

**Neurological
Foundation**

A pathway to hope

Neurological Foundation Research Roadshow



The Neurological Foundation

- > The Neurological Foundation was established in 1971, and has been funding brain, nerve and spine research for 50 years
- > There are over 700 neurological conditions, these disorders affect **one in five New Zealanders**
- > We receive no government funding, we are reliant on donations of all sizes from people across New Zealand
- > Our purpose is to “be a catalyst to improve the future quality of life for New Zealanders impacted by neurological conditions”



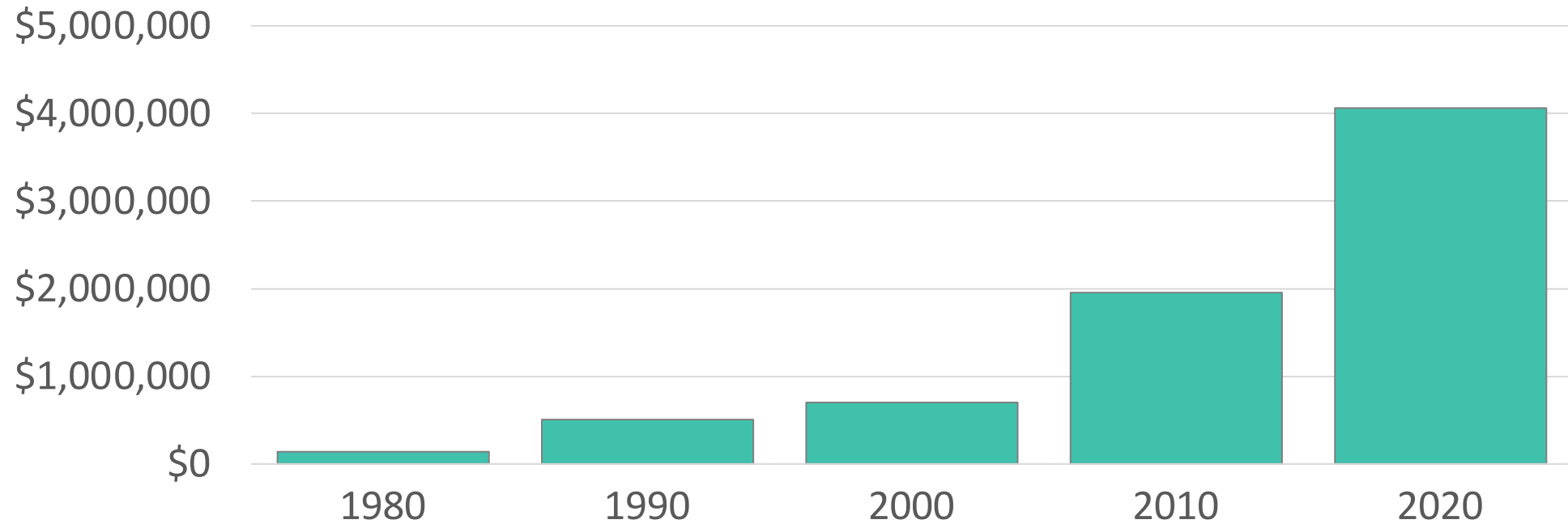
We have funded >950 grants and >\$50 million of research over the past 50 years, ranging from basic science to clinical research into conditions such as:

- > Stroke
- > Parkinson's disease
- > Alzheimer's disease
- > Dementia
- > Huntington's disease
- > Motor neuron disease
- > Spinal cord injury
- > Traumatic Brain Injury
- > Brain Cancer
- > Autism
- > Multiple Sclerosis
- > Mental illness
- > Migraine
- > Epilepsy



The Foundation was incorporated 28 October 1971 after an annual appeal that raised \$70,057

Funding Snapshot



- > More than \$3 million has been given to the **Neurological Foundation Human Brain Bank** at the University of Auckland since 1993
- > The Foundation has funded Professor Alan Barber as the **Chair of Clinical Neurology** since 2008, a collaboration between Auckland Hospital and The University of Auckland, with a focus on clot retrieval and stroke recovery
- > In 2010 the Foundation led a campaign that raised >\$3 million to ensure retention of neurosurgical services in Dunedin. From 2012-2020 Professor Dirk De Ridder was the **Neurological Foundation Chair in Neurosurgery**. The fund is managed by the University of Otago Foundation Trust and has been renamed the Otago and Southland Chair in Neurosurgery



Our Team

- > The Neurological Foundation Council is our governing body
- > Our Council Chair is Professor Cathy Stinear
- > Our Medical Advisor is Dr Neil Anderson
- > Our committees are convened from a pool of neuroscientists and clinicians from across New Zealand
- > Our offices are in Auckland City
- > Our fundraising staff are based throughout New Zealand



The Pathway to Hope

All contributions, big and small, help make a difference and support the work being done and what we can do in the future.

