



**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE**  
**Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences (MDHS)**  
**School of Biomedical Sciences Translational Research Awards**

**2020 Application and Funding Guidelines**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

The School of Biomedical Sciences is pleased to announce the 2020 round of grant applications for the SBS Translational Research Awards (**SBS-TRA**). The SBS-TRA aims to provide financial and mentorship support to enable the translation of health and medical research into tangible outcomes with direct community and economic impact.

Conventional sources of funding such as the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) are increasingly unlikely to support proof-of-concept translational studies required to drive basic science discoveries to a stage where they are likely to attract investment by industry.

Thus, through this grant opportunity, the School of Biomedical Sciences will provide seed funding for early stage translatable research to assist in bridging this gap between idea and proof-of concept.

## **2 OBJECTIVES**

The SBS-TRA aims to help boost the School's translational pipeline for scientific discoveries by supporting the development of innovative projects to a stage where they are better positioned to attract subsequent funding from government grants, industry and venture capital to progress to the next phase of R&D.

The **objectives of the scheme** are to support **translational research** with the potential to achieve significant **societal and/or economic benefit**.

This may be either:

1. Discovery research (i.e. bold ideas with limited supporting data) not otherwise supported by conventional funding bodies.
2. Translational research requiring further funding to progress towards proof-of-concept prior to investment.

## **3 AWARD**

- Funding for up to **four grants** will be provided in 2020.
- Funding for up to \$10,000 per grant to be used over 12 months and anticipated to start in 1Q 2021.

## **4 KEY DATES**

- Call for applications: 18 September 2020
- Application closing date: 18 October 2020
- Announcement of short-listed candidates: 4Q 2020
- Pitch Event: 4Q 2020
- Project Start Date: 1Q 2021

- Mid-year progress report due: 6 months following commencement
- Final progress report due: 12 months following commencement

## 5 ASSESSMENT AND KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

The **SBS-TRA** will be governed and assessed by the School's Translational Research Panel.

All matters relating to the SBS-TRA are Commercial in Confidence. In the event of a conflict of interest for an Advisory Board member, conflict of interest principles will apply. This includes disclosure of the potential conflict to the Panel and physical exclusion from deliberation on that project.

**Applications will be assessed using the following selection criteria:**

- a) A clearly defined commercial / translational goal with significant potential for future funding by government and/or industry.
- b) Potential to address an unmet clinical or community need and deliver significant societal impact.
- c) Project milestones and deliverables that are achievable within 12 months of the start of funding and within the requested budget.
- d) Demonstrated capacity for excellence in research and innovation.

Applications will be short-listed, and short-listed candidates will be invited to pitch their projects in a 'Shark Tank'-style pitch event to a judging panel comprising of the SBS Translational Research Panel. Four successful grant recipients will be announced.

## 6 APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

1. The applicant must hold a salaried appointment (fixed-term or continuing) at Levels A-E within the School at the time of application and for the duration of the grant.
2. The applicant must have the resources to deliver the project objectives.

## 7 BUDGET ITEMS

**The budget will solely support activities aimed at validating or developing an IP following the advice of the panel. The funds should not be used for any other purpose**

Items that directly support the research program which may be funded are:

- a) Personnel (only when new and external expertise is required)
- b) Equipment
- c) Consumables
- d) Other (e.g. services contracted from other organisations or items that do not fit the above headings)

Funding **may not** be spent on staff salaries (except where new and external expertise is required) or costs not directly related to this application.

## 8 APPLICATION SUBMISSION

A completed application form must be submitted using the following online form:  
<https://mdhs.smartygrants.com.au/SBSTRA2020>

Applications will also be taken from researchers within SBS who have applied for the MDHS Dean's Innovation Grant (DIG) but failed to receive financial support from the DIG scheme. Notification of the willingness to submit an application using this method and a modified budget reflecting a potential \$10k award must be submitted to [biomedsci-hos@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:biomedsci-hos@unimelb.edu.au)

## **9 ADMINSTRATIVE CONTACT**

All enquiries are to be directed to [biomedsci-hos@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:biomedsci-hos@unimelb.edu.au)

## **10 PROMOTIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

Successful applicants should note that in the event of an offer and acceptance of the SBS-TRA grant, a brief description of their research will be published. Acknowledgement of the SBS-TRA support of the project is to be included in any publications or presentations.

## **11 REPORTING OBLIGATIONS**

Successful recipients must provide written bi-annual reports, including a progress report and a final report demonstrating that contractually agreed funding and research outcomes are progressing as planned.

## **12 OTHER**

The intellectual property (IP) is University owned and UoM is leading or has put in place all required agreements for the exploitation of the IP. IP derived from proof-of-concept projects will be wholly owned by UoM (unless in the instance of co-ownership) and shall be subject to UoM's Intellectual Property Policy.

Non-UoM personnel should be identified within the grant application and their role within the project should be defined.

The idea or invention must not be encumbered by any other prior obligations that would preclude UoM from commercialising it (i.e. exclusive license, sponsored research agreement, ongoing collaboration with an industry partner, or consulting agreement).

## **13 CONDITIONS OF AWARD**

The Chief Investigator is responsible for the project, for its concept, the strategic decisions called for in its pursuit and for the communication of the results.

The Chief Investigator must ensure the research is conducted in accordance with University policies, including compliance with the Code of Conduct for Research and human research ethics, animal experimentation ethics, requirements of the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator, health and safety and intellectual property. No project may proceed unless the appropriate ethical or other required clearances have been obtained.

Funding is for one year only. Projects must be completed, and funds expended within 12 months of project start-date. SBS reserves the right to reclaim unspent funds within the period of this grant.

Unless special conditions are set down by the committee, the Chief Investigator is responsible for ensuring that the expenditure of the grant is broadly in accord with the

budget presented in the application and is consistent at all times with the nature and aims of the project and objectives of the SBS-TRA Scheme.