



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences (MDHS)
Dean's Innovation Grant
2020 Application and Funding Guidelines

1 INTRODUCTION

The University of Melbourne **MDHS Innovation & Enterprise Strategy** aims to:

- i. support the translation of health and medical research into tangible outcomes with direct community and economic impact.
- ii. build an entrepreneurial culture and workforce in the Faculty and increase industry engagement by providing new initiatives and development programs for our staff and students.

The **MDHS Innovation & Enterprise (I&E) Advisory Board** was established to implement the MDHS Innovation and Enterprise Strategic Plan recommendations and guide the prioritisation of Research Innovation & Commercialisation business development activities for MDHS Schools and the Faculty.

Conventional sources of funding such as the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) are increasingly unlikely to support proof-of-concept translational studies required to drive basic science discoveries to a stage where they are likely to attract investment by industry.

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the MDHS **Dean's Innovation Grants** to support promising scientific discoveries.

2 OBJECTIVES

The Dean's Innovation Grants aim to help boost the Faculty's commercial pipeline for scientific discoveries by supporting the development of innovative projects to a stage where they are well positioned to attract subsequent funding from government (e.g. Medical Research Future Fund; MRFF), industry and venture capital to progress to the next phase of the R&D. These grants are targeted at early / mid-career researchers.

The objective of the scheme is to support **translational research (with the potential to achieve significant societal and/or economic benefit)** requiring further funding to progress towards proof-of-concept prior to investment.

3 AWARD

Funding for up to **two grants** will be provided in 2020. Ongoing funding for this scheme will be subject to the outcome of Faculty review.

The award will include:

1. Funding for up to \$50,000 per grant to be used over 12 months and anticipated to start in October 2020.
2. Education and mentoring for projects in Pharma or MedTech via entry into SPARK Melbourne: <https://www.sparkoceania.com/spark-uom/>.

4 KEY DATES

- Call for applications: 6th July 2020
- Application closing date: 6th August 2020
- Announcement of short-listed candidates: September 2020
- Pitch Event: September/October 2020
- Project Start Date: October 2020
- Mid-year progress report due: 6 months following commencement
- Final progress report due: 12 months following commencement

5 ASSESSMENT AND KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

The **Dean's Innovation Grants** will be governed and assessed by the MDHS I&E Advisory Board and MDHS Business Development & Innovation team.

As per the Terms of Reference, the MDHS I&E Advisory Board will agree to the principles and rules of the Dean's Innovation Grants, and support proof-of-concept analysis for promising research translation, by acting as reviewers.

All matters relating to the Dean's Innovation Fund are Commercial in Confidence. In the event of a conflict of interest for an Advisory Board member, conflict of interest principles will apply. This includes disclosure of the potential conflict to the Board and physical exclusion from deliberation on that project.

Applications will need to include the following:

- The application form
- A **2-page CV** detailing research and development experience; industry experience; academic achievements; awards; community engagement and leadership potential in innovation, research and development and/or commercialisation

Applications will be assessed using the following selection criteria:

- a) A clearly defined commercial and/or translational goal with significant potential for future funding by government and/or industry.
- b) Potential to address an unmet clinical need and deliver significant societal impact.
- c) Project milestones and deliverables that are achievable within 12 months of the start of funding and within the requested budget.
- d) Demonstrated capacity for excellence in research and innovation.

Applications will be short-listed, and short-listed candidates will be invited to pitch their projects in a 'Shark Tank'-style pitch event to a judging panel comprising of representatives from industry. Two successful grant recipients will be announced.

6 APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Applicants will also have to provide a **signed statement of support** from their Head of Department that states the following:

1. The applicant holds a salaried appointment (fixed-term or continuing) at Level A, B or C within the MDHS Faculty at the time of application and for the duration of the grant.
2. Where applicants do not hold a continuing or fixed-term appointment until Oct

2021, their Head of Department must confirm salary support for contract extension for the duration of the grant.

3. The CV and research outputs of the applicant are an accurate reflection of their academic career to date.
4. The applicant has the resources to deliver the project objectives.

7 BUDGET ITEMS

Items that directly support the research program which may be funded are:

- a) Personnel (only when new and external expertise is required)
- b) Equipment
- c) Consumables
- d) Travel - only if it is directly related to this application
- e) Other (e.g. services contracted from other organisations or items that do not fit the above headings)

Funding **may not** be spent on staff salaries (except where new and external expertise is required) or costs not directly related to this application.

8 APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications will need to be emailed to: mdhs-innovation@unimelb.edu.au and will include the **application form**, a **2-page CV** and **signed statement of support** from the Head of Department.

9 ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT

All enquiries are to be directed to the Dean's Innovation Grants coordinator at mdhs-innovation@unimelb.edu.au

10 PROMOTIONAL OBLIGATIONS

Successful applicants should note that in the event of an offer and acceptance of the MDHS Dean's Innovation Grant, a description of their research will be published. Acknowledgement of the Dean's Innovation Grant support of the project must be included in any publications or presentations.

11 REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

Successful recipients must provide written bi-annual reports including a progress report and a final report demonstrating that contractually agreed funding and research outcomes are progressing as planned.

12 OTHER

The intellectual property (IP) is University owned and UoM is leading or has put in place all required agreements for the exploitation of the IP. IP derived from proof-of-concept projects will be wholly owned by UoM (unless in the instance of co-ownership) and shall be subject to UoM's Intellectual Property Policy.

Non-UoM personnel should be identified within the grant application and their role within the project should be defined.

The idea or invention must not be encumbered by any other prior obligations that would

preclude UoM from commercialising it (i.e. exclusive license, sponsored research agreement, ongoing collaboration with an industry partner, or consulting agreement).

13 CONDITIONS OF AWARD

The Chief Investigator is responsible for the project, for its concept, the strategic decisions called for in its pursuit and for the communication of the results.

The Chief Investigator must ensure the research is conducted in accordance with University policies, including compliance with the Code of Conduct for Research and human research ethics, animal experimentation ethics, requirements of the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator, health and safety and intellectual property. No project may proceed unless the appropriate ethical or other required clearances have been obtained.

Funding is for one year only. Projects must be completed, and funds expended within 12 months of project start-date. MDHS reserves the right to reclaim unspent funds within the period of this grant.

Requests for a project extension must be approved by the Chief Investigator's Head of School/Department/Centre/Institute and submitted to the MDHS Research Development team three months prior to the project end date. Only one extension will be granted.

Unless special conditions are set down by the committee, the Chief Investigator is responsible for ensuring that the expenditure of the grant is broadly in accord with the budget presented in the application and is consistent at all times with the nature and aims of the project and objectives of the Scheme.