supervision within the host group's School/Faculty on an agreed basis not exceeding 25% of a normal teaching load on a pro rata basis.

The successful fellow would be strongly encouraged to collaborate with existing Mark Hughes Foundation funding recipients from previous fellowship and project funding rounds.

The Fellowship will be awarded via an open and competitive process.

A maximum of \$500,000 over three years will be awarded, which includes a Fellowship (salary and on costs) and Research Support Grant:

- The successful candidate will be awarded a Fellowship salary of up to \$425,000 in total, over a three (3) year period as a Fellowship not less than 0.6FTE (averaging \$140,000 per year). Should an applicant's salary over the three (3) years be less than the \$425,000, these funds can be added to the research support grant available as part of the Fellowship.
- The successful candidate will also receive an annual research support grant of no less than \$25,000 per annum over three (3) years to cover research project costs for the duration of the Fellowship.

- Applicants will be asked to complete a budget within the Application Form detailing how the salary (including on costs) and the research support grant will be utilised for the duration of the Fellowship.

General Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the NRL Beanie for Brain Cancer Fellowship applicants must:

1. Be based in Australia and employed by an employer based in Australia.
2. Be conducting translational health or medical research of excellence in the area of brain cancer, as demonstrated by Track Record.
3. Be considered an academic or health practitioner researcher in the early or mid-stages of their career **as of the grant round closing date, i.e. 17th February 2020** (see HMRI Career Stage Definitions below).
4. Provide a letter of support from employer/department head – please see required sign-offs in application.

Definition	Research Career Start Date	Early Career Researcher – ECR	Mid-Career Researcher – MCR
<p>A Health Practitioner Researcher (HPR) is a person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is qualified to practice in medicine, nursing, an allied health discipline, and/or holds a health service practitioner position in a health service delivery organisation; and - is currently practising as a health practitioner in their area of qualification no less than 0.2 FTE; and - can demonstrate that they have achieved at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. received competitive project funding of ≥ \$20k with the HPR as the lead investigator; or published an article in a peer reviewed journal as a lead or co-lead author; or b. been awarded their PhD in a health-related field. 	<p>The earliest of the dates on which the HPR:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. received competitive project funding of ≥ \$20k where the HPR was the lead investigator; or published an article in a peer reviewed journal as a lead or co-lead author; or 2. was awarded their PhD in a health-related field. 	<p>Research career start date is on a date that is 5 or less years (adjusted for career interruption[^]) from the date on which the determination of career stage is made as of the grant round closing date (17/02/2020).</p>	<p>Research career start date is more than five but less than 15 years (adjusted for career interruption[^]) from the date on which the determination of career stage is made as of the grant round closing date (17/02/2020).</p>
<p>An Academic Researcher is a person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is not a Health Practitioner Researcher; and - has been awarded their PhD in a health-related field. 	<p>Date PhD is awarded in a health-related field.</p>	<p>PhD award date is 5 or less years (adjusted for career interruption) as of the grant round closing date (17/02/2020).</p>	<p>PhD award date is more than five but less than 15 years (adjusted for career interruption) as of the grant round closing date (17/02/2020).</p>

[^] Career Interruption	Relative to Opportunity
A career interruption involves a prolonged disruption to a researcher's capacity to work, either due to absence	Relative to opportunity takes into account the percentage a researcher is allowed to allocate to research e.g. 40% (2 days/week). If appropriate, clinical,

<p>(for periods of three months or greater) and/or long-term partial return to work, to accommodate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - carer's responsibilities including parental leave; and/or - illness; and/or - completion of health qualification in the area in which the researcher is currently practicing. <p>The HMRI Director has the discretion to make the final decision on career interruption.</p>	<p>teaching and administrative workloads can be shown. This information should be detailed in the researcher's track record. Full time equivalent (FTE) should also be stated in the track record.</p>
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Conditions

The successful Applicant and employer must formally agree to the funding Terms and Conditions. An overview of the Terms and Conditions is provided below:

- The successful applicant will comply with all employment and research related policy and governance requirements of their employer.
- Following commencement, the duration of the Fellowship may be extended for a period of up to twelve (12) months, allowing for parental leave. Please note, there is no provision for payment of parental leave from Fellowship funding. Any parental leave entitlement will continue to be the obligation of the Applicant's employer.
- Funds must be expended within thirty-six (36) months of award, subject to extensions. Extensions will be considered on a case by case basis and are not guaranteed. Any unspent funds at the completion of the Fellowship will be recovered by HMRI.
- HMRI will determine, in consultation with the successful Applicant, where funds will be administered. Any transfer of unconsumed funding from the administering institute must be approved in writing by HMRI. Only invoices that relate to a direct cost of the project, as per the budget, may be paid from the awarded funding, unless approved in writing by HMRI.
- Ethics and safety approval (where applicable) for your project must be obtained within six months of being awarded the funding. HMRI may elect to terminate the fellowship if ethics approval is not secured within this timeframe.
- Reporting and compliance requirements must be complied with in a timely manner. The awarded Fellow will be asked to submit a project plan for the life of the project with detailed milestones for each year, annual progress reports against project milestones, and undertake a mentorship agreement for the life of the Fellowship.
- Any Fellow considered not to be making satisfactory progress will have the Fellowship reviewed by a committee appointed by the HMRI Director, which, at its absolute discretion, may terminate the Fellowship or place other conditions on the Fellow to assist the Fellow to improve their performance.
- Acknowledgement of MHF and HMRI - Recipients must acknowledge both MHF and HMRI for the life of the fellowship. This acknowledgement includes, but is not limited to, media releases, promotional materials such as brochures and newsletters, publications and articles submitted to journals, presentations at conferences, speeches, attendance at meetings and community/supporter's events.
- Acknowledgements should include the wording *"This Fellowship was funded by the Mark Hughes Foundation through the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI)"*
- Upon request and where practicable, you will assist MHF and HMRI with publicity/donor meetings concerning your research.