You can find out more information by:

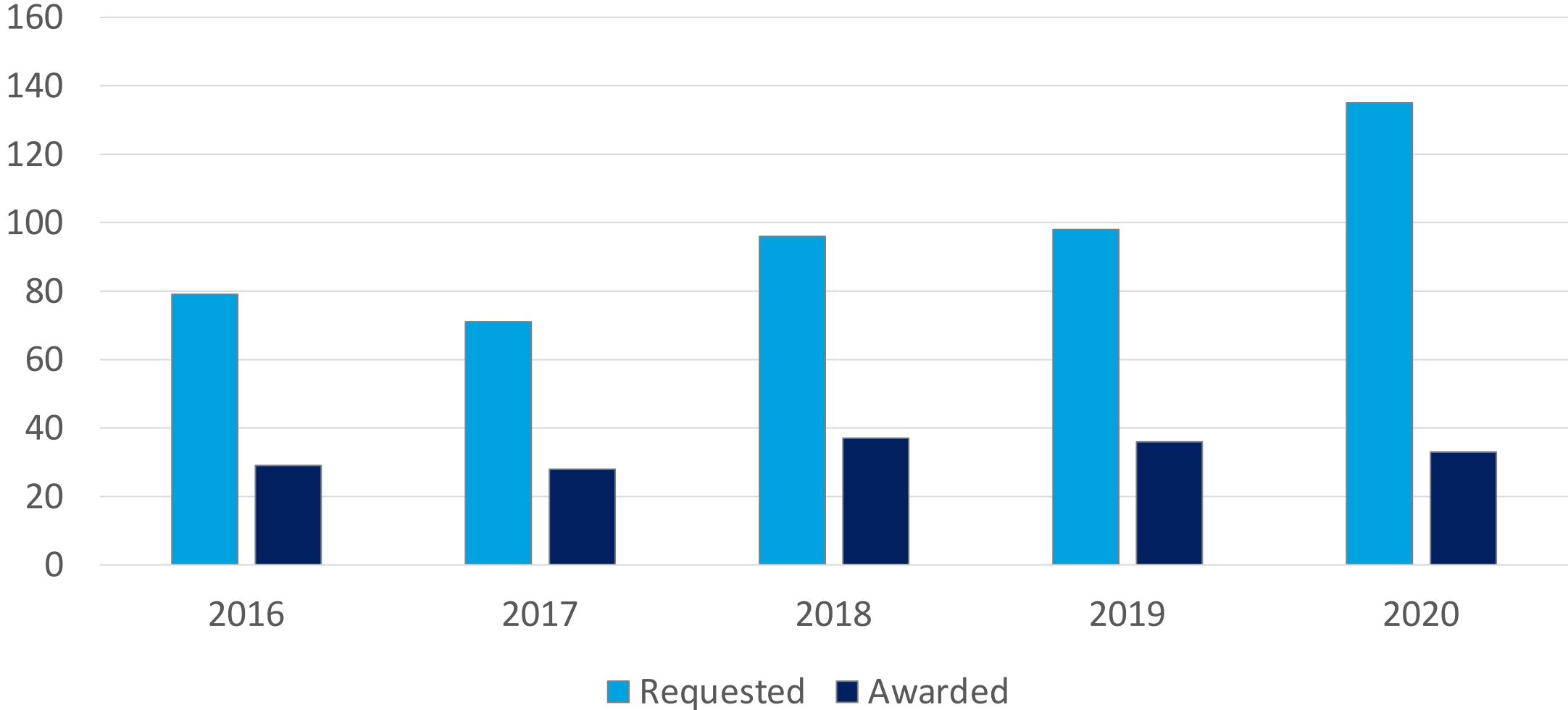
- > Speaking to one of our Donor Relations Specialists
- > Visiting our website www.neurological.org.nz
- > Calling our Auckland office 0508 BRAINS (0508 272 467)
- > Joining our mailing list for event invites
- > Following us on social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube)



