Australian Functional Genomics Network

Catalyst Grant Application for Model System Study

**The AFGN will consider awarding an additional one-year funding for a subset of Stream 1 projects that have achieved promising results during or at the conclusion of the functional genomics investigation, which if supported with extended funding will generate high-value deliverables that advance the objectives of the AFGN.**

**Examples would include, but not be restricted to, projects that propose to:**

* Incorporate functional validation, beyond model creation and phenotyping, to better understand the underlying pathophysiology of the disease.
* Chart a route to the development of future therapies.
* Analyse additional patients with newly identified mutations in the same gene, using the model that was established, to build an informative series of cases that enable robust genotype-phenotype correlations.
* Analyse additional controls to validate the assay used in the initial grant to build capacity for analysis of future variants.
* Describe a critical pathway to a larger grant application.
* Develop a strategy to leverage sustainable competitive grant support.

**Eligibility:**

Applications for extended funding may be submitted by any investigator who has been awarded a catalyst grant from the AFGN. Generally, applications should be submitted after completion of the first term of the catalyst grant, but will be accepted as early as 3 months prior if justified.

Lead applicants must be affiliated with an Australian public or private institution that is able to formulate a funding agreement with the AFGN.

***\*NOTE:*** Investigators who have secured funds from another source, other than an initial catalyst grant, for this project are not eligible to apply.

**Application Procedure:**

Complete the Application for Renewal of AFGN Catalyst Grants form below.

Submit applications to [functional.genomics@mcri.edu.au](mailto:functional.genomics@mcri.edu.au). You will receive a submission confirmation email.

**Selection process:** Applications will be reviewed at the monthly SRC meeting.

Applications will be evaluated against:

1. Quality of the research strategy.
2. Adequacy of experimental design (including controls).
3. Ability to assess functional impact of the variant/s (if applicable)
4. Justified research cost/timeline
5. Capability of the investigator/s to deliver the project.
6. Likelihood of generating quality data for publication.
7. Contribution to new knowledge of the disease mechanism and, where applicable, for progressing therapeutic pathways.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission following the SRC meeting.

If the application is not accepted in the first instance, the SRC may request submission of a revised proposal for further consideration.

**Project Funding:** Projects will be funded in “quanta” based on the scope of the project, the number of variants to be modelled and the organism or cell-based system used. Each quantum equates to $15,000 and a maximum of 4 quanta (total of $60,000) can be applied for in any given Project submission. When applying for multiple quanta, milestone-dependent funding may apply.

We encourage researchers to utilise existing research infrastructure capabilities in their project design. **Phenomics Australia** is an NCRIS-funded initiative that offers a variety of services and expertise in disease modelling. For more information, contact John Parisot at [j.parisot@therapeuticinnovation.com.au](mailto:j.parisot@therapeuticinnovation.com.au) or visit <https://phenomicsaustralia.org.au/>.

**Funding Renewal Application**

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| --- | --- |
| COORDINATING PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR | |
| Name: |  |
| Institutional affiliation: |  |
| Position: |  |
| Department: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Phone: |  |
| Project Title: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (if required) | |
| Name: |  |
| Institutional affiliation: |  |
| Position: |  |
| Department: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Phone: |  |

***Note:*** *It is a requirement of the AFGN that the head of the laboratory is a PI on the application. We support applications that are led by early career researchers, however, it is ultimately the responsibility of the head of the laboratory to ensure delivery of the project. You may add additional principal investigators as required.*

I confirm that the head of the laboratory has signed off on this project.

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| GENE NAME: | DATE: |
| SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES OF ORIGINAL PROJECT (1/2-page)  Provide summary of the relevant outcomes, including generation of model organism(s), phenotypic analyses, and results together with interpretation. | |
|  | |
| PROJECT PROPOSAL (1-page)  Outline experiments to be conducted. Please structure the experimental methods per aim with expected aim and associated milestone. Use of sub-headings is encouraged. | |
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| JUSTIFICATION FOR FUNDING RENEWAL (1/2-page)  Provide justification for continued work on the original project objectives or on the new project direction. Outline expected outcomes and impact of additional funding. | |
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| DELIVERABLE | MILESTONE | DURATION (MONTHS) | COMPLETION  DATE (MM/YY) |
| Please ensure a milestone is appointed to each aim. The first milestone should be related to the establishment of the experimental model. | | | |
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| BUDGET and BUDGET JUSTIFICATION (1/3 page) |
| Enumerate the budget items (salary, reagents, services, etc.) for this proposal.\*  Please state the budget per aim. The final amount requested should be selected in quantum of $15k, up to a total of four quanta of $60K. |
| Total requested:  $15,000  $30,000  $45,000  $60,000 |

\* While the itemized budget is required for the assessment of the deliverables of the research, this catalyst grant (a grant-in-aid) is awarded with a one-line budget for personnel support and direct research cost. Please note that overheads are not eligible for acquittal under the funding rule.

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| SAMPLES | | | |
| Are patient-specific samples required | YES | NO | |
| If yes – what type: |  | | |
| Outline the timeline and process of Human/Animal Research Ethics compliance (where appropriate): |  | | |
| If your application is successful, do you agree to acquire appropriate ethics approval from your institution prior to commencement? | YES | | NO |

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| REFERENCES (maximum five (5) relevant references. Include any submitted manuscripts related to the originally proposed project.) |
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