- Upon request and where practicable, you will participate as an MHF peer reviewer in future funding rounds.
- You will notify HMRI, as soon as practicable, if you are no longer able to meet the conditions of the Fellowship.
- Applications that are incomplete and/or do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.

Assessment Criteria

Primary Selection Criteria

Applications for the NRL Beanie for Brain Cancer Fellowship will be assessed equally on:

1. Quality of The Research Project (40%)

The NRL Beanie for Brain Cancer Fellow is expected to conceive and carry out research independently, or as part of a team of researchers, and make independent and original contributions to research.

The assessment of the quality of the research project will include:

- Clarity of the definition of aims and hypothesis.
- Development of the framework, including design, methods and analysis. This includes how the applicant's proposed engagement with end users/beneficiaries of the research (e.g. clinicians, patients), will facilitate effective translation.
- Anticipated outcomes, including future grant submissions, research training, publications and intellectual property.
- The impact on reducing the burden on and/or improving the health and wellness of the community.
- Feasibility of the research, including proposed timelines, budget and readiness of the project to commence.
- Quality of the pathway to translation and patient benefit.

2. Track Record (Relative to Opportunity) of the Applicant (40%)

Successful research Fellows are excellent researchers who have made, and are continuing to make, a highly significant contribution to their field of research. They are able to demonstrate a sustained track record of significant output in peer-reviewed literature and a strong commitment to increased quality research output as judged relative to opportunity. Applications for the NRL Beanie for Brain Cancer Fellowship will be assessed on track record of the Applicant relative to opportunity and research discipline. This includes:

- Evidence of original intellectual input into research.
- Extent of research funding.
- Evidence of high-quality research outputs in brain cancer published and presented in appropriate national and international forums.
- Evidence of consumer/end-user engagement in research.
- Evidence of timeliness of research outputs, account for project plans, timelines and budget.
- Commitment and broader contributions to the discipline, including appropriate professional activities.
- Evidence of translation/impact in service delivery.

3. The Quality of Research Environment Where the Research Project will be Conducted (20%)

The quality of the research environment will be considered, including the extent of the facilities and infrastructure available to support the proposed research activities. Assessment will include the evaluation of the relationship between the application and the strategic development of research in the host group.

Selection and Interview Process

A selection panel will shortlist applications. The selection committee shall comprise:

- The Executive Director of HMRI, or nominee
- Selected members of the Mark Hughes Scientific Committee
- External reviewers as required.

Successful shortlisted Applicants will be invited to attend an interview at the HMRI Building. The applicant will be asked to deliver a 10-minute presentation that outlines the proposed research to a selection committee comprising at least three interviewers from the panel above.

Applicants may be required to undertake a second interview dependent on the employing organisation's requirements.

Zoom conferencing facilities may be made available if necessary.

Steps for Submitting an Application

STEP 1 Determine Your Eligibility

Please refer to the NRL Beanie for Brain Cancer Fellowship Guidelines for the eligibility criteria.

STEP 2 Complete Your Application

Submissions for the NRL Beanie for Brain Cancer Fellowship will be managed via the HMRI Grants Online portal. To commence an application, go to the following link:

https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_5905?SA=SNA&FID=35162

Please Note: If this is your first time accessing the portal, you will need to click 'New Applicant' and create an account. You will be sent an email with a link to the HMRI Grants Online portal (https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5905?SA=AM). Follow the link to access the portal and complete your application. Once established, this will remain your account for all future HMRI grant applications and reporting requirements.

The online form will ask applicants to complete a **Word Document**. **This document will be used by the selection panel to assess the application.** Applicants are then required to copy selected fields from their Word document into the **online form**, including milestones. This step is to facilitate a more streamlined review and grants management process.

Complete your application ensuring all sections are addressed. From the system, you can also email a draft of your application to other collaborators for review. The Word document, and any other attachments, **should be converted to PDF** before uploading onto the system and submitting.

Incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible and removed prior to assessment.

Please Note: Your Grants Online session will **time-out after 120 mins**. A warning will be shown 15 minutes before time-out, so you can take action before the session is terminated. Failure to take action may result in the loss of unsaved work. Typing inside fields on an application form **does not** reset the timer. In order to reset the timer and save the application one of the following actions must be taken:

- Select a different page of the application using Next/Continue links, Page Number or Page Title links/tabs;
- Clicking Save & Finish Later; or,
- Uploading Attachments.

STEP 3 Prepare Your Additional Attachments

A list of required additional attachments is outlined in the application form. These documents must be in PDF format and uploaded in the appropriate section within the online application form. Please name using the following naming convention:

[CI-Surname]_[Type (e.g. PhD Evidence)]_MHF_Fellowship
For example: Jones_PhD evidence_MHF_Fellowship

After selecting relevant file, ensure you click "Upload" to attach the document.

STEP 4 Lodge Your Application

Once you have completed your Application Form, click “Review and Submit”. The system will then take you to the “Review My Application” page where you can ensure you have completed all sections.

Once you are satisfied with the contents of your application, click “Submit” to complete your application.

Applications must be received by the specified closing date. Applications not submitted via the online portal by the deadline will be ruled ineligible and will be not be considered.