



ORIA

ADVANCING EYE RESEARCH

The Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia (ORIA) Research Grants 2021 call for applications

The Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia (ORIA) invites applications for research funding in 2020. Grants will be available to ophthalmologists, trainee ophthalmologists or for work being done in University Departments (or equivalent) of Ophthalmology or Ophthalmic Research Institutes. At least one member of the investigator team must be a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmology and a member of the ORIA. If unsure of eligibility, please contact ORIA.

If the investigator is applying from overseas, the majority of the project work should be conducted in Australia with both the investigator and the project being administered through an Australian institution.


Last year just under \$596,846 was allocated to fund 12 projects in 2020. The amount of money available each year varies and the ORIA will consider funding individual grants during 2021 for up to \$50,000 for a period of one year.

The ORIA encourages pilot projects that will produce data to enable subsequent submissions to other bodies for larger grants as well as projects which have clearly defined aims that can be achieved in the one year of funding. Grants are available for a period of one year.

Each grant is peer reviewed by experts in the field before a final decision is made by the ORIA's Research Advisory Committee. The ORIA has procedures to manage conflicts of interest. The decision by the Research Advisory Committee is final.

Successful project funding will be announced at the Annual General Meeting of the ORIA to be held at the RANZCO Congress in November 2020.

Funding commences from January 2021 only after acceptance of the ORIA's award requests and provision of ethics approval. Grant recipient funds are expected to be expended within a year from commencement.



This year, “New Investigator” grants have been replaced with the “Priming Grant” Scheme. The Priming Grant has been established to encourage applications from RANZCO Fellows and ORIA members who are in the early stages of their clinical-research career. To be eligible for a “Priming Grant” the first named principal investigator (*i.e.* CIA) must be within the first 5 years of obtaining their RANZCO Fellowship or higher degree (after taking into consideration career disruption), and a member of the ORIA. Other researchers may be named on the investigator team; however, each investigator may be included on only one ORIA submission each year. Priming Grants will be reviewed, considered, and scored in accordance with all other proposals. Provided eligible grants are submitted, at least one proposal will be funded in this category each year, such that, if no “Priming Grant” proposals have been ranked in the fundable range, the lowest scoring proposal in the general scheme will be replaced with the highest scoring Priming Grant. More than one priming grant may be funded each year.

Researchers interested in applying through Priming Grant scheme may also discuss their proposal with a member of the ORIA research advisory committee, prior to their submission. This discussion provides the applicant the opportunity to seek direction about their research idea, and the formulation of their proposal. If you are interested in receiving this informal, and non-binding pre-submission feedback, you must contact, email: pre-submissions@oria.org.au at least 21 days prior to the submission deadline.

Successful investigators are required to provide a one-page final report on the project, including a lay description by 30 June 2022. The report should include details of any publications arising from this research with links to the actual publication. A final budget indicating how funds were expended shall also form part of your report (Failure to do this may have a negative bearing on future applications). It is the applicants’ responsibility to ensure provision of this documentation. Investigators will also be asked to provide updates on results and funding arising from the research at intervals after the one-year period. These updates will be used to promote ORIA through various media and also to assess and demonstrate impact of grant funding.

In submitting an application for funding, it should be expected that the title or other relevant information may be submitted to other bodies associated with the ORIA, and participation in limited publicity activities e.g., photos, interviews, updates for publication in newsletters may be requested.

No applications will be accepted after 5:00 pm, Sydney time on 26 May 2020. Any applications received after this date and time, in an incomplete format or that do not comply with the application guidelines will not be considered and will be returned.

You are advised to submit your application early to avoid any last-minute difficulties in its submission.

You will receive an electronic response indicating your application has been received. Should you not receive a response within a week of the applications closing, you should email: grants@oria.org.au

The application

Applications will only be accepted by submitting a pdf proposal by the due time and date. **The entire proposal should form one document only** inclusive of CVs and any budgetary supporting material. Times New Roman Size 12 point font should be used throughout including for references and CVs. The proposal should be forwarded to **both** e-mail addresses below:

Email addresses –

grants@oria.org.au
oria@oria.org.au

Please construct your proposal by addressing the following points *in consecutive order*.

