



## Australian Type 1 Diabetes Clinical Research Network Request for Applications

### Mentored Clinician Researcher Fellowship 2017

<b>Application Open</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> June	2017	
<b>Application Deadline</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> July	2017	17:00 AEST*
<b>Notification to Awardees</b>	October	2017	
<b>Earliest Commencement</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> January	2018	

\* Applicants must note that the Research Office of each Administering Organisation is required to certify all applications in RMS360 and may have an internal closing time which precedes this deadline.



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Research Council**

A Special Research Initiative funded by the ARC

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The principal goal of the Type 1 Diabetes Clinical Research Network (T1DCRN), a Special Research Initiative funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC), is to positively impact the lives of people with type 1 diabetes in Australia through the support and promotion of clinical research, focussing on at-risk populations, new onset populations and individuals with established type 1 diabetes. The T1DCRN is a national collaborative network led by JDRF Australia supporting the most promising research projects, promoting and retaining outstanding scientists and attracting new researchers to the field of type 1 diabetes research. The network enables the efficient and effective delivery and adoption of clinical research, and invests in and builds long-term research capacity in Australia. The T1DCRN also forges national and global partnerships to leverage existing domestic and international expertise and resources in type 1 diabetes research.

The intention of this Request for Applications (RFA) “*Mentored Clinician Researcher Fellowship*” (MCRF) is to create dedicated research time for active clinicians who are pursuing a research career in the field of type 1 diabetes. The MCRF aims to support and foster the careers of emerging clinician researchers who show potential to make significant progress towards curing, treating or preventing type 1 diabetes. Fostering the development of the best and the brightest researchers who can bridge the gap between the bench and bedside and accelerate world-class type 1 diabetes research is a core aim of the T1DCRN.

### 1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE T1DCRN

The volume of type 1 diabetes research in Australia is rapidly expanding and its quality is recognised world-wide<sup>1</sup>. However, efficient study development and optimised uptake or delivery of research outcomes are hindered by including regulatory impediments, scarce long-term funding awards, and fragmentation of resources<sup>2</sup>. To improve type 1 diabetes clinical activity and capacity in Australia, the [Type 1 Diabetes Clinical Research Network](#) (T1DCRN) was launched by JDRF in June 2010 through a \$5 million grant from the Australian Government. With this initial investment the T1DCRN funded 12 clinical projects including three national multi-centre clinical projects and nine Pilot & Feasibility projects, and nurtured the next generation of research leaders through five Mentored Clinical Researcher Fellowships.

Thanks to support from JDRF advocate families, T1DCRN has retained and extended government confidence and support in the form of a *Special Research Initiative* for \$35 million from the Australian Research Council (ARC). The initiative will enhance and expand on previous initiatives and further develop the national collaborative network of researchers, creating a more connected and cohesive clinical research system. The T1DCRN intends to accelerate strategic solutions to the above-

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Research Impact Analysis  
<http://jdrf.org.au/research/type-1-diabetes-global-research-impact-analysis>

<sup>2</sup> The Australian Type 1 Diabetes Research Resource Map  
<http://jdrf.org.au/research/type-1-diabetes-research-resource-map>

mentioned barriers to research, and to leave a legacy by building lasting research capacity that extends beyond the current five year funding period.

In April 2015 the T1DCRN held its annual meeting attended by 43 key opinion leaders in type 1 diabetes research in Australia. One of the key recommendations arising from the meeting was to increase investment in career development funding particularly for early to mid-career researchers.

### 1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE T1DCRN

The T1DCRN is founded on the following operating principles, which underpin the delivery of the program objectives and are taken into account through the eligibility criteria in Section 4 and the selection criteria in Section 6.1. They are:

#### 1.3.1 Patient-focused

Ultimate patient benefit is the goal that underscores all the activities of JDRF. The engagement of the type 1 diabetes community (research and public) is critical to the operation of this initiative.

#### 1.3.2 Collaborative

A collaborative approach will be required for clinical research in the initiative. Research teams will be assembled based on the expertise needed and ability of participants to solve complex issue of type 1 diabetes.

#### 1.3.3 Leveraged and connected

The initiative will build partnerships to benefit from the existing international and domestic expertise and resources and leverage prior investments in Australia by JDRF and other funders.

