



Australian
Rheumatology
Association



The Hospital Research
Foundation Group
Arthritis

The Hospital Research Foundation Group – Arthritis and Australian Rheumatology Association (SA Branch)

2024 Postgraduate Rheumatology Award

Guidelines for Applicants

Background & Purpose

The Hospital Research Foundation (THRF) Group – Arthritis, in association with the South Australian Branch of the Australian Rheumatology Association (ARA SA), is pleased to call for applications for the 2024 Postgraduate Rheumatology Award, valued at \$20,000.

The purpose of the Award is to assist emerging ARA SA postgraduate researchers carry out research projects which aim to enhance the lives of people living with arthritis and associated musculoskeletal conditions.

THRF Group – Arthritis

Formerly known as Arthritis SA, THRF Group – Arthritis is a charitable organisation founded in 1975. Its aim is to improve the quality of life of South Australians living with one of the 100+ conditions referred to as arthritis. THRF Group – Arthritis provides funding for support services, advocacy, education and research to improve treatments and care for people living with arthritis and related conditions.

Australian Rheumatology Association (ARA)

The ARA supports and educates members and other practitioners in the musculoskeletal field to enable provision of best possible management for patients. It fosters excellence in the diagnosis and management of musculoskeletal and inflammatory conditions through training, professional development, research and advocacy.

About the Award

Eligibility

Applicants should be Australian residents, enrolled or planning to enrol in a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) program in a recognised South Australian tertiary institution, and must be a member (Full, Associate, or Non-Medical) of the Australian Rheumatology Association.

The project must be conducted in South Australia and be aimed at improving the lives of South Australians with arthritis and associated musculoskeletal conditions. Only ONE (1) application will be considered for each applicant.

Assessment & Announcement

A panel comprising external assessors and representatives from THRF Group – Arthritis will review and rank applications based on the assessment criteria below. All assessment criteria will be considered in the context of the round's purpose, and the purposes of THRF Group – Arthritis and ARA more broadly. Please note that assessors will follow the NHMRC Relative to Opportunity policy (www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/policy-and-priorities#download), and will be required to deal with applications and assessment matters confidentially, and within THRF Group's Conflict of Interest Framework.

Assessment Criteria	Description	Weighting
Research Approach	The extent to which the proposed project: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• addresses an important problem with meaningful aims and expected outcomes;• has clear and appropriate project design, methods, and analytical plan; &• can feasibly achieve the intended aims and outcomes.	50%
Impact	The extent to which the proposed project has the potential to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• advance knowledge in the field;• deliver significant and relevant outcomes; &• positively impact the lives of South Australians with arthritis and associated musculoskeletal conditions.	30%
Applicant Capability and/or Potential, and Supervisory Suitability	The extent to which: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the applicant has the demonstrated capability and/or potential to undertake novel research. Evidence may include professional experience, publications, grants, presentations, awards etc;• the application describes how the award will assist the applicant as an emerging researcher in the field of arthritis and associated musculoskeletal conditions; &• the supervisory and mentoring arrangements outlined in the application will help the applicant to achieve the project's aims and progress their research career.	20%

The panel's recommendation for the Award will be submitted for approval to THRF Group's CEO and the Director of ARA SA. The Award recipient will be announced at the ARA (SA) Annual Scientific Meeting in October 2024.

In the case that no eligible application is considered of sufficient merit to receive the Award, the round may be closed without awarding funding.

Use of Funds

The Award amount is \$20,000 (+ applicable GST). If successful, the award funds will be paid to the applicant's enrolling institution (*i.e.* the Administering Institution) for the purposes of use towards the research program. At the discretion of the enrolling institution, the funds may be paid by the enrolling institution to the applicant as a stipend, research project support, or a combination thereof.

Terms and Conditions for Funding

All applicants must have contacted a qualified research supervisor and have been accepted by that supervisor to undertake research within their program. Confirmation of institutional HDR enrolment will be required before Award funds are paid.

If taking the funds as a stipend, the recipient should seek their own taxation advice from the Australian

Taxation Office or their own personal taxation advisor on the status of income derived from a stipend.

If awarded, the Administering Institution (the applicant's enrolling institution) will enter into a Funding Agreement with THRF Group. A copy of this agreement is available by request.

The Award recipient is required to:

- acknowledge THRF Group – Arthritis and ARA (SA) funding support in all presentations, papers etc. relating to the funded work;
- provide updates about their research upon request;
- participate in media opportunities coordinated by THRF Group – Arthritis or ARA where necessary, including radio and local and national media announcements, and ensure THRF Group is consulted regarding any media opportunities led by the recipient's university, SA Health or other organisation.

Please note that all other policies, processes and requirements relating to research grant administration, and student enrolment, candidature and stipend administration (if applicable), are the responsibility of the enrolling institution. In the event of any changes or queries regarding these matters, recipients are advised to contact the area responsible for research grant administration or graduate research at their enrolling institution in the first instance.

All information submitted to THRF Group (including full applications and reports) must be complete, current and accurate at the time of submission, and free of false or misleading information.

Examples of false or misleading information include, but are not limited to:

- dishonest statements regarding time commitments to the research for which support is being sought;
- incomplete or inaccurate facts regarding other sources of funding;
- inaccurate claims in publication records; or
- incomplete or misleading information regarding ethics and governance requirements or other factors that may impact the researcher's ability to commence the research program in a timely manner.

If THRF Group becomes aware of omissions or inclusion of misleading information in an application, it may choose to exclude an application from assessment, withdraw funding, and/or refer the matter to the Administering Institution.

How to Apply

Applications must be completed and submitted online through THRF Group's SmartyGrants platform. A **complete and correctly signed certification** on the [required template](#) must be uploaded as part of the submission. (Please allow adequate time in your timeline to collect the required signatures. Extensions will not be granted for this purpose.)

Please note:

- **Only electronic submission through the SmartyGrants system will be accepted.**
- **Applicants must click on the "Submit" button when the application is finalised.**
- **Applicants will then receive a confirmation of application submission by email.**
- **If the email is not received (after checking junk/spam folders), applicants should assume that the submission has not occurred and re-attempt submission.**

Please also note:

- Due to incompatibility issues, **do not use Internet Explorer** with SmartyGrants.
- Unless otherwise specified in the application form, all uploaded files should be provided in PDF format. File names should include a short description of the item followed by the CIA's family name, for example "Transcript_Smith.pdf".

Once the round closes, the submitted application cannot be amended. Late, incomplete, or incorrectly submitted applications will not be accepted. All queries regarding the SmartyGrants submission process should be directed to grants@hospitalresearch.org.au.

General enquiries about the Award may be directed to Prof Catherine Hill – catherine.hill@sa.gov.au or Dr Rachael Black – Rachel.Black2@sa.gov.au.

Apply at:

<https://hospitalresearch.smartygrants.com.au/2024-rheum-pga>

Round closes on Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 4:00 PM (ACST)

Key dates

Round opens	Monday 2 nd September 2024 at 12:00 PM (ACST)
Round closes	Wednesday 2 nd October 2024 at 4:00 PM (ACST)
Award announced:	At the ARA(SA) Annual Scientific Meeting on Friday 25 th October 2024