



2023 Collaborative Interdisciplinary Grant Application Guide



healthy bones for every body

Key dates for 2023 Grant Round

Applications open	Monday 11 September 2023
Applications close	5 pm AEST, Friday 3 November, 2023
Grants awarded	December 2023

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1. Introduction

Established in 1991, The Bone Growth Foundation Inc. trading as the Bone Health Foundation (BHF/Foundation) is a not-for-profit organisation that raises money for research and education into bone health and musculoskeletal conditions that affect Australians of all ages. The Foundation receives no government funding and relies solely on support from public and private individuals and organisations.

The Australian and New Zealand bone and mineral society represent a research community that has a proven track record of producing internationally competitive research outcomes which have a meaningful impact on individuals with poor bone health.

The bone and mineral research sector is currently experiencing unprecedented challenges and historic low funding rates in major and international funding schemes.

The ANZBMS and BHF have aligned purposes to enable rigorous research, advocacy and education focused on reducing the burden of bone disease. Together they are committed to ensuring this track record of excellence and impact, continues and thrives in the current climate of complex national funding conditions.

This Research Grant Application Guide serves to outline the overarching funding guidelines for the co-funded Collaborative Interdisciplinary Grant. This document should be read before completing an application form.

2. Purpose

Skeletal research is a core objective of the both the ANZBMS and BHF's mission to help prevent musculoskeletal disorders that impact the lives of young and old.

By supporting bone research, we can foster the current and next generation of researchers who will pave the way forward to the next innovation in bone disease prevention, treatment and care.

The purpose of this grant is to develop new cooperation, exchange of ideas and research collaborations between research institutions, groups or industry partners in musculoskeletal research. Specifically, the scheme aims to:

- Develop new inter-disciplinary research collaborations.
- Support significant new research partnerships.
- Build strategic long-term collaborations between musculoskeletal researchers.
- Promote new collaborative projects between Early/Mid-Career Researchers and Senior/Established investigators.

THE MAXIMUM VALUE OF THE GRANT IS \$30,000. Research projects that receive support under the scheme should lead to joint publications in high quality research outlets and joint grant applications to nationally competitive funding bodies.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Who may apply for the ANZBMS/BHF Collaborative Interdisciplinary Grant?

- Applications must consist of at least two Principal Investigators from a lead and collaborating institution respectively.
 - The Lead institution and Principal Investigator must be clearly identified and agreed upon prior to application. This institution will be the sole contact for correspondence and invoicing and contact for reporting.
 - The lead investigator (PI-A) and institution must be acknowledged by collaborating institutions.
 - The Principal Investigators must have academic/research/industry positions within their respective institutions for the duration of the award.
 - Priority will be given to applications lead by early (ECI) or mid-career (MCI) investigators. For ECI or MCI status, Principal Investigators from the nominated lead institution (PI-A) must be within 10 years (ECI) or 20 years (MCI) full-time equivalent from the award of a PhD or equivalent clinical qualification.
- > Applicants who have experienced career disruptions will be considered. Please provide appropriate information in the relevant application form.
- > A Principal Investigator may submit only one application per grant round. You may appear as AI on multiple grants.

Proposal eligibility – what may be funded

- > The lead Principal investigator (PI-A) must be a financial member of the ANZBMS for the duration of the award. Applicants who are not members at the time of application must agree to join the ANZBMS and remain a member for the duration of the award.
- > If successful, other applicants are encouraged to become financial members of the ANZBMS and remain a member for the duration of the award.
- > The project must be focused on bone and mineral/musculoskeletal research requiring collaboration between research institutions, groups or industry partners.
- > The project must not be currently funded by a major National or International funding body (eg NHMRC, ARC, or similar scale funding), or by any other industry-sector funding.
- > The proposed project must be located / managed / operated under a university, hospital or major research institution based in either Australia or New Zealand.

- > All Principal Investigators must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, have resident status or have the appropriate visa to work in Australia or New Zealand for the entire duration of the funding period.
- > All Principal Investigators must reside in Australia or New Zealand.
- > Each grant must be used for resources, equipment, salary support of applicant, support personnel such as research assistants or other assistance required for a specific project.
- > The Foundation Board of Directors in conjunction with the ANZBMS Council will make the final decision on which applications will receive Research funding.

Proposal ineligibility - what is not funded?

- > Applications that do not directly relate to the core objectives of the ANZBMS or BHF, or do not address the purpose of the grant.
- > Projects which have received any funding from the government or other industry sectors for the same/similar aims and proposed budget will not be considered for funding. If funding is received/notified during the application or assessment period, the application must be withdrawn.
- > Applications from Principal Investigators who currently hold a BHF or ANZBMS/BHF award at the date of application submission are not eligible to apply.
- > Institutional fees, infrastructure costs and associated overheads will not be covered.

