

# Prostate Cancer Research Alliance

*An Australian Government and Movember Foundation  
Collaboration*

## **APPLICATION Q & A'S 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2018**

The Prostate Cancer Research Alliance (PCRA) is a three-year program jointly funded by the Australian Government and the Movember Foundation (Movember).

The initiative aims to fund research projects that will accelerate the “bench-to-bedside” translation of prostate cancer research in the identified priority areas. Three Research Teams will be selected for funding through a merit-based, open, competitive, peer-reviewed national grants round.

Along with the Request for Proposal (RFP), Movember is pleased to share some information relating to this grant opportunity with those who may be interested in the Program.

Below are some of the questions and corresponding answers that may be important when considering your participation in the program. Should you have further questions relating to the Program, please get in contact with us at [pcra@movember.com](mailto:pcra@movember.com).

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### **UPDATE as of Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

- 1) Can new cash contributions for the project from institutions also be in the form of 'in-kind contributions' of required materials or drugs for a research?**
  - The 25% contribution from Institutions must be in the form of new / additional / not-currently existing cash to fund PhD student placements, post-doctoral, early/mid-career scientists, protected time for clinicians; and/or administration support (i.e. not existing ‘in-kind’ contributions). Both existing salaries and project/trial-related materials would be out of scope.
  
- 2) What if my Research Team cannot provide the 25% funding contribution outlined in the RFP?**
  - Per the wording in the RFP, “A contribution of at least 25% of the cost of a team’s proposed research activities and independent to the funding provided by the Australian

Government and Movember Foundation is *expected* from participating Research Teams and/or their affiliated institutions. This funding co-contribution is expected to be made in new cash and must be outlined in the Proposal”.

- If a Research Team is not in a position to provide the expected 25% funding co-contribution, then the applicant must clearly outline in their application what level of new cash co-contribution can be provided.
- Every effort must be made to achieve the new cash contribution goal outlined in the RFP, which will be considered by the Grants Assessment Committee as part of the Peer Review Process.

**3) Are research proposals targeted to patients who have metastatic castrate-sensitive (hormone sensitive) prostate cancer within the scope of research?**

- The Program has two high-level objectives:
  - a) the earlier identification and optimal treatment of men at high risk of disease progression to reduce the number of men progressing from localised disease to advanced prostate cancer, and
  - b) new / improved targets for castrate-resistant prostate cancer in order to better treat men who have already progressed to advanced disease.
- However, the “advanced prostate cancer” as stated in Objective (a) could be defined as castrate-resistance prostate cancer whereby research proposals addressing both metastatic castrate-sensitive (hormone sensitive) and metastatic castrate resistant prostate cancer would be in-scope for the PCRA initiative.

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**UPDATE as of Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

**4) AIs in practise have been essential collaborators sharing a particular expertise / models/resources/data but may not be involved across all aspects of the grant on a daily basis. Under which of your categories should these types of important type of collaborators be classified?**

- Investigators that are part of the actual research team are categorised based on their contribution and time invested in the project.
  - PIs and CIs should be contributing at least 20% of their time to the project.
  - AIs are members of the team that are devoting intellectual input and a significant amount of their time, (at least 40%), to the project.
  - Contributors who are involved in the project in other ways (e.g. essential collaborators who share a particular expertise, resource or data, but who may not be involved across all aspects of the grant on a daily basis), can either be categorised as CIs if they devote at least 20% of their time) or, if contributing less than 20% of their time to the project, can be listed as “Other Team Members”.
- Where the RFP states that Other Team Members can be “Laboratory staff, including post-doctoral fellows, research assistants, basic and clinical science trainees (Masters and

PhD students), that will perform hands on research in various components of the Research Team's research program – these are indicative examples only and the list is not-exhaustive. There is no pre-specified level of seniority associated with the “Other Team Member” category. These contributors can be junior, mid-career or senior. There is no reason why a bio can't be provided for Other Team Members. Alternatively, these individuals could simply be listed as “Collaborators” rather than a team member per se.

