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**2024 PACT Grant-in-Aid Funding Opportunity**

**PACT Grant-in-Aid for Investigator-Led Pulmonary Fibrosis Clinical Research**

**Background**

The Pulmonary Fibrosis Australasian Clinical Trials (PACT) Network is a collaboration uniting the Centre for Research Excellence in Pulmonary Fibrosis, leading pulmonary fibrosis specialists, and Lung Foundation Australia to design and deliver high quality clinical trials and studies that will provide hope and improved outcomes for people living with pulmonary fibrosis.

PACT’s Mission is to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with pulmonary fibrosis and improve the quality of life for people living with pulmonary fibrosis, their carers and families through the facilitation and coordination of high-quality clinical research.

**Invitation**

In 2024, there is **ONE (1)** Grant-in-Aid opportunity valued at ***up to*** **AUD30,000** to assist investigator led pulmonary fibrosis clinical research. The objective of the PACT Grant-in-Aid is to facilitate high quality clinical research in line with PACT’s Mission Statement (<https://pact.lungfoundation.com.au/about-pact/>).

The PACT Grant-in-Aid Award is open to Health Professional PACT members (join here - <https://pact.lungfoundation.com.au/pact-membership/>). Members may apply individually or as part of a group, however collaborative studies are preferred.

Note that these funds can be used to support any stage of clinical research. Funds cannot be used for preclinical research. In most cases, the PACT Grant-in-Aid is not intended to provide sole support for the research activities. Instead, it is designed to act as seed money to obtain pilot data to support attracting additional external funding; or as a top up Grant–in-Aid to assist with undertaking a currently funded research project. For example, the Grant-in-Aid funding may be used to support:

* clinical trial coordinator costs not funded by existing grant funding;
* technical staff costs not funded by existing grant funding;
* additional laboratory work *directly related to* a discrete clinical research project;
* post-hoc statistical or bioinformatic analysis of a large dataset derived from a recently completed clinical research project; and/or
* equipment/consumables directly related to a discrete clinical research project.

Information should also be provided on other sources of project funding and how the Grant would be used if the application were to be successful. Preference will be given to applications which demonstrate most clearly how the Grant-in-Aid will leverage existing funding or significantly enhance the attractiveness of a subsequent grant proposal.

Applications will undergo peer-review with consumer input into the review provided by the CRE-PF Consumer Advisory Group. If during the peer-review process the reviewing committee determine there are no applications of suitable merit, PACT has a right to decline to award the Grant.

**Key Eligibility Criterion**

The PACT Grant-in-Aid will be offered to an individual or group of individuals meeting the following eligibility criterion:

* The applicant(s) must be a health professional PACT member(s) (<https://pact.lungfoundation.com.au/pact-membership/>).
* The application must be for clinical research (i.e. involve study subjects and/or subject clinical samples).
* The application must be for pulmonary fibrosis research (IPF, other idiopathic interstitial pneumonias, sarcoidosis, pneumoconiosis etc.).
* The research must be investigator-led. Sponsored research will not be funded.
* The application can relate to new research or research which is already underway, however preference will be given to applications where the impact of the PACT Grant-in-Aid is likely to be greatest. Research which is already completed will not be funded.
* Early career researchers (ECR) - defined as within 5 years of PhD or equivalent - are encouraged to apply (the track record component will be assessed *relative to opportunity*), but must identify a suitable mentor/supervisor, provide these details in the application, and attach a letter of support.

