

NFMRI grant rounds now open

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# National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation



## New grants commencing in 2024 announced

### Dr. John Raftos AM Award for Advancing Innovation

At our awards night held in December 2023, **A/Prof. Peter van Wijngaarden** and **Prof. Michael Good AO** were announced recipients of NFMRI's 2024 Dr John Raftos AM Award for Advancing Innovation.

The Board of NFMRI awarded the medal to Prof. Good for the significant advancement of both the malaria and group A streptococcus vaccines supported by NFMRI, as well as to A/Prof van Wijngaarden for the translation of his state-of-the-art retinal camera prototype via the establishment of spin-off company "Enlighten Imaging". Both candidates have achieved tremendous success in their own right, and as both were equally worthy of the Award, it was resolved by the Board to present two Awards in 2024. Each recipient will receive a prize of \$50,000 in the form of a research grant to continue supporting their research activities.

More information about the achievements of both recipients can be found on our [website here](#).

### Grants commencing in 2024

NFMRI recently approved the following grants commencing in 2024:

**Prof. Russell Dale**, The University of Sydney, \$137,324 over one year, portfolio 2

*Brain RIBO-STRESS signature: a biomarker of neurodevelopment and neuropsychiatric disorders*

*We thank our anonymous partner for generously supporting this project.*

**Dr. Pierre Qian**, The University of Sydney, \$180,000 over 1.5 years, portfolio 3  
*Mu Microwave catheter for treatment of hypertension*

**Prof. Bernard Flynn**, Monash University, \$189,400 over one year, portfolio 3  
*Gastrointestinal-restricted ALK5 inhibitors for the treatment of internal fibrosis*

[Project descriptions are available on our website here.](#)

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## NFMRI's Current Funding Opportunities

NFMRI's grant rounds are currently open. The Foundation seeks to strategically support biomedical research into potential new drugs, medicines, tools, diagnostics, vaccines and devices. Our targeted support enables research to cross what is often referred to as the 'valley of death' and advance towards attracting the next-step partner on the translation pathway.

Those interested in applying for funding should read more about our [strategy](#) and [portfolios](#) prior to making a submission. Our [success stories](#) and [current research](#) also provide a good indication as to the types of projects we normally support and most common questions are addressed in our [FAQs](#) section.

Should applicants have any additional questions, NFMRI is holding an online grant round Q&A session at **12pm AEDT on Tuesday, 20 February 2024**. [You can register here.](#)

**Please note that we have recently implemented a new online EOI process.**  
**Things to note:**

- You can complete your EOI online and save your work at any time.
- After clicking 'save', a unique link will be generated and sent to an email address of your choosing. **Please save this link as we are unable to access these or assist if the link is lost.**
- You may then share this link with colleagues, if required, and return to continue your EOI.
- The link will automatically expire after 30 days if the EOI isn't submitted.
- After submission, you will receive a confirmation email which includes a record of your EOI (sometimes the university's IT security systems automatically block these emails).

## NFMRI's 2024 Funding Opportunities

*Please note that all three grant rounds below will close at 6pm AEDT on Monday, 25 March 2024 and nominations for the Dr John Dixon Hughes Medal will close at 6pm AEST on Monday, 20 May 2024.*

[Click here](#) for more information about our grant rounds

[Click here](#) for our online expression of interest form

[Click here](#) to view an example of our complete EOI form for reference only

### 1. NFMRI General Grant Round

Applications for innovations across all diseases and conditions are sought from Australian publicly funded research organisations.

**Focus:** Open nationally across all diseases and conditions affecting humans. Applications that fall within portfolios 2 & 3 only. This year we would like to see more asthma and allergies projects.

### 2. Childhood and Youth Diseases Grant Round

NFMRI is seeking EOIs for research projects into diseases affecting children and youth.

**Focus:** Childhood and youth diseases applications that fall within portfolios 2 & 3 only, open nationally.

**Special thank you to our generous partner for supporting this grant round. Our partner wishes to remain anonymous at this time.**

### **3. Alzheimer's Disease Grant Round**

As part of our partnership with The Mason Foundation (managed by Equity Trustees), NFMRI is seeking EOIs for Alzheimer's disease research projects. We strongly encourage women to apply and for the researcher leading the project day-to-day to be listed as the Chief Investigator, including mid-career researchers.

**Focus:** Alzheimer's disease applications that fall within portfolios 1, 2 & 3 (preference for 2 & 3), open nationally.

