# Supporting Clinical Research - Small Grants

The Melbourne Children’s campus partners are committed to strengthening a research culture at RCH, through providing research-focussed education, training and capacity building opportunities and developing a dynamic and professional research environment.

The Clinical Research Incubator is an initiative that identifies and addresses barriers and challenges for clinical researchers on the Melbourne Children’s Campus. As part of this initiative, we are trialling a new program which will fund RCH clinicians (nurses, doctors and allied health professionals) to undertake a small research project, which is intended to address a clinical problem or question. The funding will engage and support those who have not had much research experience or are not currently research active.

The MCRI has kindly funded the program which will offer 10 grants of $10,000 to support RCH clinicians for a 12-month project, as well as range of supports to help plan and activate the project i.e. Knowledge Translation & Impact planning, ethics & statistics. Out of the 10 grants offered this year, a minimum of 4 grants will be allocated to Allied Health and Nursing applicants.

The primary aims of the Small Project Grants scheme are to:

* Encourage individuals in either of the following 2 categories to undertake a small but new research project:
  + New to research or are early in their research career; or
  + Returning to research following a break e.g. have completed some research training, or a PhD but are not currently research active to assist with re-entry to research after some time away.   
    Note: This funding is not to be used to support existing/current PhD candidates
* Support RCH staff to undertake a clinical research project within clinical departments with the support of an experienced researcher e.g. Research Lead, Mentor, Clinician Scientist Fellow (applicants without a mentor will be supported to find one if successful with the grant).
* Support RCH staff to undertake a research project with a translation focus, particularly in research aiming to improve models of care
* Support research that benefits the RCH community and patients
* Support staff development in research on the Melbourne Children’s Campus
* Increase research productivity at RCH

**Eligibility criteria**

* The applicant must be currently employed by the RCH.
* The project must be aligned with RCH strategic goals and have the potential to contribute to the wellbeing of patients and families attending RCH and the wider research community.
* The research project should be completed within 12 months, with the outcomes reported back to the Clinical Research Incubator.
* The applicant must be new to research or early in their research career or have had some research training but not be currently research active. They should not have received more than $50,000 in total competitive research funding during the previous 5 years
* The application must be endorsed by the relevant RCH Head of Department.

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| Small Grants- Application Form | |
| Instructions to Applicants:   * Please complete the below form and email the completed application form, HoD sign off and any associated documents to: [researchhub@mcri.edu.au](mailto:researchhub@mcri.edu.au) * Applications close COB 29th May with awardees announced end of June. * For any questions please contact: [researchhub@mcri.edu.au](mailto:researchhub@mcri.edu.au) | |
| **Applicant name:** |  |
| **RCH email address:** |  |
| **Job Title:** |  |
| **RCH Department:** |  |
| **Head of Department Name:** |  |
| **Project Title:** |  |
| **1. Tell us about you, your interest in research and any previous research experience.**  [Max 250 words] | |
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| **2. What is the clinical problem you want to address and why do you see it as research priority?** [Max 250 words] | |
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| **3. How will you solve, or make tangible progress towards solving (e.g. by planning, mapping or scoping), the problem in 12 months?** Please include a brief plan for how the funds will be spent and complete the timeline on the below Gant chart [Max 350 words] | |
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**Timeline:**

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| **Activities** | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June |
| e.g. Protocol development |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| e.g. ethics approval |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| e.g. data collection |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 4. **How will this project improve clinical care and/or outcomes for children and families?**  [Max 250 words] |
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| **5. Who needs to be involved to ensure success – other clinicians, other researchers, consumers?**  [Max 250 words] |
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| **6. How will this opportunity build your capacity to conduct and/or further clinical research?**  [Max 250 words] |
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| 7. **Do you have an experienced research mentor(s)? If not, would you like CRI support to link with a suitable clinician researcher mentor?**  [Max 50 words] |
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| **Head of Department endorsement** (or attach email of support):  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Signature Date |