



TRANSLATIONAL PARTNERS FELLOWSHIP SCHEME GUIDELINES



Sydney Cancer Partners

Sydney Cancer Partners (SCP) was formed under the auspices of Sydney Health Partners (SHP) in 2021 following the award of a Cancer Institute NSW Translational Cancer Research Capacity Building Grant.

The goal of SCP is to foster a culture of innovative, collaborative research, embedded across the full spectrum of cancer care, with a clear aim of improving cancer outcomes. It brings together over 700 cancer researchers and clinical teams from across the University of Sydney, 11 affiliated medical research institutes, 16 major public and private hospitals and health precincts in north, west and central Sydney and in rural and regional NSW.

Purpose of the Translational Partners Fellowship Scheme

The purpose of the SCP Translational Partners Fellowship scheme is to build translational research capacity by fostering an enduring collaborative partnership between:

- 1) a researcher, and
- 2) a clinician researcher,

who demonstrate potential as future research leaders.

To ensure impact on clinical outcomes and research culture, the partnership will be connected with, and supported by a relevant Clinical or Multi-Disciplinary Team.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be SCP members and take up the award at a [Sydney Health Partners \(SHP\) member institution](#).
- Both applicants must be Australian citizens, permanent residents or have requisite work visas in place prior to acceptance of a SCP Translational Partners Fellowship award.

Researcher

- The **researcher** may be engaged in 'wet-lab' or 'dry-lab' research including any practice involving the generation, collection and / or analysis of data.
- A **researcher** applicant must hold a PhD and would typically be 5 – 10 years post award, excepting periods of career disruption.
- A **researcher** may request up to 1.0 FTE salary support from SCP Translational Partners Fellowship funding.

Clinician Researcher

- A **clinician-researcher** may be engaged in any form of medical, dental, nursing or allied health practice involving provision of clinical care to cancer patients.
- A **clinician-researcher** must hold a substantive clinical appointment at a SHP affiliated health care facility.
- A **clinician-researcher** applicant must hold a PhD or equivalent qualification and will typically be within 10 years of award, excepting periods of career disruption. Individuals who expect to be awarded a PhD or equivalent qualification before commencement of the Translational Partners Fellowship are eligible to apply, but must have been awarded the relevant qualification prior to commencement.

- A **clinician-researcher** must draw a minimum of 0.2 FTE salary support from SCP Partners Fellowship funding.

General

- Evidence of support for the partnership from a relevant Clinical or Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) must be provided.
- Applications must be endorsed by the host institutions.
- Within the term of the award, applicants must commit to submission of an application for external peer-reviewed research funding from state, national or international sources, based on the area of research supported by the Translational Partners Fellowship.

Research objectives

The Translational Partners Fellowship award will include support for a translational cancer research project. The project may involve partners working together, or on complementary aspects focussed on common goals. Applicants must describe how the partnership will work to achieve collaborative gain and expected outcomes of the scheme.

It is intended that the Translational Partners Fellowship scheme will support a new research initiative. Existing partnerships in established research teams must demonstrate how the Translational Partners Fellowship would support a new research direction that is consistent with capacity building objectives.

Research proposals should be consistent with principles for Research funding promulgated by the [Cancer Institute NSW](#):

- Consistency with the priorities for action in the [NSW Cancer Plan](#).
- Commitment to excellence and innovation.
- Commitment to rapid translation of research findings to clinical practice and policy.
- Focus on the importance of the outcomes of research.
- Supporting recruitment and development of excellent cancer researchers in NSW.
- Promoting, enhancing or complementing areas with existing outstanding research strengths in NSW including molecular or cell biology, cancer genetics, clinical research, psycho-oncology, population health, health systems research or addressing major cancer problems facing NSW.
- Promoting attainment of additional scientific depth by collaboration, co-location, amalgamation or research involving a number of research disciplines.
- Strengthening key research infrastructure, platforms, technologies and research expertise to increase the productivity of research.
- Supporting the development of links with key national or overseas research programs and industry.
- Developing the research culture within the NSW health system.
- Identifying the relevance of the research to NSW.
- Responding to National and State priorities and community opinions about research.

The proposed research is also expected to involve at least two phases of the translational research pipeline of the [Model of Translational Research](#).

Expected outcomes

- Development of a cancer research group or initiative that spans from the research laboratory (or equivalent) to the clinic.
- A record of research achievement including successful applications for competitive research funds and / or commercial support; supervision of post-graduate students; publication and presentation of research results.
- Demonstrable contribution to the research culture of a MDT or other clinical team.
- Demonstrable contribution to the SCP community.

