



The Australian Respiratory Council's Research Funding Guidelines 2024

The Australian Respiratory Council (ARC) is a Charitable, Non-Government Organisation supporting prevention, treatment and research into tuberculosis (TB) and respiratory disease at a national and international level.

The ARC has been committed to building expertise and sustainable capacity in respiratory health by fostering innovative research to promote respiratory health. ARC's contribution to the discovery of new knowledge and enhanced scientific understanding in the field of respiratory health is through Research Grants.

The funding provided in the past through the ARC's grants and Fellowship Program has made a significant impact on the research landscape in Australia. Through the allocation of seed funding it is ARC's intention that there is a return on investment to create additional funding for research in respiratory health.

The allocation of research funding is determined each year by ARC's Board of Directors. In 2024, funding of \$80,000 has been approved to award up to four \$20,000 research grants for the year.

The call for submissions will be posted on ARC's website and social media platforms and circulated through the following agencies and networks: the Australasian Clinical Tuberculosis Network; the TB Research Centre of Excellence; the Woolcock Institute of Research; the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand, the Australian Society of Infectious Diseases and the National TB Advisory Committee jurisdictional representatives.

Terms of Reference of ARC's Research Committee

The ARC Research Committee provide advice and recommendations to the Board on:

- Policy matters relating to research activities including strategic areas and priorities for research funding, joint funding opportunities with other organisations, the mix and number of research grants, the mix of national and international research activities
- The applicants for research grants to be awarded under the ARC Research Support Grants Scheme
- Advice on appropriate matters referred to the committee by the Board or other Board committees.

ARC Research Committee Members

Professor Greg Fox (Chair of the Committee)
Dr Andrew Burke
Professor Justin Denholm
Associate Professor Claudia Dobler
Professor Peter Gibson
David Macintosh AM (ex- officio as President of ARC)

A quorum exists where there are at least three members of the Committee available to meet and/or review grant applications. At least three members of the ARC Research Committee will independently review and score the shortlisted applications. Applications will be assessed in accordance with their alignment with ARC's research themes and priority areas, the scientific quality of the application, the capability of the applicant and potential impacts of the proposed work.

Research Committee members are not prohibited from applying for research or fellowship funding provided by ARC. In the event that a Research Committee member were to apply for an ARC Research Support Grant, and/or be involved in the research proposal/research team then the Committee member is required to abstain from the discussion and review of the application.

Funding recipients are required to actively assist in the promotion of their project with ARC. It is also expected that the research results of all projects will be made available through scientific publication. Publications and presentations should acknowledge that the work was undertaken while in receipt of funding from ARC.

Detailed information on grant conditions are made available to applicants. These conditions include funding tenure and administration, project and financial reporting requirements and notification of additional funding.

ARC Research Support Grants 2024

Research themes and priority areas

In 2024, funding will be awarded for researchers and scholars undertaking research activities in basic science, clinical research and public health relating to the following themes: (i) infectious lung diseases due to *M. tuberculosis* or other respiratory pathogens, and (ii) chronic respiratory diseases related to environmental factors such as tobacco or bushfire smoke exposure.

Projects that address ARC's areas of interest and community issues or the health of disadvantaged groups that relate to the work that the ARC undertakes within Australia and the Indo-Pacific Region are particularly prioritised.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed according to the alignment with the research themes and priority areas, the scientific quality of the application, the capability of the applicant and potential impacts of the proposed work.

The scientific quality of the study will be assessed, including the clarity of the study hypotheses and objectives, the strengths of the study design, feasibility and the likely impacts of the proposed research.

The capability of the applicant will be assessed, based upon the (i) expertise and experience relevant to the proposed project and (ii) the impact of their research over the last 5 years, supported by evidence, relative to opportunity.

The likely impact of the project, including its potential impact on health and its potential to leverage large scale competitive funding.

Research funding is awarded in open competition on the basis of merit following assessment by ARC's Research Committee.