### **4. Dr John Dixon Hughes OAM Medal for Medical Research Innovation nominations**

NFMRI offers the Dr John Dixon Hughes Medal every two years to a researcher under the age of 45 for outstanding contribution towards the development and advancement of a biomedical innovation 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.

Self-nominations are not accepted. The nominee must be under the age of 45 as at 1 October 2024. Nominations must be for an individual rather than a team.

More information, including the nomination form, is available on our [website here](#).

Nominations are currently being accepted **until 6pm AEST on Monday, 20 May 2024**.

**Special thanks to our generous partner:**



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## Save the date: NFMRI's 2024 Conference



NFMRI's sixth conference, [Research with Purpose 2024](#), will be taking place on the 26th-28th of November 2024 at the [Tangalooma Island Resort](#) in Queensland (75 minute ferry from Brisbane Airport wharf).

More information, including a draft program, registrations, sponsorship opportunities and room reservations will be announced over the coming months.

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## Partnering with NFMRI

NFMRI is always happy to consider partnership opportunities with other foundations, trusts, organisations or individuals looking to support innovative medical research in Australia and achieve greater outcomes from their funding. We are able to work within the disease and geographic parameters of our partners to collectively support new programs focussing on translation. This can better enable academic research outcomes, discoveries and innovations to move beyond academic and attract next stage partners including government

move beyond academia and attract next stage partners including government, industry and venture capital. These partners have the expertise, capability and capacity to take research to the next stage, navigate the complex regulatory and approval systems and enable access to those in the community who are in need sooner.



**NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

## Partnering for success

NFMRI partners with funders of medical research to create impact

**Supporting Medical Research  
Advancing Innovation  
Enabling Collaboration**

**A focus on creating impact**

NFMRI partners with other funders, applying its strategy, systems, networks and expertise to achieve common goals.

Founded in 1977 and with DGR1 status the National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation (NFMRI) has an established partnering program assisting other funders of medical research achieve better outcomes.

Supporting medical research that is important in the translation of discoveries leading to new innovations including; medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, devices, biologics and tools NFMRI has built specific expertise, capability and capacity that has enabled success.

Through our partnering program NFMRI is collaborating with other funders to achieve our missions.

[Contact us](#) to learn more and enquire about how we can work together.

**Professor Janet Davies**  
"NFMRI can foster a culture that enhances commercial uptake of our biomedical innovations, mentor academic inventors and facilitate connections between academia, philanthropy and commercial sectors"

**A.Prof Bernard Flynn**  
"NFMRI provides critical assistance to researchers in bridging the 'valley of death' that separates basic science from viable therapies"

<b>1</b> <b>GOVERNANCE</b> Strong governance forms the foundation of what we do, our culture and our partnerships.	<b>2</b> <b>STRATEGY</b> Our strategy focuses on targeted support that addresses gaps to enable translation.	<b>3</b> <b>SYSTEMS</b> NFMRI has built bespoke scalable systems and capability specific to our strategy.	<b>4</b> <b>TRACK RECORD</b> Proven track record of success with breath and depth across diseases and innovations
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[nfMRI.org.au](http://nfMRI.org.au) [respiratoryinfection.org.au](http://respiratoryinfection.org.au)

NFMRI focuses strictly on supporting early stage biomedical innovations (drugs, vaccines, devices, diagnostics, biologicals and tools) advancements to cross the 'valley of death'. Our processes, systems capability and capacity have been purpose built to support a unique strategy and deliver impact by assisting publicly funded research organisations to attract next stage partners along the innovation pathway.

This strategy and support has already prevented a number of research projects from withering-on-the-vine. These projects have attracted next stage partners, secured investment and entered clinical trials across a number of diseases and innovations.

Based upon a framework of good governance, scalable systems and reproducible evidence of success, NFMRI established a targeted partnering program to assist other well-governed funders of research access our capability

and capacity. Every dollar put towards our partnerships is distributed to innovative projects that meet the objectives of both NFMRI and the partner.

If your organisation would like to discuss a potential partnership further, please don't hesitate to contact Dr Noel Chambers by emailing [enquiries@nfmri.org.au](mailto:enquiries@nfmri.org.au)

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## Upcoming Events

NFMRI's Online Grant Round Q&A Session: 12pm AEDT, 20 February 2024 [Register here](#)

If you would like to invite a speaker from NFMRI please complete the [speaker request form](#).



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**Our mailing address is:**

PO Box 6247, Highton VIC 3216  
Level 12, 44 Martin Place, Sydney 2000

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