

PILOT STUDY GRANT 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 Sydney Cancer Partners Pilot Study Grant Scheme

The purpose of the SCP Pilot Study Grant Scheme is to **build research capacity** in NSW by supporting researchers to develop a translational cancer research project to a point where external grant funding could be obtained.

For example, in the context of a larger project, a pilot study could be framed to establish research resources such as *in vitro* models or clinical cohorts, develop methods or collect preliminary data.

Eligibility

- SCP Pilot Study Grant applications must be submitted by a single Chief Investigator. A team of investigators who will contribute to the research can be named.
- Researchers from all disciplines of cancer research are invited to apply. This includes all fields of clinical, laboratory, psychosocial, public health research and data science.
- Applicants must be SCP members and take up the SCP Pilot Study Grant at a [Sydney Health Partners \(SHP\) member institution](#).
- Applicants must be Australian citizens, permanent residents or have requisite work visas in place to enable satisfactory completion of the pilot study.

Research objectives

Applicants must outline 1) an overarching research project that would form a basis for future external funding applications, and 2) a pilot study, or similar work that would provide preliminary data to enhance the chances of external funding application being successful, and that can be completed within the scope of support available.

Overarching research projects 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.

Expected outcomes

It is expected that applicants will generate research findings that can be developed into larger funded projects.

Support available

- Applicants can request research support to a maximum value of \$60K per annum for up to 2 years.
- The total maximum value of a SCP Pilot Study Grant is \$120K.

Application process

- A completed Sydney Cancer Partners Pilot Study Grant Application Form must be submitted by email to sydneycancerpartners.admin@sydney.edu.au before the application deadline.
- A 4-page Chief Investigator curriculum vitae is a mandatory attachment.
- Incomplete or ineligible applications will not proceed to review.

Evaluation criteria

- **Overarching research project: 40%**
Scientific quality
Significance and innovation
Alignment to principles of research funding promulgated by the Cancer Institute NSW and listed above.
- **Pilot study proposal: 40%**
Scientific quality
Significance to development of the overarching research project
Feasibility within the scope of the scheme
- **Applicant and research team: 20%**
Track record of achievement relevant to the proposed research

Conditions of Funding

Grant administration

The SCP Pilot Grant Scheme is funded by a Cancer Institute NSW Capacity Building Grant (CBG) awarded to SCP in 2021 and administered by the University of Sydney. The host institution of the successful applicant 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](#). These include 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.

Reporting Requirements

At the end of 12 months and / or completion of the funding period, a written report must be provided that will allow SCP to fulfil its reporting obligations to SHP and the Cancer Institute NSW.

SCP contribution

A reasonable level of participation in SCP procedural committees, education and promotional activities is a condition of the award.

SCP Acknowledgement

SCP Pilot Study Grant recipients are required to acknowledge support from SCP and the Cancer Institute NSW in research presentations and publications arising from research supported by the scheme.

Key dates

Applications open	7 September 2022
Applications close	5pm 19 October 2022
Notification of outcomes	By 15 December 2022

Enquires

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