#### 1.3.4 Information sharing

With the intention of creating a long-term research legacy, the initiative will capture valuable research information and invest in secondary analysis of outcomes and data generated.

#### 1.3.5 Productivity-driven

JDRF will actively support and engage in the management of clinical trials, with assistance directed towards ensuring research performance meets budgets and timelines.

## 2 OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The primary purpose of the MCRF is to provide an opportunity for qualified and promising clinicians to increase their research capacity in areas relevant to type 1 diabetes, and to enable research and research training in high quality and supportive environments. The Fellowship provides salary support to enable active clinicians to take time away from their clinics to dedicate to research, **who would otherwise not have the opportunity to do so**. This fellowship would suit a junior clinician with little clinical research experience who is committed to developing a career in type 1 diabetes clinical research. A clinician who has previously received a Career Development Award or equivalent is unlikely to be considered for this fellowship.

As part of the submission, applicants must propose to be engaged in an existing clinical research project that aligns with the goal of the T1DCRN throughout their fellowship, and supported by a Mentor who is an established leader in a field of clinical research relevant to type 1 diabetes (for further instructions please see Section 5). Fellows will become part of the T1DCRN, which brings with it a commitment to contribute to Network activities.

### 3 FUNDING AND DURATION

MCRFs may be applied for and awarded funding of up to \$80,000 for a period of two years, subject to sufficient funding being available and continued satisfactory progress of the study. JDRF Australia reserves the right to recommend levels, duration and scope of funding which may differ from those requested in the application.

The total package of \$80,000 includes:

- Up to \$35,000 per annum for salary (including all on-costs), the equivalent of **0.25 FTE of dedicated research time**. Fellows cannot use this time to engage in clinical, financial, administrative, or managerial activity beyond that which directly relates to their own research. Fellowships are not designed to subsidise or supplement a higher research degree such as a PhD.
- Up to \$5,000 per annum to contribute to the Mentoring Plan for the Fellow, to be allocated at the Mentor's discretion.

Available funding period: 8 January 2018 – 7 January 2020.

Funding is not provided to support any aspect of the research project.

**Please note:** Grants awarded by JDRF Australia through the T1DCRN are listed on the [Australian Competitive Grants Register](#). As such, indirect costs can be recovered through RBG funding and JDRF Australia will **not** provide funding for indirect costs, including basic facilities and equipment, organisational overheads and/or infrastructure costs. These must not be included in the budget request.

### 4 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

#### 4.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ALL APPLICATIONS

Applications will only be considered for funding if they meet the following eligibility criteria:

- 1) The application must demonstrate that it is in alignment with the goal i.e. **To positively impact the life of people with type 1 diabetes in Australia through the support and promotion of clinical research.**
- 2) The Applicant must be medically qualified (MBBS or equivalent), hold an appointment in a clinical department and be actively engaged in patient care.

- 3) The Applicant must not be receiving or expecting to receive research salary support from other sources.
- 4) The Applicant must not be enrolled in a higher degree at the time of submission or throughout the fellowship.
- 5) The Project Synopsis must relate to an existing clinical research project funded through a major funding organisation with recognised scientific review processes.
- 6) The Applicant must not be named as Principal Investigator on the clinical research project identified in the Project Synopsis, or any other grant.
- 7) The proposed research must be conducted at an Australian institution (e.g. an Australian university, college, hospital, laboratory, unit of state or local government, or an eligible Commonwealth government agency), and the Fellow must legally reside predominantly in Australia for the duration of the award.
- 8) The application must be complete and the Project Synopsis and Applicant Statement must meet the formatting requirements (including page limits) specified in Appendix A and Appendix C respectively. To be considered complete, an application must:
  - a) include all documentation specified in Appendices A, C, and D as relevant to the application, including written evidence from the Applicant and their Institution;
  - b) include a complete budget request with justification (see Appendix B); and
  - c) have completed all mandatory fields in RMS360;

incomplete applications or incorrectly formatted applications will be deemed ineligible and declined without further assessment.

Applicants may only submit one application. Any Applicant who submits more than one application will be deemed ineligible for funding.