#### 5) Can a PI also be a CI or Associate on another grant under this program?

- The PCRA initiative encourages a team approach. Whilst the PI represents the member of the team that is responsible for pulling together the application, CIs could have as much scientific contribution as the PI in the proposed research project.
- An investigator can be included on a maximum of THREE applications as a PI and/or CI, but only ONE of these can be as the nominated PI.
  - i.e. if someone was the PI on one proposal, they could also be included on TWO other proposals as a CI.
- Investigators could also be listed on additional five proposals as an AI.

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## 1. ABOUT THE PROGRAM

### 1.1. What is the scope of the Program?

- We welcome high quality proposals from any multi-institutional, trans-disciplinary, large-scale research teams that have the potential to leverage Australia's existing strengths in prostate cancer research. Ultimately, the Program strives to support the development and advancement of innovations that will impact the management of prostate cancer, by delivering translational research outcomes into clinical practice within the next 5 to 7 years.

### 1.2. Who can apply for the funding opportunity?

- While we encourage all past and current Movember-funded research teams to submit proposals to continue the translational transformation of research outcomes, this Grant opportunity is open to all research teams that meet the Program Requirement as outlined in the RFP.

### 1.3. The funding has been announced as a joint initiative between the Australian Government and Movember Foundation. What is the governance structure for the PCRA?

- The Movember Foundation and Cancer Australia will jointly provide strategic oversight of the PCRA initiative through a Governance Committee (chaired by Cancer Australia). In addition, Movember will be the responsible party that manages the Program on a day-to-day basis, including the RFP process, proposal review, contracting and on-going management post-awards.

### 1.4. Where can I find more detail information on the Grant application process?

- Detail information on all matters relating to the Grant application process will be included in the PCRA RFP document available at

<https://au.movember.com/about/funding>.

## 2. FUNDING AVAILABLE

### 2.1. What is the maximum amount of funding available?

- PCRA will provide up to \$4 million Australian Dollars in total for a proposed three- year research project.
- We strongly recommend that you apply for the funding required to advance your innovation rather than budgeting to the maximum amounts available.

### 2.2. How many research teams will be funded under the PCRA initiative?

- PCRA is looking to fund *three* high-calibre research teams for the grant opportunity.

### 2.3. How important is it to have co-funding in my application?

- We expect the applicants to secure funding from other sources to match *at least 25 %* of your total project budget in cash contribution. This additional contribution may be sourced from participating institutions or other national / international funders. A detailed breakdown of the additional contribution should be included in the proposal's budget section.

### 2.4. Should I include GST in my budget?

- If your institution is GST-registered, Movember will pay the grant amount plus GST. The budget provided in your application should be exclusive of GST.

### 2.5. Can I include indirect, overhead and administrative cost in the budget?

- The grants are used only for the approved project and not to contribute to the grantee's general overheads, administration or other indirect cost. Please refer to the RFP for eligible and ineligible costs.

### 2.6. When will the funding be available for successful applicants?

- All funding will be provided in tranches based on milestone delivery. Movember will work with the successful applicants to determine the milestones according to the research proposal.
- Subject to the full execution of a Funding Agreement with the Administering Institutions of the successful applicants, the first tranche of payment will be available from May 2019.

## 3. RESEARCH TEAM STRUCTURE

### 3.1. What is the definition of “trans-disciplinary” for the purposes of a Research Team?

- A trans-disciplinary team is comprised of members from different disciplines, sub-disciplines, or professions who will each contribute specific value to the team in order to carry out the scope of the project. The most important consideration is that the team has the necessary mix of expertise to conduct the project, and the onus is on the team to convince the Grant Assessment Committee of this.

### 3.2. What is the minimum/maximum number of investigators that can be included on a team for the PCRA?

- The Grant opportunity is open to a team of investigators with multi-disciplinary background to promote collaboration.
- A research team must include:
  - One investigator, who is nominated as the Principal Investigator (PI), who will

be responsible for the overall scientific and technical direction of the proposed program, contractual and financial obligations, and the overall administrative responsibility for the project. Where applicable, an application may have two, but not more than two, PIs.

- A minimum of three established researchers with proven leadership skills and experience (i.e. Co-Investigators / CIs) across at least two institutions must be included in an application.
- There is no restriction to the number of Associate Investigators, who will be assisting in directing the scientific and technical work of the team, or other team members, such as laboratory staff and basic/clinical science trainees, that can be included in the research team.