**Conditions**

1. The Grant will be competitive and open to Australian and New Zealand citizens/residents.
2. Applications should include a summary of the rationale for the study, the scientific design, intended duration and whether or not it has gained ethical approval.
3. Applications should include a letter from the lead applicant’s Head of Department, providing support for the project.
4. Applications should include a statement regarding current funding sources for the study.
5. Grantees are expected to commence their project within six (6) calendar months of being awarded. If the award is not taken up within this timeframe the monies will be forfeited.
6. In applying for research funding from PACT, applicants must confirm that they will:
	1. Ensure the ethical conduct of research under the Grant;
	2. Identify any applications to other organisations for the same project;
	3. Acknowledge the support of PACT and the CRE-PF in any publications (including scientific articles, press releases and abstracts) arising from work carried out under the Grant; and
	4. Provide a Final Report on the funded work within 24 months of commencement of the Grant, signed off by the lead investigator and supervisor if early career. Note that completion of the funded work may not coincide with completion of the project or trial in its entirety.
7. By virtue of the signature of the appropriate administrative officer on the application form, institutions confirm that they will ensure:
	1. That monies given by PACT will be administered by the institution only for the purpose designated by PACT and in accordance with any directions given;
	2. That physical facilities and infrastructure support will be provided and maintained to allow research under the grant to proceed; and
	3. That the applicant/s has/have the work time available to undertake the proposed study when existing commitments are considered.
8. Any Grant will be conditional upon the relevant institution and the applicant(s) entering into an appropriate form of agreement with PACT as to the disposition of the grant.
9. Recipients of Grants may be asked by PACT to present the results of the funded research at a public symposium, in media or other promotional activity organised by PACT, or the Lung Foundation.

**Assessment**

An independent peer-review committeeand [Consumer Advisory Group](https://www.cre-pf.org.au/consumer-advisory-group) will assess all applications. Applications will be assessed using the following scoring system:

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| Criterion | Weight |
| Originality of idea and impact of study | 20% |
| Feasibility of Project, including Budget | 20% |
| Appropriateness of Methods | 20% |
| Track Record | 20% |
| Consumer Score | 20% |
| Total | **100%** |

Review will incorporate scoring by the [CRE-PF Consumer Advisory Group](https://www.cre-pf.org.au/consumer-advisory-group). Consumers will review applications across four domains:

1. Importance of the problem addressed by the research.
2. Potential benefit for people with pulmonary fibrosis.
3. Feasibility of methods, including burden of participation.
4. Consumer involvement in research development.

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| **Grant in Aid – Application Timelines** |
| 12th April 2024 | Applications open |
| 2nd June 2024 | Applications close: applications to be submitted electronically by end of Sunday 2nd June 2024 |
| 3rd June – 12th July 2024 | Review period for applications and correspondence with applicants if required |
| 15th-22nd July 2024  | Notification period.All applicants will be advised of the outcome by email.Please note that notification may be delayed if the review process being undertaken exceeds estimated time frame |
| 26th-27th July 2024 | Official recognition of award recipient at the ARLDSC 2024 |

**PACT Contact details:**

Ms Jennifer Walsh

Project Manager

Centre of Research Excellence in Pulmonary Fibrosis

The University of Sydney

**Email:** jennifer.walsh@sydney.edu.au

The PACT Grant-in-Aid for
Investigator-Led Pulmonary Fibrosis Clinical Research 2024 **APPLICATION FORM**

#### **TO APPLY**

1. **Please complete ALL sections of this form.**
2. **Use a minimum size 11 Calibri font.**
3. **Breach of guidelines will deem the application not valid (Including font size and references).**

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND ENQUIRIES**

**Your application documents must be saved as a single PDF file before submission.**

**Applications should be submitted to Jennifer Walsh, PACT Project Manager via** **jennifer.walsh@sydney.edu.au****.**

Please direct any submission enquiries to jennifer.walsh@sydney.edu.au.

