

# Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

## The Michael Hirshorn Medical Research Commercialisation Fund



### Guidelines and Conditions of Award 2023

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Michael Hirshorn Trust supports initiatives that are focused on the commercialisation of biomedical research that is conducted through the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS) at the University of Melbourne. This includes work conducted in partnership with other Faculties or Divisions within the University, or with external research partners.

One of the most significant challenges for commercialisation activities in universities is securing funding for translation of research discoveries into product concepts - essentially, the demonstration that discoveries can be translated into a product concept that has the potential to solve a significant health and wellbeing issue. Funding for activities of this type are referred to as Proof-of-Concept (PoC).

PoC funding is used to generate data or prototypes that may be needed to:

- undertake targeted experimental work to strengthen a patent application;
- demonstrate how a discovery can be translated into a product concept;
- compare the proposed concept with existing approaches to demonstrate the value of the proposed approach, or;
- complete a pivotal publication;
- secure larger scale investments to allow development and scale up.

#### 2. KEY DATES

The call for funding opens **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023**. Applications for funding must be submitted online in [SmartyGrants](#) by **11.55pm Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023**.

Outcomes are expected to be announced by July 2023.

#### 3. FUNDING

Approximately \$65,000 is available for allocation in this round. It is anticipated that the maximum funding awarded to any one proposal will not exceed \$32,500. Projects will be funded for up to 12 months.

Funding from The Michael Hirshorn Trust is flexible in its application. Researchers may seek funding to support a wide range of initiatives to support their intended commercial outcome. Fundable items include but are not limited to funding towards conducting technical validation; funding for travel which supports collaborator meetings, meetings to develop commercial relationships or attendance at conferences relevant to the translation of research discoveries into product concepts; and support toward project consumables. All requested budget items should be justified.

#### 4. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for funding, the Lead Investigator must hold either a fixed term salaried appointment, or a continuing salaried appointment in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at the University of Melbourne at the time of application, and for the duration of the funding support.

Collaborative projects involving key participants from other University of Melbourne Faculties, or external research partners, are strongly encouraged.

#### 5. SELECTION CRITERIA AND ASSESSMENT

Applications for funding will be reviewed by the Faculty's Innovation & Enterprise Steering Committee, chaired by the Associate Dean (Innovation & Enterprise) or equivalent. The selection panel reserves the right to discuss applications

with Heads of School/Department/Centre/Institute, and where appropriate may seek department/school ranking of applications in order to prioritise projects for funding.

The selection panel will primarily assess how well the proposed project/activity aligns with the purpose of The Michael Hirshorn Medical Research Commercialisation Fund, which is *“to support biomedical research at the University of Melbourne that has commercialisation potential”*.

In ranking applications, the selection panel will take into account:

- the project scope, including the problem to be addressed, potential benefit and solution, the activity and its goals, resources, timeframe, any constraints and assumptions, deliverables/outcomes;
- the feasibility of the project, including the funding required and how it would be managed and spent, identification of potential risks and their management, and how this aligns with the project scope and projected timeframe for completion of the goals;
- evidence of proof of concept, including business case development, validation and recommendations.

## **6. CONDITIONS OF AWARD**

- The recipient(s) are to write a letter of thanks to the donors as part of their acceptance paperwork
- Recipient(s) must provide a report to the MDHS Research Support & Evaluation team ([mdhs-grants@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:mdhs-grants@unimelb.edu.au)) within 12 months of receiving funds. The report should detail the use of funding and the direct impact of the award. Recipients should also discuss proposed future activities stemming from the grant. Information provided in the report will be shared with donors. Summaries of projects may be published by the Faculty on the University of Melbourne website/intranet.
- The Lead Investigator is responsible for the project, for its concept, the strategic decisions called for in its pursuit and for the communication of the results.
- All investigators must ensure the research is conducted in accordance with University policies, including compliance with the Code of Conduct for Research and human research ethics, animal experimentation ethics, requirements of the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator, health and safety and intellectual property. No project may proceed unless the appropriate ethical or other required clearances have been obtained.
- Unless special conditions are set down by the selection committee, the Lead Investigator is responsible for ensuring that the expenditure of the grant is broadly in accord with the budget presented in the application and is consistent at all times with the nature and aims of the project and objectives of the scheme.

## **7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUPPORT**

This award is the result of a generous donation from Dr Janice Hirshorn and Dr George Jacobs.

The Michael Hirshorn Medical Research Commercialisation Fund reference is UTR7.309

MDHS trust grants and fellowships are funded from funds established through the generosity of alumni, former staff and other benefactors as well as philanthropic foundations. Recipients of MDHS trust grants and fellowships are required to acknowledge the support of the donor or trust on publications or written material which relate to the funded research, provide annual reports so that donors may understand the use to which the funds are being put, and may be asked to attend thank you, award, prize-giving or other ceremonies to acknowledge the generous support that has made the research/project possible.

## **8. CONDITIONS OF PAYMENT**

Recipients will be provided with a Research Grant Acceptance Form (RGAF) which lists the relevant Themis Account string to charge expenses to.