Neurological Foundation Research Grants



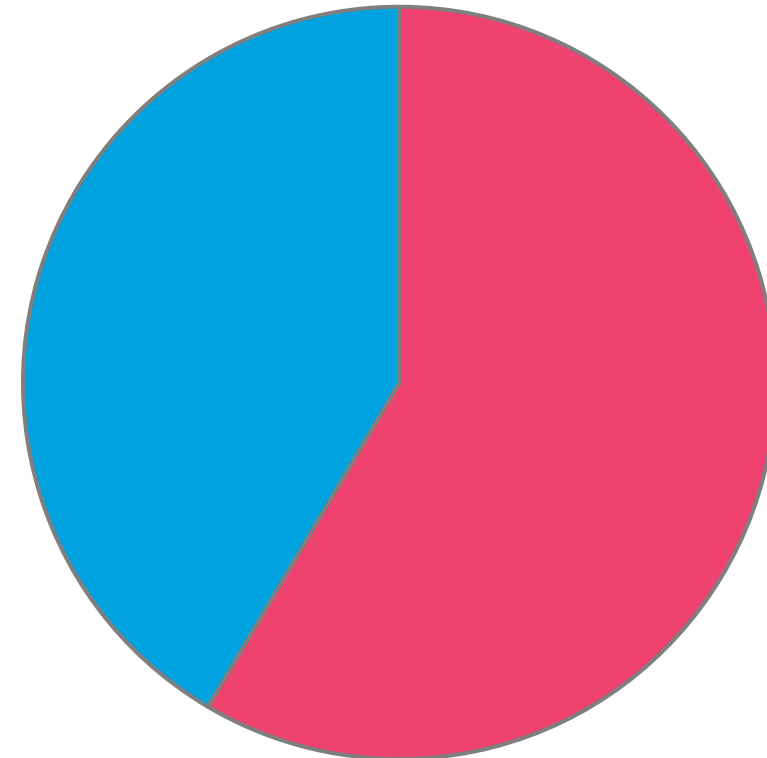
Requested and Awarded Grants 2016-2020



Awarded Grants 2016-2020



Academic staff Clinician
Research Fellow Student



Female Male



All applications 2016-2020

	Requested	Awarded	Success Rate
UoA	209	75	36%
UoO	157	50	32%
VUW	22	9	41%
ADHB	12	6	50%
UoC	8	5	63%
AUT	8	1	13%
Lincoln	3	1	33%
CCDHB	5	1	20%
CDHB	2	1	50%

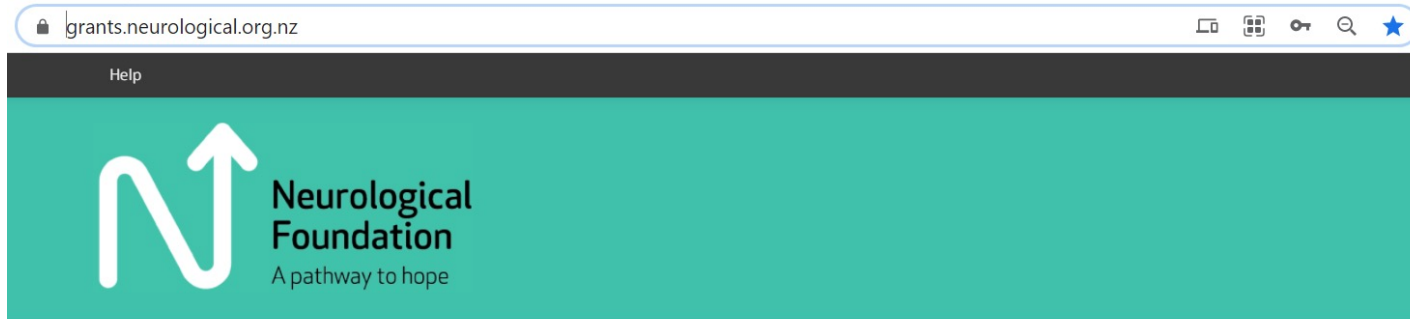


Funding Opportunities Overview

- > Two funding rounds per year for large and small projects, early career fellowships and conference and training course grants
- > One round per year for doctoral scholarships, senior fellowships and summer studentships
- > Travel grants are available three times per year for those who have an eligible project grant, fellowship or scholarship
- > Our committees meet in June and November with outcomes announced early July and December



Online portal



Already have an account?

[HELP](#)

OR

Create your new applicant account now

[HELP](#)

Remember me

Submit

[Forgotten password?](#)

Use this form to create an applicant account so you can log in to submit applications for funding. If you believe you need a different type of account, such as a referee or institution account, please use the Contact form at the bottom of the page to get in touch with Neurological Foundation.

Salutation *

First name *

Last name *

Email address *

Use your work email address where possible. Take care to enter this accurately.

Gender *

Select one

Telephone *

Mobile

Address *

Postcode

Look up postcode online

Institution *

If your institution is not listed here, use the contact form below to ask for it to be added before registering.

