Arthritis AUSTRALIA | 2027 National Research Program

Arthritis Australia Accelerator (Triple A) Grant Guidelines

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It is a priority of Arthritis Australia and our donors to invest in game-changing arthritis and musculoskeletal (MSK) research to transform the lives of people living with the arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions.

1. The Purpose of the Innovation Grant & What We Are Looking For

The goal of the Arthritis Australia Accelerator (Triple A) Innovation Ideas Grant program is to support the development and testing of transformative concepts and approaches to address critical barriers to progress in arthritis and MSK care and research, challenge our understanding of its management, generate novel approaches to confront the challenges we face in beating arthritis and MSK conditions and delivering the best evidence-informed care possible in Australia.

Innovation projects are based on high-risk ideas that have strong potential for high reward. As projects are at an early stage of development, a high level of risk is expected, and we accept that not all projects will yield anticipated results. High reward is defined as the potential to create a significant and real change or impact.

Applicants must explain the anticipated change or impact that is likely to result and to whom or what will be affected by the change, and its significance. To support the novelty of the project, a thorough evaluation of the literature should be included. Applicants will be required to describe

why the project is innovative, as it relates to the latest methods, concepts, information, and techniques.

This program encourages bold attempts to test novel hypotheses and/or generate new knowledge and/or improvements related to prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and support; therefore, while projects must be feasible and doable by the applicant(s), preliminary data is not necessary.

2. Eligibility

Applications are encouraged from all areas and disciplines of arthritis and MSK research, at all career levels, as well as from investigators in other disciplines whose ideas are relevant to the field of arthritis and MSK research.

The next logical step or incremental advancement in published data is not considered innovative and should not be submitted to this competition.

3. Sources of Funding

Arthritis Australia must be the primary source of funds for this project proposal. Applicants may leverage funds from other sources to expand the scope of the project, if appropriate, and should clearly describe how they support the overarching objectives.

4. Grant Award and Term

The maximum grant per application is $100,000 for up to one or two years ($100,000 total). The grant is non-renewable.

5. Lived Experience Engagement

Arthritis Australia prioritises the voice of people with lived experience in research, both in their inclusion in grant applications and the grant review process. Applicants should consider this in their submission and are strongly encouraged to include the voice of people with lived experience in the development of research questions and/or design and in the conduct, analysis and/or dissemination of the research should also be described, where appropriate.

For more information on consumer engagement or to enquire about our Consumer Matching Program, you can visit our partnerships page or contact research@arthritisaustralia.com.au

Applicants are strongly advised to read the Arthritis Australia's Best Practice Guidelines Arthritis Australia Best Practice Guidelines.pdf

6. Key Dates

Submission of abstracts: 22nd May 5PM AEST
Full application due: 21st August, 5PM AEST
Notification of decision: Early December 2026
Anticipated funding start date: March 2027

7. The Application and How to Submit

Submission of abstracts:
Prior to the full application, abstract registrations must be submitted through the online form found on our website. The abstract registration will inform the panel composition. Registration is mandatory and will require applicant and team members details, and scientific abstract. Any significant changes to the proposed program after the Abstract Registration deadline should be communicated to Arthritis Australia as soon as they are known.

Full Application:
Applications must be submitted via email at researchgrants@arthritisaustralia.com.au. The full application form includes the following components:

- Research Study Title
- Scientific Abstract (Max. 250 words)
- Plain Language Summary (Max. 250 words)
- Project description (Max. 2,500 words), including:
    - A detailed scientific proposal clearly stating the aims of the project, including a thorough review of the literature to prove novelty and/or any related work done in the area, experimental design, methods, and analysis.
    - Preliminary data may be included but it is not a requirement. Investigators must provide a compelling rationale for the hypothesis and clearly address feasibility.
    - Details of the investigator(s) including which member(s) of the research team will be responsible for which aspect of the project and a rationale for their inclusion into the project are required, as well as a description of the research environment where the work will take place.
    - Lived Experience Engagement
- Innovation statement (Max. 250 words) explicitly describing how the project is transformational and innovative.
- Statement of Significance (Max. 250 words) describing how this project will make a meaningful difference to people living with their condition and to the clinicians who diagnose, treat, and manage their care.
- Vision statement (Max. 250 words) explicitly describing how the proposed work could move the field forward and accelerate progress in arthritis research
- Knowledge translation plan sections (Max. 250 words each)
- Proposed budget and budget justification (Max. 1 page).
- Project team members and contact information

Required attachments

- Curriculum Vitae
- Letter(s) of support

8. Assessment/Review Criteria

The review criteria for applications will include but not necessarily be restricted to the following assessment categories: Innovation, Investigator(s) and research team and quality of the project.

a) Innovation

Potential to address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field

- Potential to improve or apply a novel theoretical concept, approach, methodology or tool
- Degree to which the research is innovative, transformative, original, unique, and creative, in the context of the current state of the field of arthritis in Australia
- Potential gain relative to (any) perceived risk
- Degree to which the research proposes new paradigms or challenges existing ones

b) Quality of PI, Research Team

- Qualifications of the applicant(s), including training, experience, and independence (i.e., relative to career stage)
- Experience of the applicant(s) in the proposed area of research and with the proposed methodology
- Evidence that the personnel, facilities and infrastructure required to conduct the research is available

c) Quality of Project

- Scientific merit and compelling rationale
- Importance and novelty of the research question, proposed project, and objectives
- Strength of the rationale for the research approach and methodology
- Identification of potential limitations of the proposed research strategy and how they will be addressed and alternative approaches
- Knowledge Translation Plan
- Lived Experience Engagement Plan
- Appropriateness of term and support requested

Required attachments

- Curriculum Vitae
- Letter(s) of support from collaborators, partners, and consumers, as needed

9. Generative AI in the preparation of grant applications and reviews

Please refer to the NHRMC guidelines on the use of generative AI in the preparation of grant applications and reviews. https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/resources/policy-use-generative-artificial-intelligence.