

ASID Research Grant Award

Awarded annually, the \$20,000 ASID Research Grant aims to foster and encourage clinical infectious diseases research by early career ASID member, providing seed funding for new projects or research to strengthen subsequent competitive grant applications.

This will be a competitive grant, based on submitted applications which will be scored by a judging panel, who will make a recommendation to the Board.

The Board will make the final decision on who will be awarded the grant in any given year, and reserve the right not to award a grant if there are no applications judged to be of sufficient merit or for budgetary reasons.

Grant Objectives

To foster and encourage clinical infectious diseases research by ASID members and associate members.

To provide seed funding for research to strengthen subsequent competitive grant applications from major funding bodies such as the NHMRC.

Eligibility to apply – applicant and project

- Up to five years post completion of training, PhD or equivalent (eg MD research project, Masters research project).
- Please provide date of having the FRACP awarded and completion dates for PhD, MD research project or Masters research project.
- ASID's Research Grant is intended as seed funding and is not designed to support projects that have already received substantial funding or that form part of a larger funded program.
- The CIA (first-named chief investigator) is an ASID full or associate financial member for at least 12 months on the date the application is submitted.
- The CIA can name up to 2 other chief investigators (i.e. up to 3 in total) who will collaborate on the project and/or mentor the CIA. They do not have to be ASID members.
- The subject matter wholly or in part concerns infectious diseases. There is no restriction on the type of research, but research with a high potential for clinical translation and within priority populations will be prioritised.

Application process

- A call for applications will go out via the member eNews at least four weeks prior to the deadline.
- The application will consist of
 - A three-page project description (12-point font size, standard margins).
 - A 2-3 page curriculum vitae, including details of all peer-reviewed published papers for each of the three chief investigators.

- A track record summary statement of up to one page for each chief investigator.
- A 0.5 to 1-page proposed budget, with justification.
- In general, the application period will be September/October each year, and the winner will be notified in February, with funding to be awarded in March.
- The successful applicant will adhere to ASID's Award terms and conditions.

Judging process

- The applications will be judged by a panel of 5 judges. Each judge will read and score all applications.
- Applications will be scored using NHMRC scale of 1 to 7 for each of three domains, weighted as follows.
 - Scientific quality of the project 40%
 - Is the research well designed? Is it feasible? Have potential sources of bias or error been considered?
 - Significance and innovation 40%
 - Does the research have merit and integrity? Does it address an important issue? Is it likely to lead to outcomes such as successful competitive grant applications, published papers, and/or changes to diagnosis, treatment or fundamental understanding of the condition in question?
 - Investigator team 20%
 - Does the team have a combined track record which suggests the project is highly likely to be completed, and is competitive at a national level?
 - Does the team have expertise and/or experience in the proposed research methods and/or techniques?

Awardees are required to submit a report to ASID on award outcomes and impact.

- Overview of the scope of activity undertaken with the support of the ASID award/grant.
- Key outcomes and impact across any of the following areas:
 - How did the funding from this award/grant contribute to your research project and / or career development
 - Would the outcomes have been possible without this funding? If not, what would have been different?
 - What would you say to future applicants about the importance of the received award / grant?

ASID award or grant funds are to be used within 12 months of being awarded. An extended term to use funds will apply to members that are or will commence paternity or maternity leave during the first 6 months of receiving the award/grant. Communication by the award/grant recipient with the ASID secretariat is required in advance.

Following the award announcement, recipients will receive a confirmation letter congratulating their achievement and outlining the following:

- The award details and scope.
- Terms and conditions.
- Confirmation of relevant banking details to enable payment.

- Supply of receipts for any reimbursements.

Awardees will be required to sign and return the letter confirming their understanding of ASID's Terms and Conditions prior to ASID providing financial disbursement.

Where appropriate and mutually agreeable, recipients are encouraged to contribute to the advancement of ASID's purpose by:

- Participating in ASID conferences, working groups, or committees.
- Provide testimonies in support of future applicants and for promotion of ASID activities.
- Supporting the development of early-career professionals through mentorship or collaboration.

Conflicts of interest

- Judges with high level conflicts of interest (direct involvement with any of the research projects; a close personal or familial relationship with any of the CIs) will ideally not serve on the judging panel. If they do, they will not score any applications for which they have a high-level conflict.
- Low level conflicts of interest (have worked or currently work at the same institution as a CI, have served on committees with a CI, have previously co-published with a CI) need to be declared, but will not preclude a potential judge from the panel or from scoring particular applications.
- The judging panel will be appointed by the ASID board:
 - Will generally consist of several board members +/- members of the ASID CRN and the broader ASID council, and/or others as appointed by the board.
 - At least 3 of the judging panel should be active researchers (e.g. currently hold fellowships or grants from the NHMRC or equivalent bodies), and at least one will be the ASID CRN chair or their delegate.