4. Application Procedure / Requirements

- > The Research Grant Application Guide should be read before completing the application form.
- > Application forms can be requested from research@bonehealth.org.au Monday 11 September, 2023
- > The application form must contain all necessary information applicable to the project / research. All details included must be current at the time of application.
- > Applicants must use the Collaborative Interdisciplinary Grant Application form template and adhere to the length and formatting requirements as stated in the application form.
- > Any applications not using the ANZBMS/BHF Grant application template will be **ineligible**.
- > Applicants are expected to provide all information prior to submission. No further information will be sought or accepted after the closing date.

5. Submission deadline

- > Completed applications must be signed and submitted via email to research@bonehealth.org.au by the closing date and time (5pm AEST Friday 3 November, 2023). Late submissions will not be accepted.
- > Applicants will receive an email from the Bone Health Foundation acknowledging receipt of their application.
- > For queries or to confirm receipt, please contact research@bonehealth.org.au.
- > Applicants are encouraged to submit applications at least a day ahead of the closing deadline.

6. Review process

- > The BHF and ANZBMS will form a Research Advisory Panel (**RAP**) to oversee the Research Program assessment and reporting.
- > All applications will be reviewed and scored by independent, non-conflicted reviewers.
- > Applications will be reviewed for completeness and adherence to the ANZBMS/BHF Collaborative Interdisciplinary Grant Application Guide.
- > Applications that provide incomplete documentation at the deadline will be excluded.

- > Applications will be scored against the following criteria:
- >
 - Quality, Feasibility/Capability
 - Significance of the Expected Outcomes **and/or**
 - Innovation of the Concept
 - Track Record and Team Quality (Relative to Opportunity) and Capabilities within Research Environment
 - Strength of Collaborative team (including leadership from ECI/MCI)

7. Outcome of application

- > Applicants and their institutional contact will be notified via email of the outcome of their ANZBMS/BHF Collaborative Interdisciplinary Grant submission by the determined date as per Section 8 (listed below)
- > The Grant application review process is robust and independent and focuses on impact and evidence. A strict conflict of interest policy is adhered to.
- > The decision-making process is final and there is no appeal process.
- > Re-submissions (either in whole or in part) are not considered outside of a grant round.
- > Grants available in this round represent the full allocation of BHF/ANZBMS Collaborative Interdisciplinary funding pool.
- > Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to re-apply in future grant rounds.

8. 2022 Grant Round Timeline of Peer Review Process

- > Applications open Monday 11 September, 2023.
- > Applications must be received by 5pm AEST Friday 3 November, 2023.
- > Applications assigned to external reviewers November, 2023
- > Grant Review Panel assessments of applications November 2023
- > Approval by Bone Health Foundation and ANZBMS Board of Directors December 2023.
- > Notification to applicants December, 2023
- > Successful applicants commence project on date as specified in grant agreement once all approvals have been gained)

9. Approvals to be obtained prior to funding commencement.

- > Research undertaken must conform to the principles as set out by the NHMRC 's Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007) and The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research and any other conditions required by Research Ethics Committees.
- > Funding for ANZBMS/BHF Collaborative Interdisciplinary Grants will not be released to the nominated institution until all relevant approvals, particularly in relation to ethics and governance, have been received and lodged with the Foundation.
- > Funding will be released in 4 equal installments at the end of each quarter after the date of commencement of the research project, as detailed in the Grant Agreement, unless otherwise agreed.

10. Acceptance of Conditions of Collaborative Interdisciplinary Award

- > Research Grants are offered in accordance with the conditions specified in the ANZBMS/BHF Grant Agreement
- > Upon acceptance of an offer of funding, a Letter of Award and a copy of the ANZBMS/BHF Grant Agreement will be issued to the administering Institution(s) for review and signing.
- > The Lead institution and Principal Investigator must be clearly identified and agreed upon prior to application. This institution will be the sole contact for correspondence and invoicing. The Lead Principal Investigator (PI-A) must be available to contact regarding reporting
- > The Head of Department from the Lead Institution must sign the Grant Agreement for, and on behalf of, all collaborating institutions
- > On signing, the Recipient and the Administering Institution agree to abide by all the conditions, which includes but is not limited to;
 - research must be undertaken at the nominated institutions;
 - a commitment to honour any in-kind support that is required to complete the project (where applicable).
 - the ANZBMS/BHF Collaborative Interdisciplinary Grant must be acknowledged in any presentation or publication of the research;
 - a progress report must be provided after 6 months;
 - a final report and financial acquittal must be submitted to research@bonehealth.org.au within 60 days of the date of final invoice; and
 - agreement that the grant recipient may be contacted to provide information regarding their ANZBMS/Bone Health Foundation Grant for internal communication, media release or promotional activities.
- > The signed Grant Agreement must be returned to research@bonehealth.org.au for execution by the date stipulated in the Letter of Award.
- > All parties must accept all terms of the Grant Agreement and complete the first quarter of research before any payments are made.

