

CLINICAL RESEARCH GRANT #8

(For funding in 2025)



CONDITIONS OF AWARD

1. PREAMBLE

The Australian Pain Society (APS) grants a Clinical Research Grant in conjunction with Cops for Kids (CFK).

The Australian Pain Society (APS) is a not-for-profit registered charity. This multidisciplinary, professional Society formed in 1979 as the Australian Chapter of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP). Members come from a variety of professional disciplines including many medical specialties (e.g., anaesthesia, psychiatry, rheumatology, rehabilitation medicine, neurosurgery and neurology), psychology, dentistry, nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and pharmacy/pharmacology, together with other health-care professionals and basic scientists. Members include both investigators and clinicians who are interested in the field of pain and its management. The APS has a well-established Pain in Childhood Special Interest Group (PinC SIG) which is strongly supported by APS members in children's pain services throughout Australia. One of the major aims of the APS is to encourage research into all aspects of childhood pain - ranging from the mechanism of pain transmission and treatment, through to various clinical and management aspects.

Cops of Kids (CFK) is a designated Ancillary Trust charity comprised of over 1,600 current or former South Australia Police members who donate a small portion of their fortnightly pay. As a South Australian based charity, CFK is focused on supporting initiatives that strive to improve the lives of children living in that state. Part of the CFK mandate includes the provision of funds for research to assist in the care of sick children and/or enhance the life quality of a child.

The proposed grant between the APS and CFK satisfies the aims and criteria of each partner association. It is expected that the successful applicant's project will encompass the research aims of the Society and CFK – making explicit the link regarding relevance to the South Australian population.

This grant will be known as the APS/CFK Clinical Research Grant.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the APS/CFK Clinical Research Grant is to enable and promote clinical research that will ultimately lead to improving health outcomes for children. A key objective is to provide seed funding for investigators trying to establish a research profile that is likely to subsequently lead to future external funding. The field of study must involve some aspect of the mechanism, diagnosis, treatment or management of childhood pain (see section 6 - Field of Study) and must be shown to be directly relevant to the South Australian population.

Priority will be given to early career clinical investigators seeking to establish a program, and who belong to groups not already funded for similar projects. (Premarketing or post marketing studies of pharmaceuticals agents under patent will not normally be funded).

Clinical Research Grants are intended to achieve one or more of the following:

- a. Approach a meaningful conclusion in one year.
- b. Support investigator initiated clinical projects (as defined above).
- c. Assist investigators striving to establish new programs or new directions.
- d. Fund initial exploratory research for which external funding will subsequently be sought.
- e. Address circumscribed clinical problems of a sort unlikely to attract industry funding.

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- f. Survey groups of patients to assess the success rate, sequelae, safety or any other aspect of medical or surgical procedures, or treatment protocols.
- g. Bridge the gap of a year between completion of one external grant and the commencement of another.

Preference will be given to proposals for new investigators belonging to groups not already funded for similar projects.

3. ELIGIBILITY

The recipient must be:

- a. An Australian citizen or permanent resident;
- b. A member of the Australian Pain Society and its Pain in Childhood Special Interest Group; and
- c. Actively employed in an area of pain management for children or able to demonstrate a link with a pain service.

The award holder may not:

- a. Be a recipient of an award which directly duplicates the purpose of the APS/CFK Clinical Research Grant.

Other requirements:

- a. The research must be conducted in Australia and the application must show relevance to the South Australian population.
- b. Only one application per Chief Investigator is permitted. NOTE: Members of a group of researchers should not submit separate applications by merely switching Chief Investigators, as this may prejudice related applications.
- c. Recipients will be required to provide written reports (three quarterly progress/acquittal reports - or a half year report by formal arrangement - and a final status/acquittal report) detailing achievements of the research, publications resulting from the research conducted and whether any subsequent funding was achieved as a result of this award (final report due within six months of the end of the funding period).
- d. Acknowledgement of the support of the APS/CFK Clinical Research Grant must be included in any presentation/paper arising from the research.
- e. Copies of any publications or media derived from the research funded by the APS/CFK Clinical Research Grant should be sent to both APS and CFK, and may be published on their respective websites.

4. PERIOD OF TENURE

The APS/CFK Clinical Research Grant will be awarded for one year only, the term of which will commence on 1st March in the year for which funding it is awarded (unless an alternative term is mutually agreed by Scholarships Grants and Fundraising Selection subcommittee and the grant recipient). All funds must be expended by the completion of the grant term unless prior written approval has been granted from the Scholarships Grants and Fundraising Selection subcommittee.

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5. SITE

The Clinical Research Grant will be tenable at any recognised university in Australia or pain management service listed on the Australian Pain Society Facility Directory.

6. FIELD OF STUDY

The field of study includes any theoretical, mechanistic, diagnostic, treatment, epidemiological and/or sociological approach to any childhood pain complaint. It is expected that the successful candidate will come from one of the disciplines represented in the APS Membership which includes various medical specialties, dentistry, psychology, nursing, pharmacy or pharmacology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and the various basic sciences.

