

Australian Cardiovascular Alliance Clinical Themes Initiative Seed Funding Expression of Interest

Seed Funding Opportunity

As you know, the ACvA has successfully secured philanthropic funding from Snow Medical Research Foundation, including a portion specifically allocated to support demonstration projects that support the achievement of the CTI goals.

We are now inviting expressions of interest from Clinical Theme leads for ACvA seed funding.

This pilot program provides funding for projects that traditional funding models overlook but have potential to bring in further philanthropic support. Based on the success of this initial round, we anticipate launching additional funding calls in the future.

Key Details:

- Funding amount: Up to a maximum of \$75,000 per project
- Number of projects: Maximum of 2 in this initial round
- Purpose: To support demonstration projects to drive the CTI to the next stage of action and implementation.

We are looking for projects that:

- Test new ways of addressing major CV and stroke issues and provide evidence to support potential expansion of activities if effective
- Not easily funded by other sources
- Drive collaboration across researchers and broader stakeholders to achieve improved health outcomes for people with or at risk of CVD and stroke
- Align with the broader strategic vision of the Clinical Theme Initiative and ACvA to develop national, multi-disciplinary research programs to tackle unmet needs in Hypertension, Stroke, Heart Failure, Arrhythmia, Coronary Artery Disease and Improving CV outcomes for First Nations People.
- Project Endorsement: All project proposals must be collaboratively endorsed by the Clinical Theme co-leads or leadership groups. This endorsement should reflect a consensus that the proposed project advances shared objectives within the Theme and enhances multi-stakeholder collaboration. The co-leads are responsible for coordinating with their broader groups to verify that each proposal aligns with their Theme's strategic direction. The ACvA Operations team can facilitate meetings between the co-leads/leadership group and broader group, at their request.

The Clinical Theme co-leads/leadership groups are:

- **Hypertension** – Professor Alta Schutte and Professor Markus Schlaich (Co-leads)
- **Stroke rehabilitation** -Professor Natasha Lannin and Professor Graeme Hankey (Co-leads)
- **Frailty and Heart Failure** – Professor Caleb Ferguson, Dr Julee McDonagh, Professor Peter Macdonald and Professor Trish Davidson (leadership group)
- **Atrial Fibrillation** – Professors Jon Kalman and Prash Sanders, Dr Adrian Elliot and Professor Jamie Vandenberg (leadership group)
- **Coronary Artery Disease** – Professors Gemma Figtree and Peter Psaltis (co-leads)
- **Stroke/ESUS** – Professors Mark Parsons and Ben Freedman (co-leads)

Project Criteria

Successful projects should demonstrate the following characteristics:

- Transformative approach: Push boundaries with innovative, big-picture thinking
- Clear impact and consumer engagement: Present a defined, time-bound path to meaningful improvement in outcomes, including patient/health outcomes.

- National collaboration and cross sector mobilisation: Must involve multiple institutions across Australia and engage diverse stakeholders (e.g. government, health systems, academia, industry)
- Strategic alignment with ACvA priorities:
 - Addresses research priorities that have been identified through the ACvA Clinical Theme framework and workshops
 - Engages with health systems to embed research
- Scalability and funding appeal:
 - Shows potential for growth in scope and partnerships
 - Serves as a model for future mission-based projects
 - Potential to attract interest from philanthropy and other funding bodies.

Exclusions

- Subsidising existing or new salaries
- Overall coordination of the theme
- Duplicates ACvA's existing support
- Duplicates any existing funding

ACvA Support

The ACvA is committed to actively supporting selected projects through:

- Coordination, facilitation, and governance
- Project development and management
- Identifying leveraging opportunities
- Engagement with policy makers, government, and industry
- Working with the Snow Medical Research Foundation to provide the initial funding, and any reporting/engagement requirements

Project Development Process

Please note that projects selected in this initial round may undergo further development in collaboration with the ACvA. This process aims to refine and strengthen proposals, ensuring they are well-positioned for success and aligned with broader strategic goals. We view this as an opportunity to work closely with you in shaping impactful, nationally significant initiatives.

EOI Submission Requirements

1. Submit a two-page project proposal including budget (11 font minimum, Ariel or Times New Roman, margins 2.54cm on all sides, A4 page size).
2. Multiple submissions from each theme are welcome
3. Proposals will be evaluated by **an independent committee** based on the stated criteria, ACvA strategy, and potential to attract further funding

Key Dates

Date	Milestone
13 November, 2024	EOI Launch at ACvA AGM
21 November, 2024	Briefing session with CTI leadership
31 January, 2025	EOI submission deadline
28 February, 2025	Review completion & recommendations to ACvA Board
March 2025	Contract negotiations
Upon contract execution	Funding commencement

Project contacts

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