

## 2023 Seed Funding Research Scheme

### **Background**

The Australia & New Zealand Musculoskeletal (ANZMUSC) Clinical Trials Network is an NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence. Through its Seed Funding Research Scheme, it has supported 16 projects that relate to current or future multicentre trials to date. Seed funds are granted for research projects that can achieve a tangible outcome within 12-15 months of receipt of grant funds.

The Australia & New Zealand Low Back Pain Research Network (ANZBACK) is also an NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence. ANZBACK is a special interest group of ANZMUSC and also has funds available to support research aligned with the CRE.

The two CREs are opening applications for a combined seed funding scheme to support projects being undertaken around musculoskeletal health and/or low back pain. Combining the funding of both CREs ensures we can support more projects and will avoid the need for duplication of applications.

The scheme aims to:

- Support ideas and research questions that align with ANZMUSC or ANZBACK research priorities (reflecting important disease burden and an important evidence or evidence-practice gap)
- Support ideas that will lead to future external funding applications that could be endorsed by ANZMUSC

### **Important details**

- The maximum funding that can be requested is \$20,000. We anticipate awarding a total of 3 grants (or a greater number for lesser amounts if appropriate).
  - To ensure distribution of funds across the research themes of both CREs, we anticipate awarding at least 1 grant to projects focused on low back pain.
- Funding is untied and must be spent in the 12 months after the award is received.
- Consumer led, or co-designed projects would be particularly welcomed. In addition, projects led involving early career researchers ( $\leq 5$  years post PhD full-time equivalent) or clinician-researchers (people whose primary role, i.e.  $>50\%$  FTE, is clinical rather than research) are particularly encouraged.
- Successful applicants will be expected to complete a report at 12 months

## **Criteria for application assessment**

### **Eligibility criteria**

- Chief Investigators must be registered members of ANZMUSC. Research students can be named as investigators (but not as CIA). You can only lead one application.
- CIs on the NHMRC ANZMUSC or ANZBACK CRE cannot lead an application (i.e. be CIA) but can be named as an investigator.
- The application must support research ideas that align with the ANZMUSC mission (<https://anzmusc.org/about-us/vision/>) and/or ANZBACK research aims (<https://anzback.org/anzback-aims/>).
- The application must have potential to lead to future external funding applications
- For applications relating to a current or future trial, the trial should fulfil ANZMUSC criteria for endorsement with the expectation that it will be submitted for ANZMUSC endorsement.
- Projects must be undertaken in Australia or New Zealand.

### **Application Guidelines**

Applications should include:

Entered on online form:

- Project title
- Applicant name(s)
- Brief lead applicant biography (500 words)
- List of other investigators

Proposal upload:

- Scientific description of the project (aims and hypothesis, background, methods, statistical considerations) (1000 words max)
- Alignment of the project with CRE mission, research aims and priorities (150 words)
- Evidence of, or plans for, stakeholder/consumer involvement in the research team. Please outline planned or actual areas of contribution and how this might impact participants in your research (200 words)
- Potential impact of the project, including how the project will inform a future external funding application for a trial (200 words)
- Budget – describing in detail how requested funds will be used (e.g. item, amount, justification). Please include costs and honorariums associated with consumers on the research team and reimbursement of participants if applicable.
- Translation/implementation plan (200 words)

Note: Word counts are a guideline

## Ranking criteria

- Applications will be judged based upon project merit (Scientific Quality, Significance & Innovation, Consumer involvement in proposal development, Team Quality and Capability, Value for money) relative to opportunity
- The judging panel will be drawn from members of the ANZMUSC and ANZBACK Committees (Executive, Scientific and Consumer Advisory) and CRE CIs and AIs

Category	Reviewer's Comments	Score
Scientific Quality (methodological rigour)		/5
Significance and/or innovation to the field		/5
Consumer involvement in proposal development and evident consideration of participants (including, but not limited to, remuneration and participant wellbeing)		/5
Team quality and capability (including ECR/clinician-researcher involvement)		/5
Alignment of the project with CRE mission, research aims and priorities		/5
Overall quality of written application		/5
Total score (other comments)		/30

*Scoring descriptions: 0 = very poor; 1 = poor; 2 = satisfactory; 3 = above average; 4 = high; 5 = very high*

## **Submission of Applications**

Applications should be submitted via the online form [here](#) by **EOD 2nd June 2023**. Late applications will not be accepted. Applicants who fail to apply as instructed will not be eligible for consideration. Receipt of your application will be acknowledged by e-mail.

Awards will be announced by mid-July 2023.