



# RETINA AUSTRALIA

## RESEARCH GRANTS FUNDING GUIDELINES

Retina Australia invites applications for funding of high quality scientific/medical research relevant to causes, treatments, prevention and cure of retinitis pigmentosa and other inherited and age-related retinal dystrophies. Applications will be assessed in accordance with the following procedures and policy and any grant offered will be subject to the conditions of grant stated herein.

### 1 PROCEDURES

1.1 Applications shall be lodged with Retina Australia in the form of a NH&MRC research application which may be either –

- (a) a new application for NH&MRC funding; or
- (b) a previously successful application that will receive continued NH&MRC funding in the year for which Retina Australia funding is sought.

1.2 Retina Australia will also consider funding research undertaken in New Zealand in the form of a HRC of NZ research application which may be either –

- (a) a new application for HRC of NZ funding; or
- (b) a previously successful application that will receive continued HRC of NZ funding in the year for which Retina Australia funding is sought.

### 2 REQUIREMENTS

2.1 An applicant submitting a new NH&MRC or HRC of NZ application to Retina Australia, is required to lodge a copy of the application to [admin@retinaaustralia.com.au](mailto:admin@retinaaustralia.com.au) together with the following:

- (a) a letter requesting that the application also be considered an application to Retina Australia; and
- (b) an appropriate completed summary sheet (see Appendix A).

2.2 An applicant who has previously received RA funding (and has therefore already submitted their NH&MRC or HRC or NZ application to RA is required to notify admin@retinaaustralia.com.au of the need for continuing support, together with the following:

- (a) a copy of their updated publication list.
- (b) a copy of their updated list of current held and requested research funding; and
- (c) an appropriate completed summary sheet (see Appendix B).

### 3 PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS

Applications will be considered and ranked by Retina Australia's Grants Assessment Committee and those rankings and associated reports will be taken into account by Retina Australia in determining the allocation of grants from available funds.

### 4 TIMETABLE FOR RETINA AUSTRALIA RESEARCH GRANTS

April: The Secretary of Retina Australia forwards invitations to apply to All potentially interested individuals and institutions.

June: Applications to Retina Australia to close on the last Friday in June.

November/December: The Chair of the Grants Assessment Committee to forward the Committee's recommendations to the Secretary of Retina Australia for distribution to Board members for consideration.

December/January: Retina Australia Board meets to determine the award of research grants.

January: The Secretary of Retina Australia writes to all applicants to advise them of the outcomes of their applications. Following an offer of grant, each successful applicant must lodge with the Secretary a signed letter of acceptance of both the offer and the conditions of grant before any grant monies will be paid by the Treasurer of Retina Australia. Grants will be paid in quarterly instalments, following receipt of the signed documents.

February of the following year: Grantees to receive a questionnaire and form of acquittal of funds to be completed and sent to Retina Australia Secretary by the due date specified, together with a lay report of the completed research project suitable for publication by Retina Australia. (See Clauses 6.4 to 6.6).

## 5 POLICY

- 5.1 Retina Australia policy regarding research funding is that its available funds will be directed to scientific/medical research relevant to the causes, treatment, prevention or cure of retinal dystrophies, in the first instance of retinitis pigmentosa and other inherited retinal diseases and, to the extent that available funds permit, of age-related macular degeneration. Research into diabetic retinopathy will not be funded as it is expected that funds for such research will be available from organizations concerned with diabetes.
- 5.2 Retina Australia may fund research which is basic or applied and may support research through seed funding, supplementing NH&MRC or HRC of NZ funding or otherwise consistent with its funding policy. However, research into behavioural and welfare aspects of retinal dystrophy will not be funded.
- 5.3 Retina Australia grants shall be strictly for one year only.
- 5.4 Research project budgets and Retina Australia grants
  - 5.4.1 A Retina Australia grant will not normally exceed \$40,000 in any one year but special consideration may be given to extending this limit to \$60,000 in the case of a highly ranked application
  - 5.4.2 Combined NH&MRC or HRC of NZ and Retina Australia grants may exceed the NH&MRC or HRC of NZ budget request.
- 5.5 Retina Australia will not provide funding support to more than two research projects involving any chief investigator in any one year.
- 5.6 Funded researchers who fail to comply with the conditions of the grant may be ineligible for future funding.

## 6 CONDITIONS OF GRANT

The following conditions apply to all recipients of a Retina Australia research grant:

- 6.1 All funds shall be used solely and exclusively for the purpose of the work proposed in the successful application and within the term of the grant.
- 6.2 Expenditure of funds for any other purpose requires specific prior written permission from Retina Australia.
- 6.3 The award of a grant is subject to agreement that no part of funds granted by Retina Australia as a charitable entity shall be applied as an infrastructure or other university levy. Expenditure of more than \$2,000 on non-consumable equipment items during the course of the grant will not be approved.
- 6.4 A full account of grant monies expended shall be supplied to the Secretary of Retina Australia by the end of March in the year following the grant.
- 6.5 The support of Retina Australia must be acknowledged in all publications of work funded wholly or in part by a Retina Australia grant.
- 6.6 Grantees shall provide a report on the year's work comprising one to two pages of text in non-technical terms, which can be published by Retina Australia. These are required to be sent to the Secretary by the end of March in the year following the grant.
- 6.7 It is required that recipients of an RA grant awarded to support a "near miss" NH&MRC or HRC of NZ grant, resubmit to the NH&MRC or HRC of NZ in the next appropriate funding round.
- 6.8 Grantees must comply with the ethical standards of their institution and all relevant legislation and accepted codes of practice for animal and human experimentation.
- 6.9 Retina Australia expects the early and full sharing of data between research groups receiving its funding support.
- 6.10 With respect to intellectual property rights the following shall apply:

- (a) intellectual property produced by the researcher remains the property of the research institution.
- (b) Should the researcher file for a patent or enter into commercial development based wholly or in part on research wholly or partially funded by Retina Australia, then the researcher will enter into negotiations with Retina Australia to determine what is a fair and reasonable proportion of the profits to be paid to Retina Australia in recognition of its contribution in funding the research.

6.11 Unless excused by Retina Australia, grantees will attend Retina Australia's National Congress for the purpose of presenting a report on their research. However, Retina Australia will not provide separate funding for this purpose.

6.12 Grantees are expected to be prepared to attend at least one meeting of their local Retina Australia member group during the year.

## 7. NOTES:

- (a) Retina Australia funding decisions are final. Correspondence regarding the funding outcome for unfunded grants will not be entered into.
- (b) Retina Australia encourages grantees to use Retina Australia's funded work as a basis for applying to major research agencies for grants for their work on retinitis pigmentosa, other inherited retinal dystrophies or age-related macular degeneration.
- (c) Retina Australia encourages grantees to attend international meetings, such as Retina International Congresses, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) meetings, and the International Congress for Eye Research, to present their findings, although Retina Australia does not provide funding for this purpose.