

Gynae-Oncological Clinician Scholarship Terms and Conditions

The Gynae-Oncological Research Advisory Group (GORAG) was established by Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) to oversee the allocation of funding to support gynae-oncological research across the Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) Hospital and Chris O'Brien Lifehouse (COBLH) campus. Through distribution of funds, GORAG aims to further multi-disciplinary research opportunities for the advancement of treating women with gynaecological cancers, along with their families / carers, via research investigating treatments, therapies, models of care and the uptake of technology.

GORAG is providing an opportunity for doctors in training, nurses, midwives and allied health staff to undertake research by offering a new scholarship, the Gynae-Oncological Clinician Scholarship, to support individuals develop or strengthen their research careers.

The Gynae-Oncological Clinician Scholarship is available for doctors in training, nurses, midwives and allied health staff working at RPA or COBLH to assist with the completion of a higher degree by research (HDR), for example a Master of Philosophy, during a 12-24 month period. Applications for scholarship funding up to \$100,000 will be considered.

The scholarship will cover up to 0.6 FTE and other research expenses to complete a research project related to the improvement of care and outcomes for patients being treated under gynae-oncology. This will ensure applicants have protected research time to complete their studies and remain working in the clinical setting.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for this scholarship, you must

- Be a permanent full time or part time doctor in training, nurse, midwife or allied health clinician employed at RPA or COBLH. Allied health clinicians include but are not limited to physiotherapy, dietetics, occupational therapy, psychology, exercise physiology and pharmacy;
- Currently work or have a strong interest in gynae-oncology;
- Have the support of a research supervisor who will guarantee to provide supervision and guidance for the duration of the scholarship. The research supervisor will need to provide a letter of support as part of the application;
- Have support from the applicant's Head of Department (HOD) who will need to provide a letter of support as part of the application. This must include support for the total FTE dedicated to protected research time and how that will be managed;
- Have a research proposal related to the improvement of care and outcomes for patients being treated under gynae-oncology;
- Be the principal investigator for the research project;
- Be enrolled or intend to enrol in a HDR.

Tenure:

- The successful research scholarship shall be tenable for a 12-24 month period between the 2023/24 and 2025/26 financial years;

- The applicant must have commenced their research project by 1st July 2024;
- A request to defer tenure of the award will only be considered subject to review by the Chair, GORAG;

Application:

The application must include:

- Adequate amount of FTE (up to 0.6 FTE) allocated to protected research time to complete the research project;
- Research proposal (using the EOI template available) outlining the title, background, aims, methodology, timeline, risk management, breakdown of funding allocation, project outcomes and expected value of results and list of references relevant to the proposed project;
- Full CV of the applicant;
- Letter of support from the applicant's research supervisor;
- Letter of support from the applicant's Head of Department (HOD);
- Proof of enrolment in a HDR or if not yet enrolled in a HDR, proof of an enrolment application outlining start dates. Enrolment confirmation must be provided to GORAG within 3 months of commencing the scholarship.

The application may include:

- Research consumables, directly attributable to the project;
- Research equipment or software essential for the project;
- Travel funding of up to \$2000 to present research at scientific meetings relevant to the scholarship.

Assessment process:

- All applications will be peer-reviewed by an independent scientific panel from the RPA Institute of Academic Surgery (IAS). These applications will be assessed using the selection criteria outlined below. Top scoring applicants will then be interviewed by the panel, who will make recommendations to GORAG as to who should be awarded the scholarship. The final awarding of research funds will then be made at the discretion of GORAG.

Funding:

- Part or all of the scholarship funds must be allocated to FTE (up to 0.6 FTE) to ensure protected research time to complete the project. The applicant must demonstrate how this amount of FTE will assist completion of the research project within the specified timeframe.
- Funds for salary expenses will be provided through a stipend allowance every 6 months for the duration of the scholarship. Allocated funds will be transferred into a cost centre or organisational bank account upon receipt of an invoice, identified by the successful applicant's HOD;
- Other research funds will be granted via a one-off payment within the 2023/24 financial year to an appropriate departmental cost centre or organisational bank account upon receipt of an invoice, nominated by the applicant's HOD;
- Funds will not be provided directly to the applicant;
- Funds will be awarded as described within the EOI application and no further correspondence will be entered into;
- SLHD retains the right within its absolute discretion to terminate all or part funding and / or approval of any supported project at any time;
- The inability to deliver on project reports may result in funds not being allocated or recalled;

- The scholarship cannot be transferred to another area of research;
- If the applicant withdraws from their HDR, written notice must be provided to GORAG one month prior to the date of ceasing. No future payments will be made from this point and full or partial repayment of the scholarship will be determined by GORAG.

Deliverables and reporting requirements:

- Applicants must deliver the research project described in their application within the specified timeframe;
- Regular bi-annual progress reports (April and October) and a final report upon completion of the project must be submitted for the review of GORAG. This may include providing presentations to GORAG on the progress of the project;
- SLHD must be acknowledged for the funding support provided in any publications and/or presentations relating to the research project;
- Applicants must participate in the development of any internal or external media releases or related content associated with the funded research project;

Termination:

The successful scholarship will be terminated:

- On resignation or withdrawal of their application. This includes cessation or transfer of employment outside SLHD and/or COBLH;
- On completion of the project or by June 2026, whichever is earlier;
- Before this time if, after due enquiry, the Chair, GORAG concludes the applicant has not carried out the delivery of their scholarship proposal with competence and diligence, or in accordance with Federal and NSW Health Policy, or fails to maintain satisfactory progress, or has committed serious misconduct.

EOI Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria	
Methodology Scientific quality of the proposed research project	30%
FTE Allocation Reasonable allocation of FTE that is well supported by the applicant’s department and research supervisor	20%
Timeframe Feasibility the research project can be completed within the timeframes described (1 or 2 years)	10%
Impact Potential for the project to influence or be translated into practice	20%
Budget Value for money	20%