THE OPHTHALMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE
OF AUSTRALIA
(ORIA)

RESEARCH GRANTS 2020
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Closing date: 5:00pm, WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2019 EST

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. 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 connected to an Australian institution.

Grants are available for a period of one year.

Last year just under $590,762 was allocated to fund 13 projects in 2019 including three New Investigator projects. The amount of money available each year varies and the ORIA will consider funding individual grants during 2020 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.

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 Sydney, NSW during November 2019

Funding commences from January 2020 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.

Successful investigators are required to provide a one page final report on the project, including a lay description by 30 June 2021. 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 5:00pm, Sydney time on 15 May 2019. Any applications received after this date and time, in an incomplete format or any 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 contact Ms Margaret Lum, emailing: mlum@ranzco.edu

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 –
oriagrants@ranzco.edu
mlum@ranzco.edu

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

1   **Name(s) of chief investigator and co-investigators or supervisor.** (Only one application will be funded per investigator. If an investigator's name appears on two applications, as an investigator, both applications will be ruled ineligible. Please also see descriptor for New Investigator, par 10).

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 institution 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 7 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 2020. 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 New Investigator**
Are you applying as a New Investigator?
A New Investigator for these purposes, is someone up to five years past completion of a higher research degree, *or* five years past completion of a primary ophthalmology qualification, *or* five years past completion of a RANZCO Fellowship *as well as being* at the beginning of their research career.

The aim of the New Investigator category is to foster new researchers. The decision as to whether an applicant fits within the parameters of the New Investigator category will be at the discretion of the Research Advisory Committee, but generally full-time students will not be eligible.
- A New Investigator should not have received prior funding from the ORIA.
- There can be no more than one new investigator per research group.
- Your role as investigator should be substantial.
- For the purposes of this category, you should nominate one supervisor only.
- A supervisor can be a supervisor on only one application.
- A supervisor cannot be a co-investigator on this application. This would lead to the project being disqualified from the new investigator category
- A supervisor can be an investigator on another application.

- The supervisor should also provide a CV as per point 17.

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.

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 **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 and the supervisor of a new investigator, including publications over the last ten 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 after the second page will be removed.*

- Include a list of grants received from all sources in the last five years
- Include the contribution that will be made by each investigator to this project. (Half a page maximum)

18 **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.

Website: oria.org.au