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## Instructions for Applicants for the 2020 Brain Australia Limited Research Grants

Applications for the 2020 Brain Australia Grants are now being accepted.

Brain Australia looks forward to strengthening relationships and collaborating further in the medical and scientific community.

Thank you and best wishes for your application.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T de Visser".

Tanya de Visser

**Administration Manager**  
Brain Australia

## 2. Objectives

The primary objective of the Brain Australia Grants are to support individual researchers and research teams to conduct the highest quality research in clinical neuroscience.

A subsidiary objective is to provide opportunities as a principal investigator for early career researchers to gain funding for projects with potential.

The quality of the proposed research is judged by the Brain Australia Board according to internationally benchmarked criteria of:

- scientific quality; and
- significance and innovation.

## 3. Brain Australia Board

All applications for Brain Australia Grants will be assessed by the Board.

Brain Australia Board will bring together their cumulative expertise and experience when evaluating the merit of applications for funding.

## 4. Assessment Criteria

All applications will be assessed on their scientific quality and their significance and/or innovation as follows:

(a) Scientific Quality

This includes the:

- clarity of hypotheses and objectives; and
- strengths and weaknesses of the experimental design and feasibility.

(b) Significance and/or Innovation

This includes:

- The potential to increase knowledge about neurosurgical applications and procedures and neurological disorders and diseases, including brain and spinal injuries.
- In particular, the potential to enable earlier, more accurate diagnosis of neurological diseases and disorders, and to develop more efficient and effective treatments for them.

## 5. Description of Brain Australia Grants

The total amount available for distribution depends on the income of the Brain Australia in that year. As a guide, the maximum amount of a Grant will rarely exceed \$20,000.

Please note: although funds are available for all research categories and the above specific areas, Grants will **ONLY** be awarded if they meet the assessment criteria of scientific quality and significance and/or innovation.

## 6. Eligibility

The Grants are open to competition nationally and all researchers in Australia are eligible to apply, however consideration, subject to merit, is given to:

- Early career investigators, either clinicians or neuroscientists, to help them establish an ongoing research program;
- Innovative projects;
- Pilot studies to enable a research project to be developed such that it could be supported by a recognised grants-giving agency in subsequent years;
- Bridging support for a clinician who has a valid reason for being unable to make an application to a conventional grants-giving agency; and
- Supplementation of an existing grant from, for example, NHMRC, particularly for grant applications that were successful but funded inadequately to allow satisfactory progress to be made. In this instance applicants should submit the reports on their project from that grant-giving agency, together with ratings, details of the requesting and awarded budget, and full justification for the unfunded items.

Please note the following conditions:

- Brain Australia will not entertain applications that imply an ongoing funding commitment beyond a single year;
- Brain Australia Board will **not** normally be able to give any priority to projects involving clinical trials;
- Brain Australia **does not** fund requests for equipment only;
- Please submit only one application per person or team;
- Additional funding for a project in the next round is unlikely;
- Applications for funds for general use **will not** be considered. Funds will **only be** provided for specific projects; and
- Projects will only be considered where government or other conventional sources of funds are unavailable.
- Feedback on individual applications will not be available from the Board.

All applications will be judged by the Brain Australia Board on the relative merit of a project within a competitive framework and the funds available.

## 7. Special Conditions

- 7.1 Successful applicants will receive their grant before the 30 June 2020.
- 7.2 Acknowledgement of the Brain Australia as donor of the grant wherever possible, such as in media interviews, and on papers, posters and publications relating to the research.
- 7.3 Where practical and feasible, assist Brain Australia on an ad hoc basis by providing expert opinion and information in their project area, such as:
  - Reviewing information for the Brain Australia website;
  - Being available in subsequent years to provide expert reviews on grant application;
  - The provision of information required by Brain Australia staff to answer queries from the general public; and

- Responding to media releases if required.

Brain Australia recognises the time constraints of researchers, and endeavours not to “overload” any one researcher with such requests for assistance.

- 7.4 Brain Australia donates grants to support the research of successful applicants, and it is a condition of the grants that no administration/ethics fee can be deducted by the university or institution from an individual recipient’s grants award.

## 8. Deadline for Submission

Submissions are to be emailed to [admin@brain.org.au](mailto:admin@brain.org.au) by close of business 29 May 2020.

## 9. How to Lodge Your Application

Please complete the application form to apply for a 2020 Brain Australia Research Grants.

### 9.1 Where to Send Your Application

Please send a electronic Word version of your application to: [admin@brain.org.au](mailto:admin@brain.org.au) using the following naming convention (please use upper and lower case and NOT all uppercase):

**Lastname Firstname – Simplified Project Title**

for example,                      Smith John – The anatomy of the brain

You will receive a return acknowledgement email **within two weeks**. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within two weeks of lodgement, please contact the Brain Australia on email [admin@brain.org.au](mailto:admin@brain.org.au) to ensure that your application has been received.

## 10. Notification to Applicants

All principal investigators will be advised by email of:

- Receipt of their application (please email [admin@brain.org.au](mailto:admin@brain.org.au) if you have not received confirmation by this date).
- Whether or not their application for a research grants was successful.

In addition, all successful principal investigators will be notified by email. Please ensure that you provide an email address and mobile.

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## 11. Confidentiality

Information contained in applications is regarded as confidential unless otherwise indicated and will be received and treated as confidential by Brain Australia. It is the responsibility of all Brain Australia staff and the Board members not to disclose to any person confidential information to which they become privy as a result of the exercise of their responsibilities to Brain Australia.

Information comprising the names of successful grants applicants and their administering institutions, together with the title of the research project and a lay summary, are published in the Brain Australia's website. The lay summary may also be released to the media.

## 12. Privacy

Documents containing personal information are handled and protected in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act 1988, which sets standards for the collection, storage, use and disclosure of, and access to, personal information. Personal information is disclosed only with permission of the individual to whom it relates or where the Act allows.

## 13. Incomplete, false or misleading applications

Once submitted to Brain Australia, the application will be considered final and no changes can be accepted. The application is the main source of information available for assessment. As such it must contain all the information necessary for assessment of the project without the need for further written or oral explanation, or reference to additional documentation. All details in the application, particularly concerning any successful grants, must be current at the time of application.

If an application contains information that is false or misleading, it will be excluded from any further consideration for funding.

## 14. Removal of Applications

Brain Australia reserves the right to remove from further consideration in the selection process any applications that are ineligible or which are clearly of a standard that will not gain support in the competitive national grants. Exclusion of ineligible applications may take place at any time during the selection process.