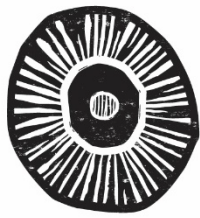




Sydney
Cancer Partners
Collaboration, Translation, Impact



Maridulu
Budyari
Gumal

Cancer

Clinical Academic Group

STRATEGIC ENHANCEMENT GRANT GUIDELINES



SPHERE & SCP Strategic Enhancement Grant Guidelines

Background

Maridulu Budyari Gumal is an academic health science partnership which combines 16 organisations in the Sydney region that have come together to create the Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research and Enterprise (**SPHERE**). The Cancer Clinical Academic Group (CAG) has a vision to unite cancer research into a globally leading partnership to deliver continuing evidence-based practice in diagnosis, intervention, and support. With funding support from SPHERE and the Cancer Institute NSW Research Capacity Building Grant, we are building co-ordinated research teams to leverage, focus and strengthen relevant research initiatives through partnerships with consumers, government and non-government organisations, charities, and industry.

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. 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. 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.

Purpose of the SPHERE & SCP Strategic Enhancement Grant Scheme

- The purpose of the SPHERE & SCP Strategic Enhancement Grant is to build translational cancer research capacity in NSW by increasing the total amount of research funding available.
- To achieve this, the scheme will support leaders of mature translational cancer research programs to facilitate a successful application for significant funding from national (e.g., NHMRC, MRFF), international or commercial sources.
- Applicants will need to clearly address;
 - 1) the funding that they are targeting,
 - 2) how they are currently competitive,
 - 3) how a Strategic Enhancement Grant would increase their chances of success.
- The SPHERE & SCP Strategic Enhancement Grant is a joint initiative of both organisations and must involve activity spanning both groups.

Eligibility

1. Applications are invited from an existing collaborative team conducting a mature program of translational cancer research,
or
a new collaboration of one or more existing teams that could combine to present a mature program of translational cancer research in an external funding application.

The program can encompass any discipline of cancer research including clinical, laboratory, psychosocial, public health research and data science.
2. The program should have a record of significant funding support; research activity across multiple phases of the translational research pipeline and a record of research outcomes that would support a competitive application for significant external funding.

3. Applicants must commit to submission of application(s) for funding to national, international or commercial sources within the term of the award.
4. The program must involve aspects of research conducted at [both SPHERE](#) and [SHP member institutions](#).
5. The Strategic Enhancement Grant application must be submitted by two Chief Investigators (CIs); one SPHERE member and one SCP member. A team of contributing Co-Investigators can be named. The number of contributing Co-investigators should be constrained by any limitations on investigator numbers specified by the target funding scheme.
6. Applicants must be Australian citizens, permanent residents or have requisite work visas in place to enable satisfactory completion of the proposed research.

Research objectives

The overall objective of the Strategic Enhancement Grant is to build translational cancer research capacity in NSW. Translational research programs 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 research program should also involve at least two phases of the translational research pipeline of the [Model of Translational Research](#).

Expected outcomes

- Increased research capacity through increased funding for translational cancer research in NSW.

Use of funds

SPHERE & SCP Strategic Enhancement Grant funds are to facilitate applications for major funding, and to increase the chances of application success.

For example, funds may be used for:

- assistance to prepare an application for submission,
- collection and / or collation of preliminary data,
- increasing clinical data collection to enhance a research cohort,

- operational infrastructure such as a database,
- project management support,
- consultant advice for example legal, Intellectual Property protection, international research expert visit.

The requested budget must be justified against the objectives of the scheme.

Support available

- The maximum value of a SPHERE & SCP Strategic Enhancement Grant is \$140,000 per annum for up to two years (total maximum value \$280,000).
- Half of the funds awarded will be paid by SPHERE to the SPHERE member CI, and the other half by SCP to the SCP member CI.
- Up to two applications may be funded.

Application process

SPHERE & SCP Strategic Enhancement Grants will be awarded following a two-stage process:

1. Expression of Interest

- A single Expression of Interest (EOI) should be submitted by the two CIs.
- The EOI will include a short description of program scope, target funding scheme and proposed use of the award.
- EOIs will be evaluated by a joint SPHERE & SCP review panel.
- Short-listed applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

2. Full Application

A Full Application will include:

- a more detailed description of the research program and proposed use of SPHERE & SCP Strategic Enhancement Grant funding,
- an outline of the strategy for cross-site researchers to work together,
- key milestones and outcomes,
- a budget request with justification.
- Full applications will include a written submission and a presentation / Question and Answer session with the Review Panel.

Evaluation

The evaluation criteria are:

1. Competitiveness of the proposed translational research program in relation to the target funding scheme. 40%
2. Potential for the proposed use of a SPHERE & SCP Strategic Enhancement Grant to increase chances of a successful application to the target funding scheme. 40%
3. Alignment of the research program to research objectives. 20%

Conditions of Funding

Grant administration

The SPHERE & SCP Strategic Enhancement Grant scheme is funded by a Cancer Institute NSW Capacity Building Grants (CBGs) awarded to SPHERE and SCP in 2021. Each half of the funds awarded will be administered separately by SPHERE and SCP via their administering institutions, UNSW Sydney and The University of Sydney respectively. The host institutions of successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the UNSW (SPHERE CI) and The University of Sydney (SCP CI) respectively 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 of administrative levies). Funds should not be used to support research or research related activity conducted outside of NSW.

Commencement date

Successful applicants must commence use of funding in the same calendar year as the Full Application submission.

Reporting Requirements

At the end of 12 months and completion of the funding period, a written report must be provided that will allow SPHERE and SCP to evaluate progress against agreed milestones, and to fulfil their reporting obligations.

SPHERE and SCP contribution

A reasonable level of participation by recipients in SPHERE or SCP procedural committees, education and promotional activities is condition of the award.

SPHERE and SCP Acknowledgement

SPHERE & SCP Enhancement Grant recipients are required to acknowledge support from SPHERE, SCP and the Cancer Institute NSW in research presentations and publications arising from research supported by this scheme.

Key dates

Expressions of Interest open	4 November 2022
Expressions of Interest close	16 December 2022 (5 pm)
Full Applications open (by invitation only)	13 February 2023
Full Applications close	27 March 2023 (11 am)
Notification of outcomes	By 9 May 2023

Enquires

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