TRI 2016 Spore Grants Funding Criteria

Enabling your idea to grow

The TRI Spore Grants are for multidisciplinary teams of scientists and clinicians from a combination of academic, commercial and clinical backgrounds to test innovative ideas. The TRI Spore Grants will be awarded to the applicant team with an important clinical question; a clear translational outcome identified and a commercial partner involved in the preparation of the application.

Funding Principles

TRI Spore Grants are intended to encourage the formation of new multi-party and cross discipline collaborations and partnerships with a common goal to drive innovations in translational research that aim to solve problems.

Key Conditions and Eligibility

There will be up to five Spore Grants, each up to a possible total of $90,000. The TRI stakeholder institutes - The University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, Mater Medical Research Institute and Metro South Health - will provide $10,000 per Grant, if part of the multidisciplinary team. TRI will provide $50,000 per Grant. The Grants will be subject to the following conditions being met:

1. The proposal involves chief investigators belonging to at least two different TRI stakeholder institutions, one of these from a clinical discipline who is an active clinician.
2. The proposal constitutes a collaboration formed to test a new innovation.
3. The proposal must include an expression of interest or commitment from a commercial partner.
4. The proposal must clearly outline the contributions and role of each of the participating stakeholder institutes and their Chief Investigator/s (CI) in the project.
5. TRI must be acknowledged on all publications and presentations.
6. All committed funding by the participating shareholders will be paid upfront to TRI for each project
7. The Grant funding will be milestone based and paid to the lead applicant’s administering institute only.
8. Upon being awarded, it is expected the lead applicant’s institute will finalise the Inter Institutional Agreements and ensure any required ethics and governance structures are in place with the participating partners, TRI recommends:
   (a) Background IP will be owned by the respective parties
   (b) Ownership of the IP developed through the 2016 Spore Grants will reflect the respective inventive contribution of each collaborator
   (c) Commercialisation of any jointly owned IP will be led by the administering institute and as negotiated between the relevant parties who hold the IP
   (d) It is the CI’s and the administering institutes responsibility to be aware and finalise any ethical clearances, risk assessments and other administrative processes that may be required prior to the commencement of the project, if not completed, the CI and the administering institute acknowledge there may be a delay in funding.
9. For the purpose of this year’s Grants, as one of the key milestones, the applicant and the teams must be willing to:
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(a) Provide a non-confidential, one to two page summary of the commercial potential of the project outcomes by addressing the value proposition of the project, key results demonstrating the value proposition, current position on the translational continuum, competition, market, IP position if any and areas of future use.
(b) Agree to discuss their application with TRI consultants to evaluate the objectives of the research program and securing additional resources and partnerships to achieving increased translational success.

Assessment and allocation of funding

The applications will be assessed by an independent Selection Committee chaired by the TRI CEO. Announcement of funding should be made in November 2016.

Key Assessment Criteria

1. Addresses a key clinical question
2. Meets the funding criteria objectives, specifically:
   a. Formation of a multidisciplinary team from at least two of TRI stakeholder organisations and an industry partner, has a clinician as one of the chief investigators
   b. Funding commitment from the participating shareholder organisations and industry partner
   c. Team’s willingness to be mentored by TRI
3. The scientific merit of the application:
   a. A well-defined and strongly developed program able to demonstrate or achieve the required proof of principle data
   b. The scientific achievements and research expertise of the team relative to the field of proposed research
4. The commercial potential of the application:
   a. Demonstrate how the results obtained through this project will be sustained, developed over the long term to a product, technology, process or solution
   b. Value proposition of the proposed research project in the long term i.e. the end product as the goal
   c. Target market and potential commercial benefits
   d. How funding will significantly increase the probability of successful commercialisation or attract more funding to further develop the opportunity
5. The scientific and commercial expertise and achievements of the multidisciplinary team

Submission Information

Applications should be emailed by the first-named chief investigator as a PDF to spore@tri.edu.au by Friday 21 October 2016. The chief investigator email should contain a statement that agreement to participate has been gained from all named chief and associate investigators.

For any further assistance with your application or if you have any specific questions, please contact Dr Nagaraj Gopisetty (07) 3443 7611 or email spore@tri.edu.au
TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. The TRI Spore Grants ("Grants") are being coordinated by Translational Research Institute Pty Ltd as trustee of the Translational Research Institute Trust ("TRI").
2. Funding for the Grants is being provided by TRI and its stakeholder institutions.
3. TRI must be acknowledged on all publications and presentations.
4. The chief investigators must be a member of the one of the following stakeholder institutions: The University of Queensland, Mater Medical Research Institute, Metro South Health or the Queensland University of Technology.

ELIGIBILITY

5. The Grants are open to all researchers and clinicians who are TRI members.
6. Each application must include chief investigators from at least two stakeholder institutions, at least one being a practicing clinician and an expression of interest or commitment from a commercial partner.
7. The chief investigator must take responsibility for the study on behalf of their team.
8. Each participating stakeholder institute must provide a letter confirming their role and funding commitment to the research program outlined in the grant application.
9. The commercial partner must provide a letter confirming their role, funding commitment (if any, cash and/or in-kind) to the research program outlined in the grant application.
10. All key conditions and eligibility criteria listed in this application criteria must be met.

APPLICATIONS

11. The 2016 TRI Spore Grant Application Form is based on the NHMRC Development Grant form.
12. To be considered, completed application forms, fully signed by the participating researchers along with supporting attachments must be sent in a PDF format by email to spore@tri.edu.au by Friday 21 October 2016. The selection panel, at their discretion, may request further clarification of material if required.
13. It is an Applicant’s responsibility to keep TRI advised of any changes to their contact details during the selection process using the e-mail: spore@tri.edu.au.

SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS

14. The Grant recipients will be notified in November 2016.
15. The successful Applicants agree to TRI using their name and image in any publicity material.
16. While TRI intends to promote the Spore Grant recipients, TRI is not obliged to do so.
17. The decision of TRI is final and no correspondence will be entered into with unsuccessful applicants.

CANCELLATION OF GRANT

18. The Grant funding must be expended in total within 12 months of being awarded (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the TRI CEO) and for the purpose stated in the application form.
19. Any failure to use the Grant funding for the purpose outlined in the application will lead to automatic cancellation of the Grant and a requirement that the recipient reimburse TRI in full within 60 days of the date of cancellation.

20. The Grant recipient must provide TRI with information if requested to determine compliance with these terms and conditions.

MISCELLANEOUS

21. TRI reserves the right, in its sole discretion to modify, suspend or cancel the Grants and not provide the funding.

22. Information received during the conduct of this grant will be dealt with in accordance with TRI’s Privacy Policy a copy of which can be viewed at https://www.tri.edu.au/governance