

San Foundation Research Grant 2025

Supporting research leading to improved patient experiences, patient outcomes and / or health systems



Overview

San Foundation is offering funding of up to \$25,000 for up to three research projects that will showcase AHCL research leading to improvements in patient experiences, patient outcomes and / or health systems.

Projects will use a research or a quality improvement framework.

Applications are open to AHCL employees, accredited clinicians and affiliates with a research idea that meets the criteria. A selection panel will review applications via a standardised application form and determine payment of up to \$25,000, according to the budget provided in the submission.

Key Dates

Submission Deadline

Sunday 20 April 2025, 11:59pm

Announcement of Grant Recipient

Late April 2025

Submit all documents to the Research Office

Subject: San Foundation Research Grant

E: research@sah.org.au

P: 9480 9604

Assessment Criteria

- 1. Relevant.** The research is clearly aligned to the mission, vision and values of AHCL and our research priority areas:
 - a. Living with Cancer
 - b. Healthy Living
 - c. Optimising Healthcare
- 2. Multidisciplinary Team.** The project will encompass a range of disciplines across professions and within professions e.g. nursing, allied health and medical
- 3. New.** The research has not yet commenced.
- 4. Scientifically excellent.** The project aims, research questions and hypotheses are clearly articulated and will address the research. The methods, data collection(s) and data management plans are clearly articulated and appropriate to meet the objectives of the research.
- 5. Innovative and engaging research** that will provide an excellent story or showcase for engaging consumers, philanthropists, clinicians and researchers.
- 6. Feasible.** The proposed research and timelines are manageable. The proposed investigators have appropriate experience (clinical or research) in the field of research. The proposed investigators are capable of achieving the proposed project and able to deliver the anticipated outcomes.
- 7. Sensible allocation of resources.** The proposed allocation of budget for the research is deemed appropriate.
- 8. Influential.** The research has the potential to influence improvements in patient experiences, patient outcomes and / or health systems.
- 9. Benefits AHCL and our patients.** The research will occur within an AHCL entity, have a principal investigator who is employed by AHCL or holds accreditation for Research or Affiliate - Research, and any published works will acknowledge funding provided by San Foundation and the support of AHCL. Most of the benefit from the project should rest with AHCL patients.
- 10. Out of scope.** The following research is excluded from this grant: basic science research, research which occurs only in the out of hospital setting, commercially sponsored research, descriptive research such as 'idea generating', or 'monitoring research', metanalysis research.

Grading Matrix

(Maximum score 45)

Criteria	Excellent (5)	Good (4)	Acceptable (3)	Below Standard (2)	Poor (1)
Relevant	Significant alignment with AHCL mission, vision, values and research priorities	Good alignment with AHCL mission, vision, values and research priorities	Reasonable alignment with AHCL mission, vision, values and research priorities	Some alignment with AHCL mission, vision, values and research priorities	Poor alignment with AHCL mission, vision, values and research priorities
Multidisciplinary Team	Research team includes different professional groups e.g. doctors, nurses, allied health from at least three professions	N/A	Research team includes different professional groups e.g. doctors, nurses, allied health from at least two professions	N/A	Research team includes different specialty groups within a profession
New	Research has not commenced	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scientifically Excellent	Comprehensive research protocol, methodology and statistical analysis planned which is scientifically excellent	Good research protocol, methodology and statistical analysis planned which is scientifically sound	Acceptable research protocol, methodology and statistical analysis planned	Research protocol, methodology and statistical analysis has some limitations	Research protocol, methodology and statistical analysis is vague and limited or not suitable
Innovative & engaging	Highly innovative, described in detail and is ideally suited to engage stakeholders	Project is quite innovative, well described and engaging to stakeholders	Project is innovative, adequately described and of some interest to stakeholders	Project is somewhat innovative, however the interest to stakeholders is unclear or vaguely described	Project is not innovative, not well described or insufficiently engaging for stakeholders

Criteria	Excellent (5)	Good (4)	Acceptable (3)	Below Standard (2)	Poor (1)
Feasible	Exceptional detailed and highly feasible implementation plan which takes into account the specific context; key risks and barriers are identified, and logical mitigation strategies well described	Detailed and feasible implementation plan provided. Implementation plan takes into account risks and barriers, and mitigation strategies described.	Reasonably detailed and likely feasible implementation plan provided. Implementation plan acknowledges risks and barriers, and partial mitigation strategies described	Somewhat detailed and possibly feasible implementation plan provided. Implementation plan notes some risks and barriers, and mitigation strategies vaguely described	Poorly detailed and likely unfeasible implementation plan provided. Implementation plan takes no account of risks and barriers, no mitigation strategies described.
Sensible allocation of resources	Exceptional detailed and highly sensible budget which provides milestone-based progress payment details and which doesn't omit any likely expenses.	Detailed and sensible budget which provides milestone-based progress payment details with good coverage of likely expenses.	Reasonably detailed and sensible budget which provides milestone-based progress payment details	Somewhat detailed budget which has some vague or missing elements	Poorly detailed budget with vague or missing elements
Influential	Well-founded opportunity to significantly improve healthcare provision, patient experience or outcomes.	Good opportunity to improve healthcare provision, patient experience or outcomes.	Reasonable opportunity to improve healthcare provision, patient experience or outcomes.	Somewhat justifiable opportunity to improve healthcare provision, patient experience or outcomes.	Poorly justified opportunity to improve healthcare provision, patient experience or outcomes.
Benefits AHCL or its patients	Significant benefits likely to accrue to AHCL or its patients	Good benefits likely to accrue to AHCL or its patients	Reasonable benefits likely to accrue to AHCL or its patients	Some benefits likely to accrue to AHCL or its patients	Limited benefits likely to accrue to AHCL or its patients

Project Lead and Investigator Team

Each application must have a single nominated project lead who is the primary individual responsible for delivering the program of research should it be funded. The project may have any number of co-investigators required for the project. There is no limit on the number of applications an individual may be listed on as a project lead and/or coinvestigator.

