

Objectives

To support research into curing epilepsy or reducing the impact of epilepsy on people's lives.

Funding Objectives

The Foundation has a commitment to supporting innovation and excellence in Medical and Psycho-Social research. Our program aims to advance understanding and improve treatment of epilepsy by supporting researchers, universities, research institutes and hospitals.

The Foundation aims to ensure that its funds are directed towards high quality research and high quality researchers.

High quality research is considered to be research that not only has scientific rigour and feasibility, but that will fundamentally benefit people living with epilepsy or significantly improve our understanding of epilepsy.

High quality researchers are individuals who have excelled or show potential to excel in their chosen area of medical research. The Foundation supports researchers at all stages in their careers and seeks to create opportunities for early career researchers who show potential in an area relevant to EF's focus, by assisting them to secure the necessary funding to propel their careers and their research.

Areas of Focus

Pre-clinical research

1. Understanding the causes, risk factors and genetic basis of epilepsy
2. Prevention and/or cure of epilepsy

Applied/Translational research

3. Translating progress made in research into treatments and services in clinical practice.

Clinical research

4. To improve health care, including access to health services and treatments
5. Risk factors for injuries, status epilepticus, avoidable death, SUDEP and suicide
6. Limit or prevent adverse consequences of seizures and their treatment across the lifespan (e.g. Avoidable death, SUDEP, comorbidities)

Social/community

7. Improving public knowledge, awareness, and attitudes towards epilepsy
8. Improving education for patients and family and for health professionals (social/community research)
9. Mobility and access issues, e.g. inability to drive
10. Improve understanding of the experiences and needs of people with epilepsy across whole community and in health policy and health services.

Australian Epilepsy Research Fund

Eligibility

The Epilepsy Foundation can only make grants to organisations with BOTH Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Item 1 and Tax Concession Charity (TCC) status.

Ethics approval may be required in order for research projects to qualify

Exclusions

Projects that fall into any of the following categories will not be considered for funding:

- Retrospective funding – projects which are already underway or which will commence prior to the date indicated in our online application information are not eligible for consideration
- Recurrent expenditure for which there is no future provision
- Capital or endowment funds established to fund a chair or to provide a corpus for institutions
- Applications for public charitable purposes outside the Commonwealth of Australia
- Applications will not be accepted from organisations that have not successfully acquitted previous grants from the Foundation

Outcomes and Metrics

It is the aim of the Foundation that the projects that it funds will have impact beyond immediate key performance indicators and outputs. In your Research application, you will be asked to select medium to long-term outcomes. If only one or two apply, that is fine.

Outcomes:

- Reduction in seizures
- Reduced impact of epilepsy on people's lives
- Dissemination of best practice/new knowledge
- Increased knowledge base of a specified target group or population
- Increased skill base
- Improved service system/sector collaboration

Governance

The Australian Epilepsy Research Fund Scientific Advisory committee is a subcommittee of the Board of the Epilepsy Foundation.

Chair, Professor Mark Cook

Members, Professor Sam Berkovic, Professor Terence O'Brien, Professor Ingrid Scheffer, Professor Sarah Wilson, Dr Christine Walker, Graeme Shears