

## ACvA newsletter – February 2020



Dear Colleagues

I just wanted to touch base with you as a group in the early days of this new role.

I know many of you from previous positions I have held in the Heart Foundation and in the NSW State Government and I look forward to meeting and getting know all of you better as the ACvA, the work of the Flagships and my role evolves.

I also wanted to say a very sincere thank you to those who have welcomed me so warmly on social media, since my appointment was announced.

### Mission

With the first grants round of the Mission now closed, we wanted to acknowledge the very short time frames associated with this round and the difficulties this posed for many of you in developing your applications to increase collaboration, impact and alignment with our Mission.

This notwithstanding, we are aware of many grant teams reaching out to the ACvA and its Flagships to include new collaborations to strengthen their applications. Furthermore, the long-term vision of the ACvA was reflected in many others. We are keen to work with our members to provide feedback to the MRFF and the Minister regarding opportunities for improvement in future rounds, and in particular to encourage future rounds to be designed with closer alignment to the vision and strategy outlined in the Mission for Cardiovascular Health Roadmap which has now been endorsed and will soon be available on the MRFF website, thanks to your input. Please provide any constructive feedback via the survey monkey below.

Whilst we wait for outcomes from the first Mission round, we would like to take the opportunity to showcase the collaborative applications that were able to be put forward and look for opportunities to build on these. Accordingly, if you feel comfortable, please consider sharing details of your collaborative applications to our operational team to be considered in our short and long term strategies. Bringing this information together will also be an important underpinning to conversations with the Government and other key stakeholders, as we move forward. Please provide to [acva@ozheart.org.au](mailto:acva@ozheart.org.au)

## Improvements and capability building

We would also appreciate your suggestions on how the process can be improved to help us provide constructive feedback through to Government and the EAP and on how the ACvA can facilitate the development of collaborations and build capacity in readiness for new funding opportunities. There are a number of good models that we could draw on to bring people together and build collaboration, capacity and readiness. For example, the process used to develop consortia-based bids at the commencement of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS), some years back, and the pilot program, run by the NSW Cardiovascular Research Network last year, which involved a two stage application processes, linked with pre-peer review activities, mentoring and short sessions with a range of researchers and research literate stakeholders. These are just two models that I have been involved with and are offered by way of example only. We know you will have additional ideas and we would be very keen to hear from you. Click [HERE](#) to fill out the survey.

## Heart Foundation Research Priorities

We wanted to draw your attention to a significant opportunity for ACvA to play a role in shaping the Heart Foundation's Strategic Funding Priorities going forward, achieving strong alignment between a significant funder of CVD research and the strategic aims of the ACvA. Strategic funding priorities are a relatively new initiative of the Heart Foundation and recommendations on priorities coordinated through the Flagships will be a valued input to the Heart Foundation's process and decisions regarding dedicated large, collaborative grant calls. ACvA member and Flagship contribution to this will ensure that the investment of the Heart Foundation in future grants consider our researchers priorities. We have been in close discussion with the leadership of the Strategic and Research Committees, who welcome our input, and we believe that working closely with the Heart Foundation in this initiative will enhance alignment. Your thoughts on research priorities, which will formally collated, will also be considered in future ACvA strategic settings. The Heart Foundation has asked that this be submitted by 6 March 2020.

My contact details are [kerry.doyle@ozheart.org](mailto:kerry.doyle@ozheart.org) and my phone number is 02 99264792.

All the very best

Kerry



***Please renew your membership when prompted to do so to help us to continue to forge ahead with our goals and thank you for your support.***

**February 2020**