

Expression of Interest Guidelines: Grant Round 2011

Please review the following guidelines before submitting your expression of interest for an Australian Spinal Research Foundation grant during the 2011 round.

Grant Categories

1. **Large Research Grants (LRG)** are open to researchers and seeks to support the effective research in areas relevant to the clinical practice of Chiropractic. This includes but is not limited to the clinical practice of Chiropractic, basic science initiatives and general health care management strategies. Large project budgets should be up to a maximum of \$40,000 per year for a maximum of three years.
2. **New Researchers Grants (NRG)** may provide limited funds to encourage new researchers. New researchers are those individuals who are starting a research career and have not been previously named as a Chief Investigator or part of an accepted competitive grant scheme. Project budgets should be up to a maximum of \$20,000 per year for a maximum of one year.

Applications

All expressions of interest applications must be directed to either Large Research Grant (LRG) or New Researchers Grant (NRG) category and submitted by email to helen@spinalresearch.com.au in the provided application format as described by the Australian Spinal Research Foundation. This form can be downloaded from the Spinal Research web page at www.spinalresearch.com.au

Expressions must be received on or before 5.00pm Australian Eastern Standard Time **Monday, 16 May 2011**. It is anticipated that following assessment, applicants will be notified of the result by **17 June 2011** and whether to proceed to full grant application. Full grant applications will close on **1 August 2011**.

Funding

Funds available for the Foundation's research programs vary from year to year. In 2010 the Board of the Foundation provided research fund support totaling \$152,426. The total amount of funding for 2011 has not been determined and will be driven largely from ongoing fund raising projects by the Foundation for that year.

Large Research Grants are not for supplementing the researcher's personal income above standard salary scales applicable to the employing institution. Salary scales for contracted research staff in project budgets should not exceed those scales as

outlined by the NH&MRC for that year. The Foundation will also provide an additional \$400 to successful applicants to assist them to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Foundation *and present a progress report from their project.*

Projects

Projects, which are completed within a 12-month period and in the year of granting, are preferred. Other high interest, high quality projects of longer duration may be considered based on their scientific rigor and alignment with the Foundation's research priorities.

Assessment

All expressions of interest will be subjected to independent peer assessment and will be subsequently rated and ranked on merit by the Foundation's Research Committee.

Applicants are invited to provide names and addresses of three [3] people outside of their institution who may be qualified as independent assessors. The applicant(s) must not have undertaken research or other collaborations with these assessors within the last three years. The Foundation will not provide any undertaking that nominated persons will be asked for comments. Please note that these named reviewers may be called upon to evaluate both your Expression of Interest and your Full Grant Application if you qualify for that status. Equally, applicants may submit names of assessors they would prefer not to assess their application. This request will be respected.

If you have any questions or concerns about Expression of Interest guidelines, please feel free to contact us on (Ph) +61 7 3808 4098 or email helen@spinalresearch.com.au

After You Have Submitted Your Expression of Interest

You will receive an email confirming our receipt of your expression. A member of our Research Committee will be assigned to your organisation. This member will become your contact person at the Foundation and can provide you with advice on your application.

When an Expression of Interest is accepted and an applicant is invited to submit full Grant Application

You will be notified promptly of the Foundation's decision regarding your Expression and invited to complete full Grant Application by the prescribed deadline. The Foundation will send you a formal letter confirming and provide details about our application process.

Recognitions

If you and your organisation are a recipient of a grant from the Australian Spinal Research Foundation, the Foundation appreciates public recognition wherever possible. The type of recognition may vary from time to time and may depend on the nature of the project. This may include Foundation logo placement, write-up or ads in an institutional or professional newsletter or use of Foundation signage at an event.

Please contact our staff to discuss recognition opportunities, advertising or text about the Foundation.

The Foundation encourages input and information in the form of write-up or photographs of your organization on activities that the Foundation is actively supporting for our communications tools. This information may be used on our research web site, our annual report to Foundation members, to the profession and to the community at large. For a copy of our photograph and copyright release forms, please contact Helen Crew - helen@spinalresearch.com.au

Specific Expression Guidelines:

ITEM 1 CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

The Chief Investigator is the person who takes the ultimate responsibility for the project and who will act as a contact person vis-a-vis the Australian Spinal Research Foundation. The Chief Investigator is expected to play an active role throughout the study.

For student research projects at tertiary education institutions, the supervisor is not necessarily the Chief Investigator - the student may be. The basic guideline is that the Chief Investigator is the person who creates or is principally responsible for the project.

ITEM 2 PRESENT APPOINTMENT

Indicate the position that is most relevant to the proposed research, if more than one appointment or position is held. Provide contact details for your institution and indicate the number at which the Chief Investigator can most easily be reached.

ITEM 3 SIGNATURE OF CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

The application is invalid without the Chief Investigator's signature.

ITEM 4&5 CO-INVESTIGATORS

Please name all co-investigators who will play an active role at some point in the study.

If necessary, add more names to the application form than the three provided for.

ITEM 6 FULL PROJECT TITLE

The title should be as exact and descriptive as possible. This should reflect the type and nature of your proposed study.

ITEM 7 OFFICIAL AUTHORISED TO SIGN FOR APPLICANT INSTITUTION

Provide the name, address, position held and contact details of an official authorised to sign applications on behalf of your institution.

Applicants should consult with the Head of their Department, School or Faculty, on institutional noting of an expression of interest application with the possibility of moving toward full Grant Application status. Full grant applications will need to be endorsed by a Research Office representative, Research Deputy Vice Chancellor or the Chief Executive of that Institution.

An application will be deemed invalid without the signature of the person who is authorised to sign for that institution.

ITEM 8 Grant Category

Applicants are expected to indentify the grant category that they intend to apply for. The categories are described earlier and include:

- a. Large Research Grants (LRG)
- b. New Researchers Grants (NRG)

ITEM 9 DESCRIBE YOUR PROJECT BEARING IN MIND THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Outline your intended project in no more than 500 words. This should include a brief background on your study, broad study objectives including comments on study potential benefits, intended study timeline, a statement outlining likely budget requirements (without justification in this expression) and a statement on how this expression of interest addresses the Foundation's research priorities.