

## Grant Guidelines

These Grant Guidelines have been developed to assist brain cancer researchers to understand the research themes and grant process of the Charlie Teo Foundation. If you have any questions, please email [research@charlieteofoundation.org.au](mailto:research@charlieteofoundation.org.au) or call the office on +61 2 8880 8328.

### 1. OUR PURPOSE

Charlie Teo Foundation (the Foundation) is a registered Australian charity. We are on a global mission to beat brain cancer. Our focus is on funding brain cancer research.

### 2. RESEARCH STRATEGY

The Foundation's Research Strategy uses a thesis-driven approach to guide how and what we fund (referred to as themes throughout this Guideline). This strategic framework provides a structured way for the Foundation to prioritise its focus areas.

### 3. RESEARCH THEMES

The Foundation is currently pursuing two (2) major themes being More Data and Better Tools and one (1) minor theme being the Research Rebels, as described below.

#### More Data

To generate or facilitate the availability of high-quality, well-annotated, biological and clinical data that has the potential to drive further innovation and scientific breakthroughs.

#### Better Tools

To create better analytical, methodological and clinical tools to fast-track brain cancer research, being:

- **Analytical Tools:** New software tools for analysing large and complex datasets associated with brain cancer that are biologically relevant, high-throughput, and user-friendly.
- **Methodological Tools:** New techniques to improve the quality and rigour of brain cancer research in order to make the outputs of biologic assays closer to studying the real disease.
- **Clinical Tools:** New ideas to solve clinical problems in surgery and neuro-oncology. This involves identifying promising ideas and incubating them from concept through to prototyping, until they are mature enough to transition to the venture capital space.

## Research Rebels

To empower *out of the box* thinkers to pursue creative and unusual ideas for a period of time, funding researchers who challenge the orthodox way of thinking.

### 4. GRANTS

Grants available are listed on the Foundation's website.

### 5. APPLICATION PROCESS

The Foundation's application process is broadly summarised below:

- The Foundation does not open for grant rounds or accept unsolicited applications. The Foundation proactively seeks out researchers and projects that may fit within our research strategy.
- Expression of Interest: The Foundation may ask a researcher to provide a brief account (EOI) including high level details of the proposed research project clearly identifying originality and importance of the contemporary state of knowledge.
- Following this, researchers may be invited to submit a formal Grant Application using the form provided by the Foundation (Invitation to Apply). This will build on the information provided in the EOI and include a detailed research plan and budget.
- Grant Applications must be received within one (1) month of the Invitation to Apply being sent (unless otherwise agreed to at the time by the Foundation), following which the Invitation to Apply automatically lapses.

## Research Rebels

- EOIs are encouraged from:
  - Researchers at any career stage: early-career, mid-career and senior researchers; and/or
  - People with relevant skills and experience in biotech, data science, bioinformatics, engineering, complementary medicines, disease control etc.
- Rebel applicants will also be asked to submit a 5-minute video of yourself addressing the following 5 questions:
  1. What's the challenge?
  2. What's the opportunity to address the challenge?
  3. How are you going to make a difference?
  4. Why are you an "Out of the Box Thinker"?
  5. How have your life's challenges shaped your idea?

## 6. ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Grant Applications must be submitted to the Foundation's Head of Research. Accepted Grant Applications will be assessed by the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board in accordance with the Application Requirements and Selection Criteria, with assessments provided to the Foundation's Head of Research.

### Application Requirements

Grant Applications must adhere to the following requirements below. The Foundation may within its sole discretion refuse to accept a Grant Application if it does not meet the Application Requirements or for any other reason.

1. Applications are by Invitation to Apply only.
2. Must be made on behalf of the Principal Researcher of the project who was Invited to Apply.
3. Must be complete including the duly signed acknowledgment by the Applicant, in the required form, within the specified word limits and include requested attachments.
4. The Applicant may be from anywhere in the world but must be affiliated with an existing university, medical research institute or hospital, have any required working rights/visa and be ready, willing and able to undertake the project described in the Grant Application.
5. Any indirect research costs associated with the grant must be  $\leq 10\%$  of the total grant in line with the Foundation's policy. We recognise that research institutions are providers of high-quality and high-value research and that our grants may include a contribution towards indirect research costs. We also balance this with consideration that we are a philanthropic research funder and must make our limited resources go further in pursuit of our charitable purpose.
6. International Grants are awarded in \$AUD, with any currency conversion (exchange rate) calculated as at the date of submission of the Grant Application, or such other time as may be determined at the sole discretion of the Foundation.
7. Must not be made for infrastructure funding.
8. If a member of the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB member) is a Principal Researcher or part of the project team:
  - i. The SAB member must comply with the conflict of interest policy applicable to SAB members to the Foundation's satisfaction including to disclose their interest and recuse themselves from any consideration or assessment of the Grant Application;
  - ii. The Grant Application must not include any salary component or portion thereof for the SAB member; and
  - iii. A SAB member is only permitted to be the Principal Researcher on one project being funded by the Foundation at any given time.

Exceptions may be considered and approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis. For an exception to be considered, written reasons justifying why an exception should be approved must be made in writing and included as part of the Grant Application.

## Selection Criteria

The Selection Criteria applicable to a specific Grant will be provided upon invitation to submit a formal Grant Application.

### 7. AWARD CONDITIONS

Following a final decision by the Foundation's Board of Directors, Applicants will be advised by the Foundation whether the Grant Application was successful or unsuccessful.

Please note that the decision to award a Grant is at the sole discretion of the Foundation and reasons, scoring or feedback will not be provided. Further, there is no right of review or appeal in relation to a decision to award or not award a Grant.

Grants awarded are subject to the terms and conditions of a grant agreement between the Foundation and the relevant university, medical research institute and/or hospital (Institute). Grant funds are to be administered directly by the Institute where the research activities are conducted.

### 8. CONTACT US

If you have any questions please contact us:

Head of Research

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E: [research@charlieteofoundation.org.au](mailto:research@charlieteofoundation.org.au)