Budgets

All items in the requested budget must be directly related to the project and fully justified. Failure to sufficiently justify items may result in a reduced offer of funding. Submitted budgets should be clearly divided into components as outlined below.

- 1. Salaries:** The AHCL research grant will only support salaries for individuals for their time committed to the project. For example, an investigator requesting salary who is only working 0.6 FTE on the project will only be eligible for 0.6 of their per annum salary. We do not fund business as usual staff salaries providing in or out of hospital services, or other healthcare services. Salary on-cost support is limited to 22%. Non-employed financial support for salaries may be paid via a tax invoice to persons holding an ABN or to a company holding an ACN and would include GST.
- 2. Direct Research costs:** Equipment, materials and consumables: The purchase of essential items and equipment specifically required for the project is allowed if such items are normally not available. **Reasonable expenses for computer services, the development of digital applications or purchase/licensing of software is also permitted, if directly related to the project.** Travel: Funds for travel will only be considered when they form an integral part of the project. Participant recruitment: costs for participant recruitment may be included where there is a justifiable need.
- 3. Research services:** Research services directly required for the successful conduct of the project are permitted such as protocol writing assistance or biostatistician assistance. Budgets must include information of the facility to be used, rates per hour, and number of hours required.
- 4. Research translation costs:** It is important to comprehensively explain and itemise the costs of translation activities. Translation costs may include Publishing fees, Peer engagement and training, Consumer/patient education, Government, funder (e.g. health funds), college, national body and other stakeholder engagement, clinical guidelines and/or policy change.
- 5. Co-funding and in-kind support:** Co-funding should be itemized and included so that AHCL can appropriately assess the value proposition of the investment.
- 6. Excluded:** AHCL research grants will not fund Provision of clinical services, Institutional overhead and administration costs (including office supplies), Research infrastructure (such as desks, buildings, general equipment), Insurance costs, Costs related to intellectual property, Entertainment, hospitality and personal expenses (including subscriptions and professional membership fees).

Project Milestones and Progress Payment Schedule

Project milestones will be described and the costs within that element of the project will be paid once that milestone is achieved as evidenced by submission of the progress report.

FOR EXAMPLE:

Milestone 1. Ethics & Governance Approval.

- Activities include development of Research protocol and related documentation for submission to ethics and research governance.
- Budget elements: Protocol writer assistance 4 hours @\$75/hr = \$300; Biostatistical advice 1 hr @\$250/hr = \$250; Researcher salary 0.2FTE @\$100/hr for 4 weeks = \$3,200
- Progress Payment 1 total: \$3,750

Milestone 2. Implementation of research project.

- Activities include participant recruitment, project delivery and data collection
- Budget elements: Researcher Salary 0.2 FTE @\$100/hr
- Progress Payment 2 total: 0.2 FTE @\$100/hr for 8 weeks = \$6,400

Milestone 3. Analysis, write up and publication of results.

- Activities include statistical analysis, creation of the research paper ready for publication and presentation at conferences, plus final publication
- Budget elements: Biostatistical data analysis 8 hrs @\$250/hr = \$2,000; Researcher salary 0.2 FTE @\$100/hr for 4 weeks = \$3,200; publication fees \$4,000
- Progress Payment 3 total: \$9,200

Expectations if successfully funded

Following submission of their applications, applicants must notify the AHCL Research Office if any additional or overlapping funding is obtained from another source (or sources) for delivering the research project described in their application. Applicants should also notify the AHCL Research Office if there are any significant and material changes to circumstances that affect their ability to complete the research as described in their application.

- A. TIME TO COMPLETION.** It is expected that research projects will be completed within a period of 24 months from award of the grant, or the timeframe listed in the application, whichever is the greater
- B. GOVERNANCE REQUIREMENTS (ETHICS, INSURANCE ETC).** Proposals require ethical and site governance review; project will only be started after written confirmation of approval from the AHCL Research Office has been obtained. All researchers need to have completed the Good Clinical Practice course within the past three years. Accredited (non-employed) researchers need to hold appropriate indemnity insurance which covers their proposed research activity and to have research as an approved scope of practice.

- C. COMMUNICATIONS (CONFIDENTIALITY, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUPPORT, MEDIA ETC).** All publications, including journal articles, conference presentations and media releases that emerge from awarded grants must acknowledge the support of the San Foundation and Adventist Healthcare. The San Foundation and AHCL requests all non-academic articles and media releases to be provided for review and approval prior to public release. San Foundation and AHCL may also request funded researchers to make themselves available to present their work at conferences and webinars from time to time, and for public communications.
- D. REPORTING.** Project Leads of funded awards will be required to submit progress reports at regular intervals through the funding period according to the project milestones. Payment of grant instalments will be conditional on receipt and approval of progress reports. Unsatisfactory reports, or failure to submit reports may result in the suspension of funding.