NSW COVID-19 VACCINE ACCELERATION RESEARCH GRANTS

APPLICATION FORM

CLOSING DATE: Monday 22 August 2022

COVID-19 Vaccine Acceleration Research Grant - Application Form

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

All applicants must refer to the **2022 COVID-19 Vaccine Acceleration Research Grants Guidelines**, available at www.medicalresearch.nsw.gov.au. These outline the program objectives, priority areas, timelines, eligibility and selection criteria, and other key information.

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

All applications for COVID-19 Vaccine Acceleration research projects must be prepared using this form.
Please name your application using the following naming convention:
COVID19_VX_SURNAME_FirstName (e.g. COVID19_VX_SMITH_Jane)

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

The application and attachments are to be submitted by email to:
MOH-**OHMRGrants**@health.nsw.gov.au by **12pm AEST on Monday 22 August 2022.**

Please note NSW Health will acknowledge receipt of your application by email within 24 hours. If you do not receive an acknowledgement, it is your responsibility to follow up immediately. Please note that the maximum file size is 20MB. Larger files will be rejected by the NSW Health server.
Two versions of the application should be submitted:

- A Word version
- A PDF version

All applicants must attach the following documents:
☐ A full list of career publications (as requested in section B)
☐ A list of references supporting the science

If applicable, clinical trial applications attach:
☐ A protocol or protocol synopsis
☐ An Investigators Brochure (if required)

If applicable, also attach:
☐ Certified evidence of residency status and the right to remain in Australia for the duration of the funding period.

For each additional attachment, use the following format for naming:
COVID19_VX_document name_SURNAME_FirstName
(e.g. COVID19_VX_Residency_SMITH_Jane)

APPLICATION FORM REQUIREMENTS

This application form has seven sections reflecting the selection criteria outlined in the guidelines.

Section	Content
A	**Project Summary: no longer than 2 pages (additional pages will not be read)** Please ensure you provide all requested information. Information provided here may be used in the public domain.
B	**Chief Investigator, Research Team and Environment (30%)**
Section B1	Chief Investigator
Section B2	Research Team
Section B3	Environment
C	**Significance and Feasibility (30%)** Define the project's purpose, including the hypothesis, aims and objectives. Describe the methodology and approach and explain how they are appropriate and will achieve the aims. Include pilot data, key milestones and a risk management plan.
D	**Translation and Impact (40%)** Demonstrate how your project will address an unmet need for COVID-19 vaccine technology, including but not limited to the potential to elicit broader, stronger and/or longer memory responses: • against more strains; • with a single dose; • with an improved safety profile; • utilising adjuvants; and/or • in immunocompromised or other at-risk populations, than existing vaccines. Articulate how the technology will progress through Technology Readiness Level(s) by the end of the funding period, and if successful how it will eventually be translated to patients. Complete a Program Logic to define and evaluate success of the project.
E	**Project Budget and other contributions**
F	**Administrative Information**
G	**Declarations**

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SECTION A – PROJECT DETAILS – MAX TWO PAGES (Attachment A of the Guidelines)	
Project Title: The title must describe the project clearly and in lay language.	
Chief Investigator:	
Host Organisation:	
Administering Organisation (if applicable):	
Total funds requested (excluding GST):	
Anticipated Start date:	
Anticipated End date (max 2 years):	
Current Technology Readiness Level (Refer Appendix A of the Guidelines):	
Project Summary (Maximum 500 words): Summarise the proposed project, significance and impact in lay language.	

SECTION B – CHIEF INVESTIGATOR, TEAM, ENVIRONMENT (30%)

B1.1 Chief Investigator

Title	First Name	Last Name	Description of role on project	FTE on project

B1.2 Academic and relevant professional qualifications

Enter one qualification per field. Add a new row for each additional qualification.

#	Degree/Award	Organisation	Country	Year
1				

B1.3 Research, clinical and industry experience

List current and previous research, clinical and industry appointment(s)/position(s) held during the past 10 years. Enter one position per field and add a new row for each additional position.

#	Position	Organisation	Year Started	Year Ended or 'Ongoing'
1				

B1.4 Chief Investigator Track Record (maximum 2 pages)

Please attach a **summary of your track record**.

