

O'Brien Clinical Fellowships - advice to applicants

Purpose

The O'Brien Clinical Fellowship was established in 2017 from a bequest from the estate of Mr Daniel O'Brien. These fellowships are intended to support non-medical health professionals to pursue a career in clinical research.

Scope

- Non-medical health professionals undertaking clinical or biomedical research in New Zealand or overseas
- At least 50% of the fellow's time is to be spent on research

Who can apply?

- New Zealand citizens or permanent residents
- New Zealand registered health professionals who do not have a PhD

What is funded?

- Two years equivalent of salary support, based on the Fellow's salary had they continued in a clinical post in New Zealand for 40 – 44.9 hours per week. The research FTE can be spread across more than two years, as long as it is at least 50% for each year
- Recipients are eligible to apply for travel grants of up to \$4,500 towards travelling to conferences and training courses directly related to the fellowship. These are applied for separately as travel grants after the fellowship has been awarded

What will not be funded?

- Fellows whose salary for the proposed project is already funded
- Post-doctoral fellows
- Research working expenses

Closing dates

If the closing date falls on a weekend or holiday, it will be extended to the next working day

- 1 May

Process

- Create an application on our online portal at <https://grants.neurological.org.nz/>. You will need to create a new account if you are a first-time user
- Your application will go to your configured research office for review, before being sent on (at the institution's decision) to the Neurological Foundation
- The budget requested should be in NZD. The Neurological Foundation will not award more than is requested in the budget and does not fund institutional overheads
- Supporting documentation:
 - NZ Standard CV for the applicant and mentor(s), using the template available on the application form
 - A letter of support from the proposed primary mentor which includes information on the resources available and how the research expenses will be funded
- Selected applicants will be invited to attend an interview with the Foundation's Personal Awards Committee, where you will describe your project and future plans
- Applicants will be advised of the outcome early in July
- Successful applicants will be informed of the conditions of the grant and asked for their formal acceptance of the fellowship contract

General Advice

Purpose

The Neurological Foundation's purpose is to "be a catalyst to improve the future quality of life for New Zealanders impacted by neurological conditions".

This includes diseases and disorders of the central and peripheral nervous systems. The Foundation will accept applications for research that contributes to our understanding of, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, or management of neurological conditions. The research proposal should have a clear outcome, which will add to knowledge about neurological disorders. The Foundation will accept applications designed to enhance knowledge about the pathogenesis of neuropsychiatric and neuropsychological disorders, but applications that deal only with the management of mental health disorders will not be considered.

Resubmission

The Foundation's Personal Awards Committee provides constructive feedback to applicants after each grant round. If unsuccessful, applicants can resubmit their application in a subsequent grant round. However, the Personal Awards Committee believes that a third submission of an unsuccessful application is not appropriate. Therefore, only one resubmission of an O'Brien Fellowship application will be accepted. Successful applicants are only able to receive the fellowship once and are not eligible to reapply for the O'Brien Clinical Fellowship.

Research contracts

Successful applicants will be offered contracts that outline the conditions of the fellowship, including the following:

- The O'Brien Fellowship cannot be held simultaneously with any other fellowship award
- The host institution will administer the fellowship
- The fellowship will have a specific start date and end date
- The institution's research programme may be rapidly evolving and the details of the research project may change after the application is made. The Fellow may be involved in several research projects that develop during the course of the fellowship. If the contractual details of the fellowship change a variation request will need to be submitted to the Foundation through the application in the grants portal
- Annual progress reports are required on the anniversary of the start date. A final report will be required within 3 months of the fellowship end date. Reports should be submitted to the Foundation through the application in the grants portal
- Any presentations or publications resulting from the fellowship will acknowledge the Foundation's support

Questions?

If you have any queries please contact the Foundation at research@neurological.org.nz