Auckland District Health Board

Department *

Password *

At least seven characters including upper and lower case and numbers



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Guides for Application Types

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Guides for application types

Every applicant should read the following:

- Neurological Foundation Guidelines & General Information
- Ethical Aspects of Research

Guides for specific application types are available here:

If the closing date falls on a weekend or holiday, it will be extended to the next working day.

- Project Grant - the main avenue by which the Neurological Foundation sponsors research. Applicants can be scientifically or medically qualified, and applications close 1 September.
- Small Project Grant - intended to encourage clinicians and scientists to undertake small-scale or pilot studies that may lead to a larger project. Applications close 1 April and 1 September.
- Conference or Training Course - to support international keynote speakers and early career researchers at neurology and neuroscience conferences, training courses in New Zealand or Australia. Applications close 1 April and 1 September.
- Summer Studentship - to provide personal support for students so they can gain research skills and experience. Applications close 1 September.
- Dawn Fellowship - to provide personal support for scientists or clinicians to carry out research into Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, peripheral neuropathy, and other neurological conditions. Applications close 1 September.
- Doctoral Scholarship - to provide personal support for students undertaking a PhD in basic or clinical neuroscience. Applications close 1 October.
- First Fellowship - to provide personal support for outstanding early career researchers so that they can complete their first postdoctoral fellowships. Applications close 1 May and 1 October.
- Senior Research Fellowship - to provide personal support for outstanding postdoctoral fellows as they establish themselves as independent researchers. Applications close 1 May and 1 October.
- Philip Wrightson Fellowship - to provide personal support for outstanding postdoctoral research fellows undertaking full-time research at institutions. Applications close 1 May and 1 October.

Sarah's Top Five Tips

1. Read the guidelines!
2. Consider the purpose of the Foundation - to “be a catalyst to improve the future quality of life for New Zealanders impacted by neurological conditions”
3. Allow time to get feedback from colleagues, including those outside your field of research
4. When you submit your application it goes to your research office first, then they approve it and submit it to the Foundation, so allow time for this
5. Don't rush resubmission



Key Considerations

- > Scientific quality
- > Originality and significance of the work, identify the knowledge gap and how your project is important in the field
- > Relevance to current literature
- > Previous work on the topic by yourself and others
- > Include all information the reviewers need in the application, they may not have time to look up your previous publications or click on any links that you provide



Research Design

- > Clear project timeline, avoid over- or under-estimating the time required, include contingency plans
- > Sound research design and methodology, demonstrate how the team has the required expertise and equipment needed, include any preliminary work to support this
- > For projects and small projects, avoid over- or under-estimating the personnel and budget required
- > Statistical advice is recommended to ensure that the outcomes are meaningful



Collaboration and Consultation

- > If your project has clinical relevance, even from a basic science stage, get clinical collaboration/consultation
- > If collaborators are not named on the grant, provide a letter of support
- > For qualitative research, get surveys professionally written/administered and have support services available for patients
- > With patient cohorts, ensure the number of Māori and Pasifika participants are high enough to show statistically significant outcomes for these groups and include urban and regional representation where possible
- > Engage with Māori, Pasifika and patient groups where possible, even as a volunteer



Projects and Small Projects

REVIEW PROCESS

- > Project and small project applications are part of the same review process, they are all ranked according to quality
- > Small projects are reviewed by the committee only
- > Large projects are reviewed by the committee and external experts
- > The funding cutoff is usually based on the budget, unless there is a clear gap in the scoring



Awarded Grants 2016-2020

Number awarded (Success rate)

Year	Small Projects	Project Grants	Average Project Grant
2016	9 (45%)	10 (36%)	\$ 166,575
2017	7 (47%)	11 (41%)	\$ 142,132
2018	9 (41%)	13 (37%)	\$ 181,403
2019	12 (55%)	10 (24%)	\$ 214,414
2020	5 (25%)	13 (22%)	\$ 169,558



Awarded Fellowships 2016-2020

Year	Number Awarded	Total \$ Awarded	Average \$ Awarded
2016	5	\$ 704,602	\$ 140,920
2017	4	\$ 635,277	\$ 158,819
2018	8	\$ 1,032,293	\$ 129,037
2019	6	\$ 1,054,294	\$ 175,716
2020	8	\$ 1,388,188	\$ 173,524



Research Fellowships

- > First Fellowship – based in NZ, within 2 years of PhD
- > Philip Wrightson Fellowship – based overseas, within 4 years of PhD
- > Senior Research Fellowship – based in NZ, within 8 years of PhD
- > VJ Chapman Fellowship – based overseas, for medical graduates training in neurology, neurosurgery, or neuropathology to undertake research
- > O’Brien Clinical Fellowship – for non-medical health professionals to undertake research in NZ or overseas
- > Senior Clinical Research Fellowship – based in NZ, for clinicians establishing themselves as independent researchers