7. FUNDING AMOUNT

- a. The APS/CFK Clinical Research Grant will be awarded up to a maximum of \$40,000 including GST.
- b. Grant funding will be paid in arrears on a quarterly (or biannually by arrangement) basis via EFT to the research institution or clinical service, upon the submission and acceptance of a combined Progress Report-Acquittal Form demonstrating expenditure in line with the use proposed by the Chief Investigator.
- c. Only applications for direct costs including salaries, equipment and consumables will be considered. Please refer to the NHMRC Direct Research Costs Guidelines (DRCs): <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/manage-your-funding/funding-agreement#download>
- d. The administering institution must not deduct infrastructure and administrative levies.
- e. It is expected that the Clinical Research Grant holder will make a brief presentation at the APS Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in the year of, or the year immediately following, their Clinical Research Grant year. As such, the APS will donate a complimentary registration for the grant recipient to attend the APS Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in the year of, or the year immediately following, their Clinical Research Grant year. NOTE: Grant funding must not be expended on travel and accommodation costs to attend the ASM.

8. SELECTION

- a. A committee will be established by the Board of the APS that will be called the Scholarships Grants and Fundraising Selection subcommittee.
- b. The Chair of the APS Pain in Childhood SIG (or their nominee) will be a member of the Scholarships Grants and Fundraising Selection subcommittee.
- c. A member of the CFK board will have a vote in the final shortlisting/selection process.
- d. The functions of the Scholarships Grants and Fundraising Selection subcommittee will be to assess all applications and advise on the selection of the successful candidate.
- e. The award will be administered by the APS and CFK.
- f. Under normal circumstances, the Scholarships Grants and Fundraising Selection subcommittee will make its recommendation to the Boards of Directors of APS and CFK by **19 October 2023**. The Scholarships Grants and Fundraising Selection subcommittee will then notify the successful candidate within two weeks of the recommendation being endorsed.

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- g. The applicant must advise the Scholarships Grants and Fundraising Selection subcommittee within five (5) working days whether they wish to accept the Clinical Research Grant under the terms and conditions attached to the Clinical Research Grant.

9. REGISTRATION AND ESTABLISHMENT

- a. It is expected that the research program will be carried out in Australia.
- b. The research must be of demonstrable benefit to the childhood population of South Australia.
- c. The term of the Clinical Research Grant will commence on 1st March in the year for which funding it is awarded (unless an alternative term is mutually agreed by Scholarships Grants and Fundraising Selection subcommittee and the grant recipient).

10. SUSPENSION OF CLINICAL RESEARCH GRANT

- a. Where a break in the Clinical Research Grant is unavoidable, the grant recipient shall seek to have the Clinical Research Grant suspended and the Scholarships Grants and Fundraising Selection subcommittee notified by registered mail to our Secretariat. The Scholarships Grants and Fundraising Selection subcommittee will require full details surrounding the application for suspension of the Clinical Research Grant. Approval for suspension may be granted for a period or periods totaling up to 12 months.
- b. When the grant recipient resumes the study, they may apply for the restoration of the Clinical Research Grant. The period that the Clinical Research Grant may be extended can be no longer than the approved period of suspension (to compensate for the period of suspension). Before benefits are restored after a period of suspension, the grant recipient must satisfy the Scholarships Grants and Fundraising Selection subcommittee that they are able to resume the project. If the suspension is due to an illness, a medical certificate will be required.

11. TERMINATION OF CLINICAL RESEARCH GRANT

The award will be terminated if:

- a. The Scholarships Grants and Fundraising Selection subcommittee determines that the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence, or in accordance with the offer of award, and no alternative arrangements can be made for continuation of the project.
- b. Two weeks after the project is completed or when the award expires, whichever is the earlier.
- c. The grant recipient does not resume the project at the conclusion of a period of suspension or does not make arrangements to extend a current period of suspension - provided that the accumulated period(s) of suspension plus the proposed period of suspension does not exceed 12 months.

12. REPORTS

The grant recipient will be required to furnish the following reports to the Scholarships Grants and Fundraising Selection subcommittee regarding progress of the research:

- a. **Progress-Acquittal Reports:**

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- i. At the conclusion of each of the first three quarters (or the first half year, by arrangement) a combined progress/acquittal report must be submitted and accepted prior to funding being remitted. Refer section 7.b above.
- b. **Final Status-Acquittal Report:**
 - ii. within three months of completion of the funding period and prior to final funding being remitted

The Scholarships Grants and Fundraising Selection subcommittee may, at its discretion, insist on other reports at whatever frequency it deems appropriate to be assured of satisfactory progress.

13. OTHER AWARDS

The successful applicant will not accept any additional awards during the term of the Clinical Research Grant for the same project, other than research student maintenance grants.

14. ETHICS COMMITTEE CLEARANCE

If the project involves experiments to be conducted in either animals or humans (or both), the recipient must ensure appropriate application(s) to and approval of an Ethics Committee constituted to conform to NHMRC guidelines is obtained. The Scholarships Grants and Fundraising Selection subcommittee must be supplied with written documentary evidence of the approval of various aspects of study by the appropriate committee(s).

15. ACCEPTANCE

Acceptance of the APS/CFK Clinical Research Grant will indicate that the candidate and the associated university and/or pain management service agree with, and will abide by, all of these 'Conditions of Award'.

16. PUBLICATIONS / CONFERENCE ITEMS / REPORTS

The candidate will supply a copy of any resulting publications, conference items and/or reports to the APS and CFK for their archives and/or publication (as per individual agency requirements).

Any enquires regarding these Conditions of Award should be directed to:

Email: aps@apsoc.org.au

The Secretariat
Australian Pain Society

PO Box 637
North Sydney NSW 2059