

2023



ASMIRT

Guidelines

RESEARCH AND NOVICE RESEARCHER GRANT

Your profession. Your future.



There are a number of protected titles for medical radiation practice. They include:

Medical Radiation Practitioner (MRP)

Diagnostic Radiographer (DR)

Medical Imaging Technologist (MIT)

Radiographer

Nuclear Medicine Scientist (NMS)

Nuclear Medicine Technologist (NMT)

Radiation Therapist (RT).

For the purposes of our documentation we use the broad descriptor Medical Radiation Practitioner (MRP) recognising that it covers a range of areas of practice.



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Introduction

To enhance the research base within Medical Radiation Science, the Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (ASMIRT) will award up to two research grants per year across the fields of medical imaging, nuclear medicine, and radiation therapy. Applications from nuclear medicine technologists will be assessed under the medical imaging category. Each of the reimbursement grants will be for up to a maximum of \$10,000 (including GST).

A novice researcher grant will also be offered up to a maximum of \$5,000 (including GST). This grant is specifically offered to medical radiation science professionals who are new to research. The applicant should have no previous experience as a principal investigator on a research project. The aim is to encourage participation in research under the guidance of a research supervisor.

The grants are designed to encourage researchers to develop projects that will add to the evidence base of the medical radiation science professions. The emphasis of this scheme is on broadening the research base in the profession and to aid the development of research within the membership. The Research Committee of the ASMIRT calls for applications from the voting membership who are currently undertaking research or planning to conduct research within the next two years. These ASMIRT grants provide an opportunity for voting members to develop the skills and experience needed to compete successfully for funds from other sources, such as external funding bodies.

Application Procedure

Completed applications must be forwarded to the ASMIRT Research Committee (details below). Applications will be assessed and ranked in order of merit by the Research Committee using a scoring matrix. The Research Committee will then advise the Board of Directors of ASMIRT which, if any, applicants the committee recommends be awarded the research grants. It is the responsibility of the Research Committee to ensure that projects recommended to the Board of Directors for the award of a grant are of an appropriate standard and will contribute to the research base within the medical radiation science professions. The Research Committee may recommend to the Board of Directors that no application is suitable for the award of a grant, even when this may be the only application.

Selection Criteria

Grant applications will be assessed and ranked based on the following criteria:

- Eligibility of the applicant(s) – the Principal Investigator must have completed an undergraduate degree or equivalent in medical radiation science and have been an ASMIRT voting member for a minimum of 12 months prior to application. For the duration of the grant the Principal Investigator must remain an ASMIRT voting member.
- Quality of the research proposal: originality, reference to existing work in the research topic, detailed methodology, feasibility, timeline, completeness of application, budget justification.
- Potential for the project to enhance the research base of the medical radiation science professions.
- Likelihood of the work leading to a publishable outcome and follow-up research grants.
- Interprofessional collaboration.



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To be eligible for the novice researcher grant, in addition to the above criteria, the applicant should:

- Have no previous experience as a Principal Investigator on a research project.
- Identify a research supervisor who is an experienced researcher and is willing and has the capacity to provide expert guidance for the duration of the project.

The same applicant cannot apply for both the novice researcher and research grants in the same year.

Timescale

- February – September: Advertisement of the Research Grants via ASMIRT publications, social media and website.
- September: Closing date for applications. Applicants will receive an acknowledgement within two working days of receipt of their application.
- October: Review of applications by Research Committee.
- November: Review of Research Committee recommendation/s by the ASMIRT Board of Directors.
- December: Recipients advised of application outcome. Successful applicant/s will be announced in Spectrum and the ASMIRT website. Grant recipient/s will be asked to provide a photograph (head shot) for inclusion in the announcement and a summary of the project.

Submission Details

The application form must be filled in electronically. The application must be accompanied by a letter from the applicant's department or organisation stating their support of the project and the methods by which it will be conducted. If the applicant is requesting backfill for offline research time as part of the budget, this letter must also contain details of how the department or organisation will manage this including the salary level and hours that will be covered.

Email the completed application as a single PDF document to the ASMIRT Research Committee at research@asmirt.org.

An email will be sent to confirm receipt of the application.

Use of Research Funds

Funds awarded under this grant can be used for:

- Transcription services
- Statistical analysis fees
- Research Assistant
- Backfill for offline research time
- Travel to onsite research location



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- Subscription to video conferencing platform (i.e. Zoom, WebEx, Teams)
- Research/Statistical Analysis Course fees
- Photocopying services
- Relevant workshop/seminar attendance, e.g. big data, Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Practice (i.e. Leading The Way Radiography Advanced Practice (LTWRAP))
- Journal publication costs
- Statistical Modelling software packages (i.e. SPSS, NVIVO etc.)



Funds awarded under this grant **cannot** be used for:

- Capital Equipment (including university overheads), and
- Conference and travel expenses.

Claim for reimbursement for funds awarded must be made within 2 years of approval date. Any claims received after the deadline will not be awarded. Funds will be awarded contingent on successful progress of the project as detailed in the progress reports.

Ethics Approval

Research that involves human subjects or materials of human origin must be carried out in accordance with the NHMRC Code of Practice. Research that involves animal experimentation must be carried out in accordance with the Animal Research Act (1985) and accompanying Code of Practice. Applications for this research grant may be made before ethics approval has been granted; however, funds will not be released until evidence is provided to ASMIRT that ethics approval has been granted. Most hospitals, universities and health authorities have animal care and ethics committees and/or ethics in human research committees. Applicants are advised to discuss their proposal with the chairperson of the appropriate ethics committee before submission. Applicants are also advised to prepare and submit applications for ethics approval at the earliest possible opportunity as the ethics approval process often takes some time.

Progress Reports

The successful applicant/s will be required to complete a progress report every twelve months until the research project is completed, and requirements of the grant are fulfilled (article published and conference presentation). Failure to submit the progress report within the required time frame may result in the grant funding being cancelled. It is anticipated that the project is to be completed within 2 years.

Grant Outcome

Successful applicant/s will be required to publish their results in Journal of Medical Radiation Science (JMRS) or other appropriate peer reviewed journal and present their research and results at an ASMIRT conference.



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Changes to Principal Investigator during ASMIRT Research Grant

In the event that the Principal Investigator (PI) who was originally awarded the ASMIRT Research Grant has to change during the term of the Grant, the following process must be followed. It is important to note that the new PI must meet all eligibility criteria as outlined in the Selection Criteria section. Payment of remaining Research Grant money is dependent on ASMIRT approval of the change in Principal Investigator.

1. ASMIRT must be notified in writing as soon as the proposed change is considered by the research team. All correspondence to be submitted to research@asmirt.org.
2. Complete the 'Request for Change of Principal Investigator' form and submit to ASMIRT for consideration at research@asmirt.org.
3. The application will be considered by ASMIRT, and the applicant notified of the outcome.

Disclaimer

The ASMIRT decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into. ASMIRT does not accept appeals to its decision.



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