

Nominations closing soon for the 2026 Dr. John Dixon Hughes
OAM Medal

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National Foundation
for Medical Research
and Innovation



Nominations closing soon for the 2026 Dr. John Dixon Hughes OAM Medal

We wish to remind everyone that nominations for the 2026 Dr. John Dixon Hughes OAM Medal will soon close.

Those wishing to invite our CEO, Dr. Noel Chambers, to deliver a presentation at their institution should complete this [enquiry form](#) as soon as possible since availability for the remainder of 2026 is very limited.

The presentations help researchers better understand what NFMRI and other philanthropic partners are seeking to achieve and important considerations when making a submission. The presentation also focuses on the translational pathway, research planning and strategy as well as intellectual property protection.

2026 NFMRI Funding Opportunities

1. Nomination call for 2026 Dr. John Dixon Hughes OAM Medal

The Medal will be awarded to the researcher (under the age of 45) judged to be responsible for the best biomedical innovation and development paper published, patent taken out, or commercial-in-confidence report in the previous two calendar years. Innovations include Australian research and discoveries

into new medicines, vaccines, biologicals, devices, tools or diagnostics. The Medal is awarded together with a prize of \$50,000 in the form of a research grant to further support the activities of the researcher.


Closing: 6pm AEST on Monday, 18 May 2026

More information including the nomination form can be found on our [website here](#).

Save the date: NFMRI's 2027 Conference

More information will be made available on our website later this year.





NFMRI is pleased to release its [2024 Annual Report](#), which highlights the progress and impact our grantees are achieving through the support provided by NFMRI and its partners.

In 2024, NFMRI carried out an updated analysis of its strategic outcomes to date, which includes projects completed before 2022. Although a number of research projects are ongoing and expected to succeed in attracting next-step partners, an analysis of projects commencing between 2013-2022 yielded better than expected results.

Sixty-nine percent of projects supported achieved our primary measure of success in attaining next-step partners **leveraging over \$14.50** of external funding for every dollar of grant funding – a total of **\$59.9 million** (this excludes one project that leveraged a total of \$212 million). **Five innovations** have commenced **clinical trials** and **two innovations** are delivering **benefits to the community**.

Analysis of our strategic outcomes provides evidence that what NFMRI does is reproducible and effective, irrespective of indication, disease or innovation (medicine, vaccine, biological, device or diagnostic).

Examples of our impact can be found on our [website here](#).

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 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 central graphic of a staircase representing the innovation pathway, with steps labeled: Concept & Discovery, Basic Research, Applied Research, Proof of Concept, Prototype, Preclinical Studies, and Commercialisation. Text on the right highlights NFMRI's focus on creating impact and lists quotes from Professor Janet Davies and A. Prof Bernard Flynn. At the bottom, four key areas are listed: Governance, Strategy, Systems, and Track Record.

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"

- 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 enquiries@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

Recent blog posts

- [NFMRI congratulates Prof. Nicholas Opie for recent Synchron advancements providing benefits to people in need](#)
- [Are you an inventor? - Panel with Professor Robert French AC](#)
- [Research translation, the beginning starts with the end](#)
- [Considerations when applying for NFMRI support](#)
- [Research with purpose: thinking differently](#)



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