11. Varying a grant

- > Variations occur when there is a requirement to modify a grant from the original proposal submitted. This may include changes in budget or personnel or an amendment to the budget or timing of the grant.
- > If the Recipient is unable to perform, or to continue to perform, activities in relation to the Grant Agreement, the ANZBMS or BHF must be notified in writing as soon as practicable.
- > If any funding from the government or any other industry sector for the same/similar aims and budget has been obtained during the award period, awardees must inform BHF (research@bonehealth.org.au) within 7 days, and submit a grant variation request. Part or all remaining funding may be withdrawn at the discretion of ANZBMS/BHF.
- > Extensions to a research project end date will only be considered in exceptional circumstances, with a maximum extension of 6 months.
- > Requests to amend a grant or the terms and conditions should be made to research@bonehealth.org.au and a Grant Variation Form will be provided for submission and review.

12. Duration of grant and expenditure of funds

- > ANZBMS/BHF Collaborative Interdisciplinary Grants are 12-month awards which take effect from the commencement date as agreed in the Grant Agreement document. (Note the commencement date must be within 3 months of the execution of the Grant Agreement, unless otherwise agreed)
- > Expenditure of funds must be within the grant period and in accordance with the approved budget unless a variation has been submitted and approved by the ANZBMS/BHF.
- > If the Agreement is terminated before the Grant is complete, or the Grant is completed without full expenditure of the Grant amount, all remaining funds must be returned to the BHF within 30 days.

13. Reporting

- > A 6-month progress report must be submitted for approval to ensure continuity of funding. Progress reports enable the ANZBMS/BHF to ensure satisfactory progress is being achieved.
- > At the completion of the Grant, and within 60 days of receipt of the final invoice, a final report must be submitted to research@bonehealth.org.au, and must be accompanied by a financial acquittal.
- > All reports must use the relevant templates as supplied.
- > The ANZBMS/BHF may determine that all or part of the funding may be repaid if a Recipient fails to submit satisfactory reports.
- > A grant Recipient who fails to submit satisfactory reports may not be considered for future Research funding rounds.

Information provided in reports to the ANZBMS/BHF may be used for internal reporting, media releases and in any publications as agreed by all parties.

14. Enquiries

Any enquiries regarding the administration of grants should be addressed to:

Linda Stanton, Bone Health Foundation

Email: research@bonehealth.org.au

15. Appendix 1: FAQ's

Grant Types

1. 2023 ANZBMS/BHF Collaborative Interdisciplinary Grant

The purpose of this grant is to develop new cooperation, exchange of ideas and research collaborations between research institutions, groups or industry partners in musculoskeletal research. Specifically, the scheme aims to:

- Develop new inter-disciplinary research collaborations.
- Support significant new research partnerships.
- Build strategic long-term collaborations between musculoskeletal researchers.
- Promote new collaborative projects between Early/Mid Career Researchers and Senior/Established investigators.

THE MAXIMUM VALUE OF THE GRANT IS AUD \$30,000 (ex GST). Research projects that receive support under the scheme should lead to joint publications in high quality research outlets and joint grant applications to nationally competitive funding bodies.

The aim of these research grants is to offer funding to researchers who have the potential to make significant advances in the field of bone health and to establish a strong platform to enable them to be more competitive in obtaining future funding for a major national or international grant.

Eligibility

2. Who is eligible to apply?

Applications must consist of at least two Principal Investigators from a lead and collaborating institution respectively.

The Lead institution and Principal Investigator (PI-A) must be clearly identified and agreed upon prior to application. This institution will be the sole contact for correspondence and invoicing. The Lead Principal Investigator (PI-A) must be available to contact regarding reporting

All Principal Investigators must have academic/research/industry positions within their respective institutions for the duration of the award.

For the proposal to be eligible, please read Section 3 of this Guide.

Principal Investigators who currently hold a BHF or ANZBMS/BHF grant are not eligible to apply, you may however appear as an AI.

3. Can I apply for more than one ANZBMS/BHF grant?

Yes, however you may not appear as Principal Investigator on two grants that have largely the same aims and objectives. Applications from Principal Investigators who currently hold a BHF or ANZBMS/BHF award at the date of application submission are not eligible to apply, you may however appear as AI.

4. Does bone research need to be the main area of past research of the Principal Investigator?

Not necessarily. Applications will be assessed against the criteria, which includes significance and innovation of the proposal, feasibility of the proposal, the team and research environment, and track record statement as it relates to the proposal which will be assessed relative to opportunity.

