

**From:** Noel Chambers [news@nfmri.org.au](mailto:news@nfmri.org.au)  
**Subject:** March 2014 Newsletter  
**Date:** 19 March 2014 6:18 pm  
**To:** Noel [nchambers@nfmri.org.au](mailto:nchambers@nfmri.org.au)

# National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation



NFMRI

## Welcome

Welcome to NFMRI's first newsletter.

The National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation's primary objective is to support innovative areas of research to help benefit mankind through the prevention or eradication of diseases.

### Our Mission

"To advance innovations in medical research related to the nature, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and incidence of disease and other health problems that have a significant impact on the health of humans"

The Foundation seeks to partner with researchers and donors to identify, evaluate and support innovative quality research projects with identified impact objectives.

## Upcoming Events

[Adelaide](#), March 26th

4:00 – 5:00pm

## Announcement

NFMRI and NSW Trade and Investment announce a \$400,000 joint funding initiative for research into infectious diseases

## E.O.I.

NFMRI is now calling for expressions of interest for research funding commencing 2015.

For further information visit [www.nfmri.org.au](http://www.nfmri.org.au)

## Relaunching the National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation (NFMRI)

The Foundation was incorporated on 3 November 1977, originally as the Sydney Hospital Foundation for Research. More recently the Foundation was called the Sydney Foundation for Medical Research.

In 2012/2013, the Foundation undertook a strategic review of if its activities and funding in the Australian medical research sector. This review identified opportunities for the Foundation to increase its impact by refocussing and supporting research to advance medical innovations and enable collaborations nationally.

On the 2nd January 2014, the Foundation changed its name to the **National Foundation for Medical Research & Innovation** and updated its mission.

A number of events were held in February and March to introduce NFMRI's strategy and engage with donors, researchers, government and other key members of the philanthropic community.

We would like to thank our hosts:

Sydney, 19th February: NSW Department of Trade and Investment

Melbourne, 26th February: Monash University

Brisbane, 6th March: Life Sciences Queensland

Adelaide, 26th March: Knowledge Commercialisation Australasia.

## Introducing our Strategy

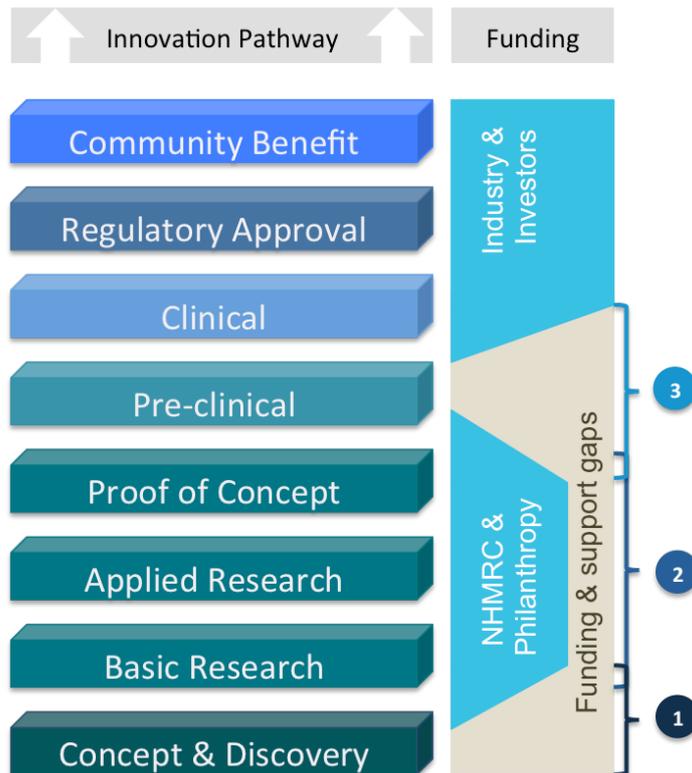
Historically, funding of medical research in Australia has been determined by outputs – research papers, citations and validated by scientific peer review.

Whilst these factors are important; the advancement of innovation, the formation of collaborations and the ability to deliver impact are the outcomes NFMRI 's funding delivers.