#### **4.2 CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO SATISFY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Any application that does not meet all of the eligibility criteria set out in Section 4.1 will be deemed ineligible and declined without further assessment.

If at any time during the assessment process an Applicant ceases to comply with the eligibility criteria, their application will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered any further beyond that point.

## **5 SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

The information in this document is underpinned by the Program Guidelines. Please review the Program Guidelines on the [T1DCRN website](#) before preparing the application.

Applications must be completed and submitted online, and certified by an authorised officer of the Administering Organisation, using JDRF Australia's online grants management system RMS360 (see *RMS360 User Guide* for further details). Information submitted as part of the application is collected and stored in accordance with the [JDRF Privacy Policy](#).

All parties involved in or associated with an application must declare at the date of submission any Conflict of Interest that exists or is likely to arise in relation to any aspect of the application. JDRF Australia's Network Conflict of Interest policy and management practices are available on the JDRF Website.

All asterisked fields in RMS360 must be completed. All applications must include the following documents uploaded into RMS360:

- Project Synopsis (see Appendix B)
- Applicant Statement (see Appendix D)
- Written Evidence (see Appendix D)
- **Three** letters of reference, including one from the nominated Mentor (see Appendix E)

For all applications the following documents must be uploaded into RMS360 by the Mentor:

- Mentoring Plan (see Appendix D).

All documents must be formatted according to the requirements outlined in Appendix A.

In addition, the Applicant's and Mentor's Biosketches must be uploaded to their respective profiles in RMS360 so that they can be automatically appended to the application on submission (see Appendix E).

## 6 REVIEW PROCESS

JDRF Australia will consider each proposal to determine if it satisfies the eligibility criteria. Applications will be externally peer reviewed by a panel of experts and assessed against each of the Selection Criteria (Section 6.1).

JDRF Australia will assign all eligible applications to a panel of independent expert assessors, who will assess the applications against each of the Selection Criteria (Section 6) for overall best value for money having regard to the extent to which the application meets the Selection Criteria and the relevance of the application to the mission of the T1DCRN and type 1 diabetes community.

### 6.1 SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications should address the following selection criteria, paying particular attention to demonstrating alignment with the T1DCRN operating principles against each criterion:

#### 6.1.1 Investigator (60%)

- i. Capacity to undertake the proposed research.
- ii. Potential to sustain an independent research career.
- iii. The expected impact of the award on the research career trajectory of the Applicant.
- iv. Evidence of commitment to the goals of the T1DCRN and the field of type 1 diabetes.

**6.1.2 Mentor (20%)**

- i. Research performance in a field of clinical research relevant to type 1 diabetes.
- ii. Track-record of successful training and mentoring.
- iii. Quality of Mentoring Plan; including details of how the Mentor will support the capacity of the Applicant to undertake the proposed research.
- iv. Ability of the Mentoring Plan to provide the recipient with the capacity and opportunity to develop an independent record of innovative, high quality research.

**6.1.3 Project Quality and Benefit (10%)**

- i. Scientific merit of the Applicant's proposed research including the appropriateness of the design, methods and analyses to adequately address the aims and objectives.
- ii. Potential for the existing clinical research project to produce innovative benefit to the T1DCRN and the Australian and international community.
- iii. Potential for the Applicant's proposed research project to develop the Applicant's expertise in collaborative clinical research on a larger scale.

**6.1.4 Research Environment (10%)**

- i. Evidence of a nurturing and collaborative research environment.
- ii. Availability of the necessary resources and facilities to complete the proposed research.
- iii. Access to resources to support the Investigator during the Fellowship and after the end of the Grant.

## 7 DEADLINE

<b>Application Open</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> June	2017	
<b>Application Deadline</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> July	2017	17:00 AEST*
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\* Applicants must note that the Research Office of each Administering Organisation is required to certify all applications in RMS360 and may have an internal closing time which precedes this deadline.

## 8 TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AWARD

This funding will be administered by JDRF. The award recipient's organisation/institution will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with JDRF and the first year of funding will be disbursed to the Award recipient upon signing of the MOU. The recipient must be aware of and comply with the T1DCRN JDRF Policy on Intellectual Property, Commercialisation and Royalties ("IP Policies"), including in relation to data sharing and biosample sharing. A copy of the IP Policies is available on the [T1DCRN website](#).