- 1. Name(s) of chief investigator +/- co-investigator(s).** (Please clearly indicate FRANZCO & ORIA members of the research team. Only one application will be funded per investigator. If an investigator's name appears on two applications (including the Priming Grant scheme), as an investigator (chief or co-investigator), both applications will be ruled ineligible. Please also see descriptor for the Priming Scheme).
- 2. Address** to which correspondence should be directed including email, fax number, business telephone number, mobile phone number. Details should be provided for both chief investigator and the administering institution.
- 3. Name of University Department or Ophthalmic Research Institute and contact details of grants/research administrator.**
- 4. A short title of the project.**
- 5. Lay title and description of the project. (up to 280 characters).**
- 6. Amount requested.**
- 7. Background and a detailed research plan (max of 5 pages plus an additional page of references).** Specific aims or hypotheses and potential significance of the project should be included.
- 8. Is your proposal a re-submission to the ORIA?** If so, can you indicate what year you applied for funding for the same or similar project and comment on changes made, particularly in light of the feedback received from the Research Advisory Committee.
- 9. Timeline for the project.**


Grants are for one year commencing January 2021. Given the committee's desire to fund projects with defined outcomes over the funding period, it is in the investigator's interest to clearly define what will be achieved in the one year for which funding is provided.

10. ORIA Priming Scheme:

Are you applying for a Priming Grant?

- **If yes – Please name any members of the ORIA scientific grant review panel who discussed your proposal with?**

The "Priming Grant" scheme is replacing the "New Investigator" grants.



The aim of the Priming Grant is to foster new clinician researchers. The decision as to whether an applicant fits within the parameters of the Priming Grant category will be at the discretion of the Research Advisory Committee.

- The first-named investigator (CIA) on a Priming Grant must be within the first 5 years of obtaining their RANZCO Fellowship or higher degree (after taking into consideration career disruption), and a member of the ORIA.
- The CIA should not have received prior funding from the ORIA.
- Other investigators may be included on a Priming Grant; however, an investigator can be named on only one ORIA application each year.
- All investigators named on a Priming Grant must also provide a CV as per point 20.
- Clinician researchers applying for Priming Grant are encouraged to discuss their proposal with a member of the ORIA research advisory committee, prior to their submission. This discussion provides the applicant the opportunity to seek direction about their research idea, and the formulation of their proposal. If you are interested in receiving this informal, and non-binding pre-submission feedback, email: pre-submissions@oria.org.au at least 21 days prior to the submission deadline.

This category will be reviewed by the Research Advisory Committee annually.

11. Nature and extent of resources already available and outline any supplemental funding for this project


12. Budget – Please provide a full breakdown of the budget including, salaries, administrative or on-costs, travel and equipment.

A detailed justification for each component of the budget is required. For equipment, single items over \$5,000 should be accompanied by a quotation, this quotation to form part of the one pdf proposal.

- GST should not be included.
- Funding will not be available for travel to conferences.
- Salaries should be calculated, with appropriate on costs, from the applicable NH&MRC or university pay schedule. The pay schedule used for such calculations should be indicated and detailed.

13. Particulars of applications made, or to be made, to other bodies for assistance for this project. The Research Advisory Committee reserves the right to confirm details of other funds provided or applied for. The ORIA in its award letter, asks successful applicants to advise the ORIA if they have, or will receive, funding support for the same, or similar project, from elsewhere.

If the same project, or one for which there is substantial overlap, *in the opinion of the Research Advisory Committee* is successful in receiving additional funding, the ORIA reserves the right to be provided with a copy of the successful project application in order to make an assessment of whether the ORIA will withdraw its funding commitment. The opinion of the Research Advisory Committee is final.

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- 14. Where the work will be carried out and what facilities will be available.** Confirmation of these details may be requested.
 - 15. Projects involving experimentation on humans or animals require approval of the Ethics Committee of the appropriate institution.** A signed completed Institutional Ethics Committee approval form must be submitted before any funds will be distributed.
 - 16. The application** will be sent out for external review prior to being considered by the Research Advisory Committee. An applicant can nominate a reviewer they do not want to assess their application.
 - 17. Do you consent to have your proposal being considered by external funding bodies including potential commercial partners?**
 - 18. Declaration of Commercial Interest.** Please detail any intellectual property including patents or commercial companies, which are already directly involved with your proposal. ORIA does not require any commercial royalties to be paid; however, in the event of future commercial success the ORIA would be grateful for a donation commensurate with the amount of seed funding received.
 - 19. ORIA branding.** Successful applicants are required to acknowledge ORIA on any publication, presentation by using the ORIA Logo or mentioning ORIA project funding as appropriate.
 - 20. Qualifications and experience of the chief investigator and co-investigators.** A two-page CV (listing track record of research as per the NHMRC) for each investigator, including the five best publications over the last five years, clearly indicating those publications where the ORIA has contributed funding towards the work. Only published papers or those accepted for publication should be included. The same font size (12) as in the main grant proposal should be used for the CV. *Any more than two pages will not be considered and all pages from the third page of the CV will be removed.*
 - Include a list of grants received from all sources in the last five years with the grant title and names of investigators
 - Include the contribution that will be made by each investigator to this project. (Half a page maximum)

Website: oria.org.au