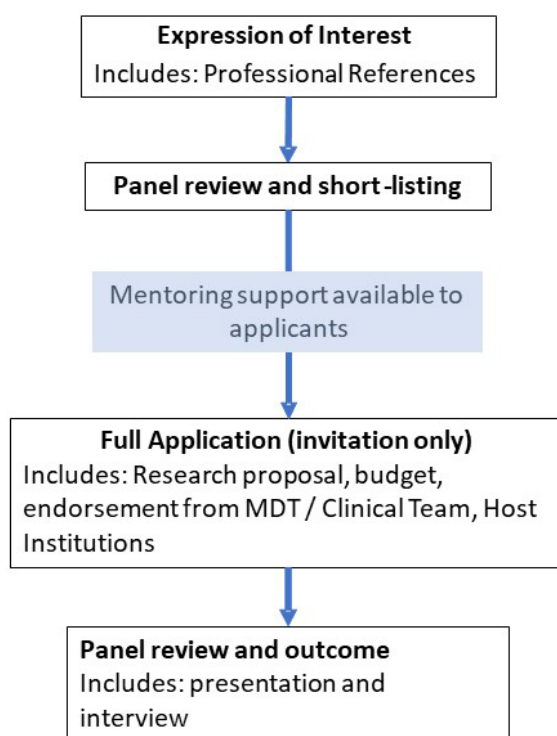
Support available

The Translational Partners Fellowship award is a maximum of \$300 000 per annum for three years (maximum total value \$900 000). Funding is to cover the salary costs of both applicants and direct research costs as outlined in a budget submission. In addition, SCP will provide mentoring and facilitate networking support to Translational Partners Fellows.

Two Translational Partners Fellowship awards may be made. SCP reserves the right not to make any award if suitable applications are not received.

Application process

SCP Translational Partners Fellows will be selected following a two-stage process:



1. Expression of Interest

- A joint Expression of Interest (EOI) should be submitted by an applicant pair.
- The EOI will focus on attributes of each applicant to achieve success as a Translational Partners Fellow. This will include an evaluation of experience and research track record relevant to expected outcomes of the scheme. Two professional referees will be asked to comment on

the applicant's potential to work productively as a member of a research partnership, and as a future research leader.

- EOIs will be evaluated by a review panel.
- Short listed applicants will be invited to submit a full application.
- SCP will facilitate mentoring support to assist applicants.

2. Full application

- This will be a joint application submitted by an applicant pair that includes a research project proposal and budget.
- Key research milestones and indicators of success must be described.
- Applicants must describe how they propose to work together to achieve common goals; how they will engage with the MDT or clinical team and how the award will contribute to capacity building through SCP.
- Features of the clinical and research environment that will enable success of the partnership must be described.
- A letter of support must be provided by the head of a relevant clinical or Multi-disciplinary Team.
- Evidence of support from the host institution must also be provided.

Evaluation

- Applications will be evaluated by a review panel.
- Evaluation of applications will include a short **presentation by the applicants** that may be followed by questions from the panel.

The evaluation criteria are:

1. Track record of the applicants and potential to form a productive research partnership 30%
2. Evidence of a suitable and supportive research environment 10%
3. Scientific Quality of the research proposal 30%
4. Alignment of the application to the goals of the Translational Partner Fellowship scheme 30%

Conditions of Funding

Grant administration

The SCP Partners Fellowship scheme is funded by a Cancer Institute NSW Capacity Building Grant (CBG) awarded to SCP in 2021 and administered by the University of Sydney. SCP Fellow host institutions will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the University of Sydney for access to funds.

Use of funds

The use of research funds must be consistent with terms of the [Cancer Institute NSW Competitive Grants Agreement](#). This includes that funds awarded cannot be used for any purposes associated with basic (e.g. desk, stationery, phone etc.) or overhead infrastructure costs (i.e. institutional overheads or administrative levies). Funds should not be used to support research conducted outside of NSW.

Commencement date

Successful applicants must commence the award by 30 June 2023.

Concurrent funding

A SCP Partners Fellowship may not be held concurrent with another research Fellowship.

Reporting Requirements

Fellows will be required to present progress to the SCP Leadership group annually. Annual written reports required by SCP to fulfil its reporting obligations to SHP and the Cancer Institute NSW must also be provided.

SCP contribution

A reasonable level of participation in SCP procedural committees, education and promotional activities is condition of the award. This may include peer mentoring activities such as meetings with other Translational Partners Fellowship recipients.

SCP Acknowledgement

Fellows will be required to acknowledge support from SCP and the Cancer Institute NSW in research presentations and publications.

Key dates

Expressions of Interest open	18 May 2022
Expressions of Interest close	5pm, 29 June 2022
Full Applications open (by invitation only)	10 August 2022
Full Applications close	5pm, 21 September 2022
Notification of outcomes	By 9 November 2022

Enquires

Enquires can be submitted by email to: sydneycancerpartners.admin@sydney.edu.au