**DEADLINE**

**Electronic submission to be dated no later than Midnight 2nd June 2024 (AEST).**

**APPLICANTS’ DETAILS**

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| --- | --- |
| **Title**  | Dr Mr Mrs Ms Miss Other: |
| **First Name** |  |
| **Last Name** |  |
| **Institution** |  |
| **Job Title** |  |
| **Work Address** |  |
|  | Suburb | State  | Postcode  |
| **Contact** | T:  | M:  | F:  |
| Email:  |
| **Signature** |  | **Date**:  |

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| **Title**  | Dr Mr Mrs Ms Miss Other: |
| **First Name** |  |
| **Last Name** |  |
| **Institution** |  |
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| **Work Address** |  |
|  | Suburb | State  | Postcode  |
| **Contact** | T:  | M:  | F:  |
| Email:  |
| **Signature** |  | **Date**:  |

**Copy and paste more tables as necessary.**

**IF LEAD APPLICANT IDENTIFIES AS EARLY CAREER – PROVIDE SUPERVISOR’S DETAILS:**

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| **Your Principal Supervisor (if applicable)**  |
| **Title**  | Dr Mr Mrs Ms Miss Other: |
| **First Name** |  |
| **Last Name** |  |
| **Institution** |  |
| **Postal Address** |  |
|  | Suburb | State  | Postcode  |
| **Contact** | T:  | M:  | F:  |
| Email:  |

***Note:******If lead applicant identifies as early career - defined as within 5 years of PhD or equivalent - a letter on your institute’s letterhead is required to accompany this application. This letter must be from your supervisor/manager and state that you have permission to undertake this research project and have the required time and resource support to do so.***

# **SELECTION CRITERIA**

**Project Details**

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| **Title** |  |
| **Expected commencement date** |  |
| **Expected completion date** |  |
| **Current funding source (if applicable)** |  |
| **Current funding amount (if applicable)** |  |
| **Current funding duration (if applicable)** |  |

1. **Summary outlining how the PACT Grant-in-Aid will leverage existing work and/or substantially improve the competitiveness of a subsequent grant application** *(Half [1/2] page maximum)*
2. **Lay Description of the Research** *(Half [1/2] page maximum)*

# This lay description will be important for your project’s assessment by the CRE-PF Consumer Advisory Group. The consumers will review all applications as described in the Assessment section of the full application document.

A good lay summary will manage to make a connection with consumer concerns and experiences while also articulating the research science clearly. It will clearly state the problem and potential impact without using jargon and give a powerful sense of what inspired the research.

Thing to consider when writing a lay summary:

* Does it cover what, where, when, why and how?
* Is it short and free of jargon?
* Does it connect to people living with PF?
* Does it explain how the research fits into the bigger picture?
* Does it explain what you’re hoping to achieve (the study’s impact)?
1. **Research Summary - Project rationale and design, scientific merit, appropriateness of methods and feasibility** *(Two [2] page maximum)*
2. **Budget**
3. **Proposed use of PACT Grant-in-Aid funding** *(Half [1/2] page maximum)*
4. **For currently funded studies – please provide the budget for the study. Include a summary statement outlining how the PACT Grant-in-Aid will be used to bolster existing funding. For studies which do not have current funding, please insert N/A.***(One [1] page maximum)*
5. **Lead investigator track record Relative to Opportunity statement** *(Two [2] page maximum)*

Covering overall track record in the past 5 years:

* Career summary (qualifications, employment and appointment history)
* Contribution to the field of research
* Top 5 publications in the past 5 years including reasons
* National / international standing including invitations to speak, committee membership
* Peer review (granting bodies, journals / editorial roles)
* Research support including grants / fellowships
* Professional activities (committees, conference organisation / participation)
* Supervision and mentoring
* Collaborations
* Community engagement and involvement
* Translation of research into practice and health commercial outcomes (patents etc.)

**Checklist for Submission**

**Before submission, please make sure you complete the checklist:**

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| **Details**  | ü |
| 1. Confirmation of membership of PACT (health professional category) for all applicants
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| 1. Confirmation that all other eligibility criteria are met
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| 1. Completed ALL sections of the standard application form (preceding pages)
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| 1. Head of Department letter providing support for the project
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| 1. Documents to substantiate the application are included:
* Lead applicant Curriculum Vitae
* Supervisor letter of support if early career lead applicant
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