### 8.1 PUBLICATIONS AND OPEN ACCESS

The T1DCRN is committed to the timely publication and dissemination of all information and materials developed under T1DCRN funding and must also comply with the ARC policy requirement on Open Access (<http://www.arc.gov.au/arc-open-access-policy>). Recipients of this award must also comply with this policy and must take steps to make available all generated project materials for publication and wider dissemination. The sharing of data will be supported by clear policies and guidelines, as well as mechanisms to satisfy this requirement.

### 8.2 REPORTING

A progress report will be required at the end of the first year of funding as outlined in the MOU, and a Final Report at the end of the funding period. In line with the ARC funding rules for the Initiative, recipients may be required to participate in a Review of the Initiative at any time as required.

## 9 PROGRAM CONTACTS

Enquiries concerning this program are encouraged and should be directed to:

**Dorota Pawlak, PhD**

Head of Research Development, JDRF Australia

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***RMS360 Enquiries***

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## Appendix A – Formatting Requirements for all Documents

All documents uploaded as part of the Application (see Appendices B, D and E) must be formatted as follows:

1. Documents must be type-written, single column, single-spaced and in black typeface no smaller than size 12 point Times New Roman font or an equivalent size (except where otherwise specified) before converting to PDF format and must be legible to assessors. Avoid scanning.
2. Paper must be white A4 size with at least 2cm margin on each side and at top and bottom.
3. The Applicant's name (Last, First, Middle) must be provided as left-aligned text in the Header.
4. Page numbers must be provided in the format "Page X of Y" as right-aligned text in the Header.
5. References for literature cited must be in 10 point Times New Roman font or equivalent and must be no more than 1 page.
6. Documents must comply with specified page limits.
7. Documents must be uploaded as unlocked PDF files without password protection.

## Appendix B – Project Synopsis

### Project Synopsis Template

A Project Synopsis of **no more than 3 A4 pages** of substantive content, plus **no more than one A4 page of references** must be uploaded as part of the application in RMS360 (<https://jdrf.smartsimple.us>). Refer to the *RMS360 User Guide* for assistance.

The Project Synopsis should be organised using the section headings provided in the table shown below. Reviewers will assess the application against the Selection Criteria in Section 6.1 based on the information set out in the Project Synopsis. Applicants need to ensure that detailed information provided in the Project Synopsis appropriately addresses these Selection Criteria. Be specific, informative and concise. Avoid using jargon.

Section Heading	Guide
1. Application title	
2. Specific aims and objectives	State concisely the specific aims of the proposal, and specify the objectives and hypotheses to be tested.
3. Background and scientific rationale	Explain the importance of the problem that this proposal addresses, including the potential impact of expected research outcomes on people living with type 1 diabetes.
4. Proposed research: Study Design, Methods and Analyses	Ensure the proposed research directly addresses the stated aims and objectives, and that the objectives are achievable within the stated timeframe.
5. Outcomes translation, significance of this work to the objectives of the call and of the T1DCRN	Outline any future plans or strategies for building upon or translating research outcomes, exploitation of intellectual property and/or commercialisation of research. Describe how this project will develop your expertise in collaborative clinical research on a larger scale.
6. References	No more than 1 page.

## Appendix C - Budget Request

The budget template is provided as an online form in RMS360. Refer to the *RMS360 User Guide* for assistance. Please contact JDRF Australia for consultation if required.

The MCRF provides salary for 0.25 FTE of dedicated research time, plus an additional \$5,000 per annum to contribute to the Mentoring Plan. The Mentoring Plan allowance may be allocated to Supplies, Travel or Other Costs as outlined below. Funding is not provided to support any aspect of the project as part of this fellowship.

Budget headings are specified in capitalised text below.

### **SALARIES AND WAGES**

Please include your salary of up to \$35,000 per annum, including all on-costs. Please note in RMS360, on-costs are referred to as “fringe”. Enter 25% effort.

### **SUPPLIES**

Please include all supplies, materials and resources required for the Mentoring Plan.

### **TRAVEL**

Travel and meeting costs should be itemised here.

### **OTHER COSTS**

Additional items not specified elsewhere in the template may be itemised here.