### **3.3. Is there a limit to the number of applications an individual can submit?**

- If you are the nominated *Principal Investigator*, you will only be allowed to submit ONE application.
- If you are a *Co-Investigator*, you will be able to be included in a total of THREE applications.
- If you are an *Associate Investigator*, you will be able to be included in a total of FIVE applications.
- There is no limit to the number of times that other team members can be included in an application.

### **3.4. Can groups made up of Australian and international researchers apply?**

- Your research group may consist of Australian and international researchers. However, the nominated PI and at least 75% of the CIs and Associate Investigators must:
  - Reside in Australia, or intend to reside in Australia, throughout the funding period;
  - Be an Australian citizen, have resident status or have an appropriate visa to work in Australia for the entire duration of the funding period; and
  - Be affiliated with an Australian institution.

## **4. ASSESSEMENT OF APPLICATIONS**

### **4.1. What projects will be considered a priority for funding?**

- All proposals received will be assessed against the Evaluation Criteria as outlined in the RFP. Proposals that address either / both of the following Movember-priority areas will be considered favourably:
  - The earlier identification and optimal treatment of men at high risk of disease progression to reduce the number of men progressing from localised disease to advanced prostate cancer; and
  - The development of new / advancement of existing targets for castrate-resistant prostate cancer in order to better treat men who have already progressed to advanced disease

### **4.2. What will PCRA look for when making funding decisions?**

- Our Grant Assessment Committee looks for more than good science; they look at (1) the extent to which the proposals address an unmet need, (2) potential for translation into clinical practice, (3) likelihood of success, (4) the strength of the team and institution, as well as (5) the team's ability and willingness to collaborate. We also consider other innovations that may already exist in the pipeline. Lastly, we challenge the applicants to incorporate a Knowledge Translation plan that entails how research outcomes will be disseminated to a

wider community. Detailed Evaluation Criteria will be provided in the RFP.

#### **4.3. How will the applications be assessed?**

- An independent Grant Assessment Committee, composed of national and international experts in the field of prostate / cancer biology as well as a Consumer Representative, will be appointed with a due diligence check for potential Conflict of Interest.
- All proposals received will be reviewed / assessed by the Grant Assessment Committee against the Evaluation Criteria as outlined in the RFP with respective weighted scoring.
- Where possible, we will also de-identify all proposals to ensure a fair, unbiased assessment.

#### **4.4. When will I be notified about the outcome of my application?**

- Applicants will receive notification by 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 if they have been shortlisted for an interview with the Grant Assessment Committee.
- Shortlisted applicants must be available to attend a face-to-face or teleconference interview (to be confirmed pending the location of shortlisted applicants) with the Grant Assessment Committee during the week of 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
- Public announcement of the grant outcome will be made available on the Movember Funding Opportunity webpage (<https://au.movember.com/about/funding>) in the week of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

#### **4.5. Do you provide feedback if an application is unsuccessful?**

- The Grant Assessment Committee will only provide high-level feedback on unsuccessful applications upon request.

### **5. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

#### **5.1. When is the application deadline?**

- Applications must be received by 5.00pm AEDT on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Strictly no late applications will be considered for funding.

#### **5.2. How can I submit my application?**

- Application must be submitted as ONE file (MS Word or PDF) to [pcra@movember.com](mailto:pcra@movember.com), with "PCRA Grant Application" in the subject line. You will receive a reply to confirm the receipt of your application within two business days. You must keep the email as confirmation of your successfully lodged application.
- Please contact Ivy Lim-Carter ([ivy.lim-carter@movember.com](mailto:ivy.lim-carter@movember.com)) if you do not receive the confirmation after two business days.

### **6. FURTHER QUESTIONS**

#### **6.1. Who should I contact if can't find the answer to my question?**

- All additional questions about the PCRA grant opportunity that are not found in the FAQs should be forwarded to [pcra@movember.com](mailto:pcra@movember.com). All questions and answers will be published online at <https://au.movember.com/about/funding> within three business days to ensure a transparent RFP process.