To maximise our impact NFMRI focuses on advancing innovation.

By looking outwards and supporting the gaps along the innovation pathway applying resources, networks and knowledge NFMRI helps philanthropy make a difference.

NFMRI supports medical research in three key gap areas, we call social investment portfolios.



- 1 Original innovation and discovery not competitive for NHMRC grants. Young researchers, early discoveries and new paradigms that need support to become competitive and stand on their own two feet.
- 2 Support for strategic collaborative research activities focussed on advancing research and validating directions. Providing access to the additional research skills not available through currently available funding.
- 3 Often referred to as the "valley of death" this is the area where research is required to attract and compete for potential investors and collaborators. Funding mechanisms often do not support or encourage contract research activities necessary to answer critical research questions.

Further information about our strategy can be found

- By visiting our [website](#)
- Reviewing our [introductory presentation](#)
- downloading our [impact giving guide](#)

## Joint Funding to Support Infectious Diseases Research

On the 19th February, NSW Department of Primary Industries Acting Director General, Michael Bullen announced a collaboration between NFMRI and Biosecurity NSW providing \$400,000 of joint funding for research to support innovative research into new vaccines, medicines and new and faster diagnosis tools to identify and stop the spread of infectious diseases for emerging human zoonotic disease.

Supporting breakthrough research into infectious diseases that affect human health such as Hendra virus and Australian bat lyssavirus transmitted from animals to humans has been identified as a priority area in need of research support.

With around 75 per cent of emerging human infectious diseases coming from animals. There are around 50 known diseases in Australia that are transmitted from animals to humans.

Further information is available on our website. Applicants should complete and submit the expression of interest form before the 30th April 2014.

Read the [media release here](#).

## Call for Expressions of Interest

NFMRI has now opened calls for expressions of interest for:

1. General research applications
2. Infectious diseases research

Researchers should firstly complete and submit the Expression of Interest Form.

- Applicants must use the form provided.
- No additional pages will be considered.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- One application only will be considered from each principal researcher. • Non-confidential information is requested.

Chief Investigators for short-listed projects will be invited to submit a more detailed research application relevant to the portfolio identified in their EOI for funding commencing in January 2015.

Applicants should carefully consider how their research project strategically aligns with the Foundation's mission. Applicants are advised to review the NFMRI website and supporting materials to understand the Foundation's strategy and the three portfolios in which grants are awarded.

- Funding is provided for specific research projects and not salaries.
- The Foundation recognises that a major component of a research project may include salaries.
- The Foundation does not pay for travel or conferences.

SIGNED EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST MUST BE SUBMITTED TO [GRANTS@NFMRI.ORG.AU](mailto:GRANTS@NFMRI.ORG.AU) NO LATER THAN 5.00PM ON 30th APRIL 2014. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

## Introducing Nancy Piche

Nancy Piche will join NFMRI as the Grants, Communications and Engagement Coordinator, commencing on Monday 24th March.

For our current grant recipients and those applying for funding Nancy will be your primary contact. This position will allow Vanessa Chase to focus her activities around managing the accounts for the Foundation.

Nancy will join NFMRI following her recent role at the Myer Family Company, where she worked directly with ultra high-net-worth families and clients on the administration of their strategic giving programs. Nancy also oversaw secretariat activities for the Telematics Trust, a charitable fund specialising in philanthropic support for educational projects using Information and Communication Technology (ICT). In

2013, Nancy undertook research into Australia's giving history and was co-author of Australia's Top 50 Philanthropic Gifts, an initiative led by a working group comprising various philanthropic stakeholders.

Prior to this, Nancy worked to promote philanthropy for health and medical research at Research Australia, where she also managed the National Youth Ambassador Program.

Originally from Canada, Nancy brings a wealth of international experience to the team having worked in the community development, government and education sectors in Canada, South America and Korea. She also holds a Bachelor of International Business, along with Post Graduate Certificates in International Business and Trade.

[www.nfmri.org.au](http://www.nfmri.org.au)

This email was sent by: [news@nfmri.org](mailto:news@nfmri.org)

To unsubscribe, please [click here](#)

Sydney Foundation for Medical Research, Level 31, 60 Margaret Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia

