

Emerging Leaders Committee (ELC) - Terms of Reference

1. Background

The Australian Cardiovascular Alliance (ACvA) is a collaboration of our highest quality cardiovascular research bodies and scientific societies, individual researchers, industry and NGOs, aiming to increase the visibility of cardiovascular disease as a national health priority in the Australian community and in government.

The ACvA believes the time is ripe for a new vision, new thinking and new strategies to solve cardiovascular disease and proposes investment in a whole-of-nation approach that addresses current gaps in the translational pipeline to maximise our impact. We share a vision for Australia to be a globally recognised leader for delivering cardiovascular health outcomes through high impact interdisciplinary and collaborative research, with deep linkages to national and international health systems, strong collaborations with industry and translation through policy and commercialisation.

2. Purpose of the ELC

Central to this vision is helping to develop a sustainable and high-quality cardiovascular research workforce that can provide support for its early career researchers and diversity of opportunities for career development and career pathways. In this context, the purpose of the Committee is to provide advice and recommendations to the ACvA Board and Scientific Advisory Committee on priorities for support, engagement and development of the ACvA's Early- and Mid-Career researchers as part of a collaborative approach to delivering research impact.

3. ACvA Governance

The ELC is a standing group of the ACvA, under the leadership of the ACvA Board and the ACvA Scientific Advisory Committee.

4. Composition of the ELC

- The Emerging Leaders' Committee will be composed of individuals who are PhD graduates through to 10 years post PhD, at the time of appointment. This excludes career disruptions, (as defined by the NHMRC) with the ACvA Board having the discretion to vary this condition if necessary, to ensure continuity and appropriate leadership of this committee.
- The ELC membership will comprise no more than 8 members.
- Membership will be drawn from across the research pipeline and should be as diverse as possible, also taking into consideration:
 - Career stage
 - Gender
 - Geography
 - Ethnicity, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.
- Members will be supported by a senior leader to enable them to draw on broader networks, experience and expertise.
- The ELC will be able to form working groups as needed, after consultation with the ACvA, CEO and Director tasked with Board Liaison.

5. Membership term

- A maximum term of four years (2x2 years), unless otherwise determined by the Board.
- The Board will consider overall progress against deliverables annually and discuss the composition of the ELC to advise the CEO and ACvA Board accordingly.

6. Chair

- The ELC Chair will be determined via a call for nominees, within the ELC. The Chair appointment will need to be approved by the ACvA Board.
- The Chair is appointed for two years.
- The Chair will be supported by deputies to ensure that the workload is appropriately managed and to provide additional leadership opportunities.

- The Chair's responsibilities will include:
 - Approving meeting agendas
 - Guiding the work of identified priorities, including how they can be structured to deliver outcomes
 - Providing advice to ACvA Board and Chief Executive as required
 - Reviewing and endorsing ELC reports
 - Committing to an ongoing advocacy role.

7. Members responsibilities

- The ELC members will be tasked with:
 - Supporting a coordinated approach to priorities and activities, as requested by the Board, including those identified in the annual EMCR Summit
 - Leading the organisation of the annual Summit with key partners,
 - Advising the ACvA Board on
 - engaging early and mid-career researchers nationally and help connect them with other relevant stakeholders
 - potential barriers to success and recommending strategies to counter them
 - strengthening and promoting collaboration between researchers at all stages of their careers
 - harnessing the talent of our early and mid-career researchers to promote the importance of research and raise the profile of cardiovascular research in our community.
- Each member of the ELC is also responsible for:
 - complying with any requirements for confidentiality, ACvA code of conduct and declaring conflicts of interest.
 - where appropriate, consulting with colleagues within their organisation or representative group to inform the advice given by the ELC.
 - when requested, providing feedback to colleagues and relevant staff within their organisation or representative group on meeting actions and outcomes.
 - actioning the allocated meeting task(s) and completing the tasks within the agreed timeframe.
 - drawing on their knowledge base and networks to contribute to identified pieces of work.
 - attending relevant meetings.
 - committing to ongoing advocacy for and promotion of cardiovascular research.

8. Review

- The Committee shall, at least every two years, review its own performance and Terms of Reference to ensure it is operating effectively and recommend any changes it considers necessary to the Board for approval.