Include a list of top ten (**max 10 total**) journal articles, books, reports and conference presentations. Provide a list of other outputs such as new IP including patents and inventions. Highlight those most relevant to this submission. Provide examples of translation and impact through your research career.

B1.5 Funding awarded (last five years only)

List funding awarded within the last 5 years (2017 onwards). Add a new row for each additional example.

#	Grant Title	Chief Investigators	Funding Source	Grant Type (e.g. Project)	Grant Amount	Years Covered by Grant (e.g. 2017-2019)
1						

B1.6 Previous COVID-19 grant funding

Please complete this section if you have previously received a grant for this project. This includes funding that is completed and funding for research that is currently underway.

Please explain how the proposed research project will not duplicate or overlap with work that was previously or is currently being funded. Applications for the NSW COVID-19 Vaccine Acceleration Research Grant will only be considered eligible if they are for *the rapid acceleration* of research projects at TRL 3B-6 towards translation and commercialisation of a next generation COVID-19 vaccine.

Please complete the table for every grant received for this technology including any related research project funding. Include grant applications that have not yet been awarded.
Add a new row for each grant awarded.

Name of grant	Amount	Date announced (or expected to be announced if not yet awarded)	Funder	Start date	End date (actual or expected)	Provide a brief progress report if current, or outcomes report if completed. Explain how the grant does not duplicate or overlap with the current application.

Please attach evidence of existing peer-reviewed funding and ethics and governance approvals (as specified in the Guidelines)

B1.7 Responsibilities impacting track record (maximum 150 words)

Indicate any significant career disruptions or clinical responsibilities that could reasonably be considered to have had a negative impact on your research track record, and note their duration. Please refer to the NHMRC policy on career disruption: https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/attachments/relative_to_opportunity_policy0720.pdf

Attach a statutory declaration detailing career disruption circumstances, certified by a Justice of the Peace or equivalent, or other evidence confirming details of career disruption.

B2.1 Research Team

List team members in the table below. Add rows as required.

#	Title	Full Name	Position and Organisation	Description of role on project	FTE on project
1					

B2.2 Research Team Track Record

Please provide an attachment that includes a **brief summary** of the collaborative track record and achievements of the whole research team (max **one page for team**).

Please provide an attachment for each individual member of the research team that outlines their track record (max **10 total**) of journal articles, books, reports and conference presentations that are directly relevant to the research topic area and methodology. Please detail the relationship with the Chief Investigator. Explain each investigator's ability to contribute to the research and research translation, and provide examples of translation and impact through their research career. Include a list of outputs such as new IP including patents and inventions and highlight those most relevant to this submission. Detail any experience, skills and contributions from industry partners, if relevant.

Please **combined into a single file** using the following naming convention (using the lead Chief Investigator's name):
COVID19_VX_TeamTrackRecord_SURNAME_FirstName
(e.g. COVID19_VX_TeamTrackRecord_SMITH_Jane)

B2.3 Project Governance

Summarise the governance structure for your project, including evidence of appropriate and sustainable partnerships.

B2.4 Stakeholder engagement and collaboration (max 300 words)

Summarise the approach to stakeholder engagement and collaboration required for successful research design, translation and implementation. Examples of stakeholders include regulators, industry, and decision makers.

B3.1 Research Environment

Describe how the research environment provides all of the required facilities and resources to ensure success of the project.

SECTION C – SIGNIFICANCE AND FEASIBILITY (30%)

C.1 Research Purpose (Max 1500 words)

Define the research project's purpose including aims, hypothesis, objectives. Describe the methodology and approach and explain how they are appropriate and will achieve each aim. Include pilot data.

C.2 Project milestones

Summarise the key milestones for each aim and expected completion dates. Add rows as required.

Aim	Key milestone	Related deliverables	Completion date (mm/yyyy)

Note: All milestones must be met within the funding period specified in Section A.

C.3 Risk Management Plan

Outline all risks that may impact the achievement of the aims during the funding period and how these risks may be mitigated. Add rows as required.