5. How is career stage defined in relation to career disruption and relative to opportunity defined?

The ANZBMS/BHF uses similar criteria to NHMRC for these definitions. The time spent doing research is counted towards the career stage. If the applicant can demonstrate that they have not worked in research for a period of time, then this time can be considered to be deducted from the time post-PhD.

Circumstances considered under relative to opportunity include, but are not limited to:

- amount of time spent as an active researcher.
- career disruption (see below for further details).
- available resources, including situations where research is being conducted in remote or isolated location

- clinical, administrative or teaching workload.
- relocation of an applicant and his/her research laboratory or clinical practice setting or other similar circumstances that impact upon research productivity.
- research outputs and productivity commensurate with time spent employed in other sectors and restrictions on publication associated with time spent working in other sectors (e.g. industry, policy and government).
- the typical performance of researchers in the research field in question.

A career disruption, which is a type of relative to opportunity consideration, is defined as a prolonged interruption to an applicant's capacity to work due to pregnancy, major illness/injury and/or carer responsibilities. Interruptions must involve either a continuous absence from work for periods of 28 calendar days or more and/or a long-term partial return to work that has been formalised with the applicant's employer/institution.

6. Can a researcher be named on multiple applications?

A researcher can be named as the Principal Investigator on one application only but is able to be named as an Associate Investigator on multiple applications.

7. Can I apply if I have submitted a relevant larger funding application to a National/International funding round but have not received an outcome letter/notification?

Yes. However, if you are successful, you must notify the ANZBMS/BHF within 7 days. We will review the overlap between project objectives, as well as expenditure to date. Funding may be withdrawn in whole or in part at the sole discretion of the ANZBMS/BHF.

Applying

8. What format should applications be submitted in?

All applications must be completed using the BHF/ANZBMS approved template. This must be submitted in pdf format. Application forms can be requested from research@bonehealth.org.au

9. Who should submit the application?

The Lead institution and Principal Investigator must be clearly identified and agreed upon prior to application. This institution will be the sole contact for correspondence and invoicing. The Lead Principal Investigator (PI-A) must be available to contact regarding reporting.

Either the Principal Investigator or the internal research grants office of the Lead institution can submit the application. Please confirm this arrangement internally ahead of submission.

Documentation

10. Do I need to include my PhD certificate to prove my eligibility?

No, simply state when you received your PhD in the appropriate section of the application form.

11. What evidence is needed to show experience in bone research?

The Relevant experience of the collaborating team must be included in the track record statement on the application form.

Any related outputs (eg publications, industry reports, health policies and guidelines) can be noted.

12. Are copies of CVs and ethics required?

No. The information in the application template will be sufficient and should not require any further attachments. If you are successful, ethics approval will be required then.

13. Are references required in the Project Summary (Section 1) of the application form?

Responses are acceptable without references in Section 1 of the application form. However, anything based on prior work should be cited and then listed in the reference table (Section 5).

Research Team

14. Is there any limit to the number of Investigators included in the application?

No, however there can be only one Lead Principal Investigator (PI-A) and Institution. This must be agreed prior to application and must be clearly identified on the application form.

15. Can senior researchers or senior advisers of the bone research submit as Principal Investigator?

Yes. The only stipulation is that lead Principal Investigators nominating as ECI or MCI must have up to 10 or 20 years (FTE) experience since PhD or relevant clinical qualification, respectively.

16. What if a Principal Investigator is transitioning from a different field of research to bone (clinical) research?

This is fine provided the research meets the criteria. Details of the transition can be included in the application in the when discussing achievements relative to opportunity.

Grant funds

17. Are grants subject to the GST?

Yes

18. Does the Collaborative Interdisciplinary Grant cover institutional fees/infrastructure costs/overheads?

No.

19. Can grant funding be used for equipment, research assistant salaries, consumables and travel?

Grant funding can be used to fund expenses that explicitly relate to the grant objectives. Please note these costs must be clearly outlined in the application.

20. Can on-costs be included as part of the salary cost in the budget?

Reasonable on-costs can be included in the project budget of \$30,000.

21. Can severance pay be included in grant acquittals?

No. The grant solely supports the actual cost of the project. Therefore, severance pay cannot be included.

International

22. Do the ANZBMS/BHF award grants internationally (outside of Australia and New Zealand)?

No. Applications will only be accepted from applicants who apply through an Australian or New Zealand based institutions and demonstrate that the conduct of the project will be administered in Australia or New Zealand.

23. Can a researcher from another country be the Principal Investigator for the grant, but the research be completed at an eligible Australian or New Zealand based Institution?

Applicants who reside in another country cannot be a Principal Investigator.