### **EQUIPMENT**

The Training Plan allowance is not designed for purchase of laboratory equipment. Any budget items included here will not be considered for funding.

### **INDIRECT COSTS**

Grants awarded by JDRF Australia through the T1DCRN are listed on the [Australian Competitive Grants Register](#). As such, indirect costs can be recovered through RBG funding and JDRF Australia will **not** provide funding for indirect costs, including basic facilities and equipment, organisational overheads and/or infrastructure costs. Budget items included here will not be considered for funding.

## Appendix D – Additional Attachments

### Additional Attachments

Additional Attachments must be uploaded as unlocked PDFs without password protection in the “Additional Attachments” section of the application in RMS360. An application must include each of the Additional Attachments.

Additional Attachments are limited to the documents listed below, no other attachments may be considered. Further information on each of the additional attachments is provided on the following pages.

- Applicant Statement
- Mentoring Plan
- Letter of support from the department nominated to host the applicant
- Written Evidence

### Applicant Statement Template

The Applicant Statement should be organised using the section headings provided in the table below, and **must not exceed 2 A4 pages**. Do not repeat information provided in your Biosketch (see Appendix D). Reviewers will assess the application against the Selection Criteria in Section 6.1 on the basis of the information set out in the Applicant Statement. Applicants need to ensure that detailed information provided in the Statement appropriately addresses these Selection Criteria. Ensure the significance of your achievements is relevant to the field of T1D.

Section Heading	Guide
1. Applicant name	
2. Career Development Plan	a. Outline your career trajectory to date b. Define your career development strategy in the short and long term, and your research career goals. Describe how the proposed research will assist you in achieving these goals/contributes to your career development strategy.
3. Commitment to the field of type 1 diabetes	Outline any achievements demonstrating your commitment to the field of type 1 diabetes.
4. Evidence of a supportive research environment for the Project	Describe relevant support systems in your proposed research institution including Mentor support, and the potential for collaboration.

### Mentoring Plan Template

The Mentoring Plan should be organized using the headings below, and **must not exceed 2 A4 pages**. Reviewers will take the Mentoring Plan into account in assessing the application against the

Selection Criteria in Section 6.1. Applicants need to ensure that information provided in the Mentoring Plan appropriately addresses these Selection Criteria.

Section Heading	Guide
1. Application title	Must be identical to the title nominated by the Applicant.
2. Mentoring Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Describe the goals of the Mentoring Plan</li> <li>b. Outline how you will support the Applicant’s research, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Laboratory and other research training;</li> <li>ii) available resources to support the Applicant and Project;</li> <li>iii) any other activities to be undertaken to ensure that the Project is completed on time and within budget.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3. Applicant’s Research Career Transition	Provide a statement on how the Mentoring Plan and Research Project will provide the Applicant with the capacity and opportunity to develop an independent record of innovative, high quality research. Include collaborative activities.

### Letter of Support

A letter of support from the department nominated to host the Applicant must be uploaded into RMS360. This letter must specify commitment of the department to support career development of the applicant and support of the project, including any resources and/or facilities available and be signed by a senior representative (Head or equivalent) of the department within the administering organisation. In providing and signing this letter, the department is certifying the support to, and researcher participation in, the proposed study.

### Written Evidence

JDRF Australia is required to obtain written evidence of the Applicant and their administering organisation. Written evidence must be uploaded into RMS360. The template for Written Evidence is provided for download in the “Additional Attachments” section of RMS360.

## Appendix E – Other Required Documents

The following documents are required for submission, but are handled separately by RMS360:

- a. Up-to-date Biographical sketch (Biosketch) – these must be uploaded by both the Applicant and the Mentor in their respective profiles in RMS360, the system will automatically append it to your application. The template is provided for download in RMS360. The Mentor must include details of their track-record in training as part of their Biosketch.
- b. **Three** letters of reference, including **one** from the Applicant’s proposed Mentor. Please note that the recommendation references are confidential and will not be released to the applicant. The Applicant must nominate three referees in RMS360 as part of the application process. An email will be sent to each nominated referee with a link to the letter of Reference Template in RMS360 and instructions to provide the recommendation. Please note proposals cannot be successfully validated until all references are submitted.