Aim	Risk	Likelihood	Mitigation Strategy and Outcome

C4. Evidence gap (max 300 words)

Summarise how this project will remain cutting-edge and add new knowledge by placing it within the context of research projects in Australia or internationally. Outline how the proposed research will complement, but not duplicate, national and international efforts. Provide details of any prior systematic reviews and/or gap analyses.

C5. Priority populations, including Aboriginal people and culturally and linguistically diverse communities (maximum 300 words)

Please provide details of how your research addresses the needs of priority populations and engages with representatives from these populations if required. Consider equity of access in implementation to ensure the intervention will not contribute to an increased disparity in health outcomes. Attach an Aboriginal Health Impact Statement if appropriate.

SECTION D – TRANSLATION AND IMPACT (40%)

D.1 Technology Readiness Level

Complete the following Technology Readiness Level Scale to indicate the current development stage of the vaccine technology and the expected development stage at the completion of the project if successful.
Refer to **Appendix A of the Guidelines** for more information on the Technology Readiness Level Scale.

Technology Readiness Level	3B	3C	4	5	6	7	8	9
At project start	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
At project end	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

D.2 Translation and Impact (Max 1000 words)

- Demonstrate how your project will address an unmet need for COVID-19 vaccine technology, including the advantages it has over current and planned COVID-19 vaccines in Australia and internationally.
- Articulate how the technology will progress through Technology Readiness Level(s) specified above in D.1 by the end of the funding period.
- Describe the scalability and generalisability of the results.
- Describe the translational pathway beyond the funding period – that is, if successful how will the technology eventually reach the target population(s) and lead to changes in public health practice considering acceptability, safety, cost-effectiveness and compatibility with existing infrastructure.
- Consider equity of access in implementation to ensure the intervention will not contribute to an increased disparity in health outcomes
- Consider any barriers to this translation, including but not limited to GMP manufacturing requirements and cold chain logistics.

D.3 Intellectual Property (IP)

Outline the commercialisation and IP arrangements relevant to this project, including details on whether the IP is owned, assigned or licensed, partly or wholly, and whether the arrangements are exclusive or non-exclusive. IP arrangements must cover both background IP and IP that is developed during the project. IP arrangements should consider the contributions of all parties.

IP includes (but is not limited to) patents and patent applications, unpatented know-how, confidential information, trade secrets, registered and unregistered designs and related applications, copyright, circuit layout rights, registered and unregistered trade marks and related applications.

D.4 Program Logic

Please complete the program logic diagram below to provide a high-level overview of the project, including its activities, outputs, end users, pathway to adoption, and short and long-term outcomes.

Project Need: *Write the need the project is seeking to address here.*				
Project Aims: *Write the key aims of the project here.*				
Activities	**Outputs**	**Next users or end users**	**Pathway to adoption**	**Impacts**
List the activities required to meet the project aims and produce research project outputs	*List the deliverables of your research project (products or services) produced for next or end users from the activities previously listed*	**Next users / Implementers:** List the stakeholders who will utilise or implement the research outputs. **Beneficiaries:** *List the end users who will benefit from the research project outputs (e.g. those who will experience an improvement in health outcomes)*	*List how the next users/implementers will use the research outputs to change/influence outcomes (e.g. research report will be used by a statewide committee to inform revisions to a policy directive)*	*List the anticipated short- and long-term impacts and outcomes in the following Domains (refer to Guidelines for details):* 1. Knowledge Generation 2. Capability Building 3. Policy and Practice 4. Health and Community Impact 5. Economic Benefit

SECTION E – BUDGET

NSW Health COVID-19 Vaccine Acceleration Research Grants will fund projects up to $1 million over periods up to 2 years. *Grants over $1 million will only be provided in exceptional circumstances with clear justification.*

E.1 Grant funds requested

Outline the project budget using the table below. Including salaries of research team members, research project costs and translation activities.

- Specify research roles, salary level, maximum on-costs and full-time equivalent hours (FTE).
- NSW Health funding cannot be directed towards capital works, general maintenance costs, telephone/communication systems, basic office equipment such as desks and chairs, rent or the cost of utilities.

Note that the budget must be expended within the grant period specified above.

