

# National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation



## **Alzheimer's disease funding opportunities opening on 30 August 2021**

Through our partnership with The Mason Foundation (managed by Equity Trustees), NFMRI will continuously be accepting expressions of interest for research into Alzheimer's disease, subject to available funds. Expressions of interest may be submitted at any time and will be reviewed in line with the next cut-off date once received. All three portfolios are open, with preference for projects that fall within portfolios 2 and 3. A key aspect of portfolios 2 and 3 is accessing external capability to undertake critical research with high translational value.

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. The focus of our reviews will be on the innovation and its potential of successfully securing the relevant next-step partner.

The next cut-off dates for Alzheimer's disease EOIs include:

- **6pm AEST, 14 October 2021** - Funding announcements expected to be made in August 2022.
- **6pm AEST, 21 March 2022** - Funding announcements expected to be made in November 2022.

Further cut-off dates may be announced in the future subject to available funding. The EOI form will be made available on our website here from the 30th of August 2021.

We wish to thank The Mason Foundation (managed by Equity Trustees) for their generous support towards Alzheimer's disease research.



## **New NFMRI Supporter: State Trustees Australia Foundation**

We wish to thank our newest supporter, State Trustees Australia Foundation, for partnering with NFMRI to support cancer research in Victoria.



## **Presentations at universities and institutes**

As part of our grants program, we will soon be resuming in-person presentations to educate researchers around translation and to address some of the factors that will increase their chances of success when applying for grants. Due to COVID-19, all presentations had been postponed, but we are now looking to resume presentations across Australia in the coming months. Those interested should complete the [speaker request form](#) on our website.

## **Measurement report**

Measurement is becoming increasingly important to philanthropists, foundations and other funders of programmes focused on delivering social returns. Established metrics, however, don't always align with the needs of funders. At the same time, universal metrics can also result in superfluous reporting, wasting both time and resources.

What isn't measured and rewarded can often be as important as what is. The balance lies in ensuring that measurement is useful and not harmful.

NFMRI's guide titled 'Measuring for success' is intended to facilitate discussions around the use of metrics, and to assist funders make informed decisions about what is measured, why and how

[Click here to download a copy of our Measuring for success report](#)

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## 2021 NFMRI Conference Registrations Open



NFMRI's fifth conference, Research with Purpose 2021, is taking place on the 23rd-25th of November 2021 at [The Anchorage Hotel & Spa](#) in Port Stephens, New South Wales (approximately 30 minutes from Newcastle).

To make it easier for delegates travelling from interstate and to suit various travel itineraries, the conference will commence later in the afternoon on the

23rd of November 2021 and will conclude mid-afternoon on the 25th of November 2021. Our early bird registrations are now [open here](#).

More information about our significantly discounted [accommodation rates](#), [speaker profiles](#) and [registration terms and conditions](#) are available on our website.



**RESEARCH WITH PURPOSE  
2021 CONFERENCE**

The Anchorage Hotel & Spa . Port Stephens, NSW

**23  
NOVEMBER  
25**

Our purpose is our "why". It guides our activities, strategies and intent. For many organisations, including charities, purpose relates to delivering better health outcomes for the community. The biggest funder of health and medical research in Australia is the NHMRC, which is also funded by the community through taxes. When asked, the general public believes that medical research should be funded because it helps save lives, improve health outcomes, find cures and treatments for diseases.

*The intent is clear and consistent.*

However, is our community's intent currently aligned with and being met by the medical research sector?

*By accepting funding is there a social contract to prioritise intent.*

This year's conference will explore benefits, harm and wastage in the medical research ecosystem and how together we can lead cultural and systems change in order to do better. It will also focus on ways the sector can improve efficiencies and communication with various stakeholders, including the general community. Because success relies on harnessing many skills sets across various sectors including research, industry, investors,

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

[Download a copy of our draft program by clicking here](#)

## 2020 NFMRI Annual Report



[Download 2020 Annual Report](#)

Recently released, our 2020 Annual Report showcases some of our success stories achieved over recent years thanks to our partners and supporters.

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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 academia and attract next stage partners including government, industry and venture capital. These partners have the expertise, capability and

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.

The infographic is titled "Partnering for success" and features the NFMRI logo. It includes a diagram of the innovation pathway with stages: Research, Development, Pre-clinical, Clinical research, and Commercialisation. A quote from Professor Janet Davies states: "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". Another quote from A. Prof Bernard Flynn says: "NFMRI provides critical assistance to researchers in bridging the 'valley of death' that separates basic science from viable therapies". The infographic also lists four key areas: 1. GOVERNANCE (Strong governance forms the foundation of what we do, our culture and our partnerships), 2. STRATEGY (Our strategy focuses on targeted support that addresses gaps to enable translation), 3. SYSTEMS (NFMRI has built bespoke scalable systems and capability specific to our strategy), and 4. TRACK RECORD (Proven track record of success with breadth and depth across diseases and innovations). The website [nfmri.org.au](http://nfmri.org.au) is mentioned at the bottom.

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.

**1 GOVERNANCE**  
Strong governance forms the foundation of what we do, our culture and our partnerships.

**2 STRATEGY**  
Our strategy focuses on targeted support that addresses gaps to enable translation.

**3 SYSTEMS**  
NFMRI has built bespoke scalable systems and capability specific to our strategy.

**4 TRACK RECORD**  
Proven track record of success with breadth and depth across diseases and innovations.

[nfmri.org.au](http://nfmri.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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## Recent blog posts

- [Measuring for success](#)
  - [More than \\$1.6m in research funding announced](#)
  - [From evidence to practice: exploring translational pathways for clinical medical science and public health research](#)
  - [Increasing capacity and expanding capabilities using technology](#)
  - [A for-purpose view of supporting research translation towards impact](#)
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