#	Category (e.g. salary, equipment, consumables)	Budget item Details	Amount		
			Year 1	Year 2 (if requested)	Total
1					
2					
3					
4					
Add		Total funds requested			[Max $1,000,000]

E.2 Budget justification (including for equipment, facilities and other items) (maximum 200 words)

E.3 Cash contributions from the host organisation and other funding sources

List financial support for the project from the host organisation and any other funding bodies/ sources, including funding that has been applied for but not yet awarded.

#	Funding body/source	Funding used to support	Duration of funding	Amount
1				
2				
3				
4				
Add		Total contribution from other sources		

E.4 In-kind contributions from the host organisation and other collaborators

Report in-kind contributions for the project from the host organisation and any other collaborators. At a minimum, host organisations must provide in-kind support.

#	**Source** Host organisation or collaborator	**Budget item**	**Description (<100 words per item)**
1			
2			
3			
4			
Add			

SECTION F – ELIGIBILITY AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Chief Investigator Contact Details

Title:

First name:

Surname:

Position:

Organisation:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Gender	☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Other
Year PhD was completed:	
Is the Chief Investigator currently a practicing clinician? If yes, will the CI continue clinical duties during this project? Indicate FTE split between clinical and research duties.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ No

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin

☐ Aboriginal ☐ Torres Strait Islander ☐ Both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander ☐ Neither

Do all team members have the right to work in Australia for the duration of the project?

Please provide evidence of citizenship, residency status or visas granting the right to remain in Australia for the duration of the funding period. Refer to the Guidelines for more details.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Host Organisation Contact Details

Name:

Position:

Organisation:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Administering Organisation Contact Details

(if funds will be administered by a separate organisation to the host organisation)

Name:

Position:

Organisation:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Lay Summary for OHMR website and other communications

Project title	*Max 52 characters including spaces.*	

Research intent summary statement	*Descriptive title that summarises the intent of the research project – **max 150 characters including spaces.***	
What is the issue for NSW?	*What is the issue the research will address? **120-150 words**.*	
What does the research aim to do and how?	*Overview of the research aim and methodology for the project – **75-100 words**.*	
What are top three (3) key measures/ indicators being used to assess the research outcomes?	*These should be short and succinct key measures.*	
Please provide project related images as a separate attachment.	These may be published with the project summary on www.medicalresearch.nsw.gov.au	

SECTION G – DECLARATIONS

Include a PDF of the signed declaration page(s) when submitting your application.

I.1 Declaration by the Chief Investigator

I certify that:

1. To the best of my knowledge and belief, information contained in this application is complete, true and correct and I understand that the provision of false or misleading information will render me ineligible for funding.
2. All investigators (core team members) named have read this application in full and have given their consent to be included.
3. I consent to this application being shared with expert reviewers engaged in the selection process.

Full name

Signature _____ **Date**

I.2 Declaration by the host organisation

I certify that:

1. I am an authorised signatory on behalf of the entity identified as the applicant's host organisation.
2. The applicant has an agreement with this organisation to undertake the research described in this application, if successful.
3. This organisation is engaged in the delivery of health and medical research and can be classified as: a department or research centre within a university; an independent medical research institute; a not-for-profit organisation; or a NSW public health organisation.
4. Each of the host organisation commitments outlined in the guidelines are acknowledged.
5. Infrastructure support for this project will be provided if the grant is received.
6. This organisation's policies and practice support gender equity.
7. The application is authorised to be submitted to NSW Health.

Full name & Position

Signature _____ **Date**

I.3 Declaration by the administering organisation (if separate to the host organisation)

I certify that:

1. am an authorised signatory on behalf of the entity identified as the applicant's administering organisation.
2. This organisation can be classified as: a department or research centre within a University; an independent Medical Research Institute; or a not-for-profit organisation.
3. Each of the administering organisation's commitments outlined in the guidelines are acknowledged.
4. The application is authorised to be submitted to the NSW Ministry of Health.

Full name & Position

Signature _____ **Date**

I.4 Declaration of department head of local health district where clinical duties will be undertaken (if applicable)

I certify that this grant may be partially used to backfill the applicant's clinical role for the period of the grant, as detailed in the application.

Full name & Position

Signature _____ **Date**