PhD Scholarships

Proudly supported by W&B Miller and Peter and Wendy Gillespie

- > For NZ citizens or residents doing a PhD in New Zealand
- > \$30,000 annual stipend + fees + \$5,000 working expenses

Dawn Fellowship ***New***

Proudly supported by the Dawn Estate

- > Priority 1: Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease
- > Priority 2: Peripheral neuropathy
- > Priority 3: Alzheimer's disease or dementia



Fellowships and Scholarships

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Our review process has an equal focus on the applicant, the project and the research environment:

- > Neurologically focused career goals, engagement with patient communities, ability to be an ambassador for the Foundation
- > Scientific quality of project and alignment to the Foundation's purpose
- > Quality of academic record, quality of CV relative to experience
- > Track record of supervisor/mentor, level of support provided



Fellowships and Scholarships

VIDEO INTERVIEW TIPS

- > Get your supervisor/mentor or research support staff to conduct a pre-interview via Zoom
- > The interview will be a discussion so you will not need any visual aids or screen sharing
- > The questions will focus on your background, your career goals, your project and the research environment where you will be based
- > It is obvious if you are reading notes during the interview, so try to avoid this



Other Grants

- > Summer Studentships – 10-week project based at a tertiary institution in NZ, \$6000 stipend, students must have a supervisor and liaise with their tertiary institution before applying
- > Conference and Training Course Grants – conference convenors can apply for support for international keynote speakers or early career researcher participation
- > Travel Grants – large project grants, scholarships and fellowships are able to apply for grants to attend conferences, meetings and training
- > Hackett Memorial Trust Conference and Training Grants for neurosurgery



Scientific Advisory Committee

Projects, Small Projects, Conference and Training Course grants



Associate Professor Bronwyn Kivell
Victoria University of Wellington
Senior Lecturer in neurobiology, Centre for
Biodiscovery, Maurice Wilkins Centre



Professor John Dalrymple-Alford
University of Canterbury, University of Otago
Christchurch, Co-ordinator of the Dementia
Prevention Research Clinic, New Zealand Brain
Research Institute



Personal Awards Committee

Studentships, Scholarships, and Fellowships



Dr Louise Bicknell
University of Otago Dunedin
Co-Deputy Director, Genetics Otago



Dr Scott Graham
University of Auckland
Head of Neuroimmune Interactions Research Group,
Centre for Brain Research



Committee process

The Foundation maintains a volunteer pool of expert committee members to convene the committees for each funding round.

- > Voting members cannot be named investigators on any applications in the category of grant they are reviewing
- > Committee expertise is aligned with the nature of the applications
- > Each committee is balanced and diverse, considering geography, institution, gender, and career stage
- > Each committee includes at least one medically qualified clinician practising in a neurological discipline



Conflicts of interest

Committee members with the following conflicts of interest do not participate in the discussion or voting for that particular application:

- > Collaborated (or intending to) with a named investigator or mentor
- > Previous student, supervisor or advisor to a named investigator
- > Published with a named investigator in the last five years
- > On a current grant with a named investigator
- > In the same department or working in close proximity to a named investigator
- > Scientific or personal differences, or close personal ties, that prevent objectivity



Join our committee pool

If you would like to be considered for our committee pool, send your NZ MSI CV with a cover letter to research@neurological.org.nz highlighting the following:

- > Research expertise and experience
- > Previous committee experience
- > Research funding awarded as Principal Investigator
- > Previous engagement with the Neurological Foundation

See <https://neurological.org.nz/who-we-are/our-team/grant-committees>



Contract Variations and Grant Reports

- > Submit through your online application
- > Reports are due annually on the grant start date and after the grant has finished. If a donor is listed, include a thank you in your report

In every report, please mention the donor who supports this grant: **Thanksgiving Trust**.

New grant reports

U Will request on 08/10/2021

 New progress

 New final

Completed grant reports

P Approved on 21/10/2020

Events

Committee

Feedback

Grant

Notes

Reports

Reviews

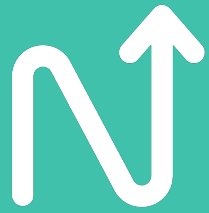
Variations



Research Impact

- > Conference contributions, publications, media, community outreach, prizes and awards, patents, change in clinical practice
- > Building capacity in neuroscience – how our funding has impacted your career, enabled training/employment of other key staff, or helped secure a subsequent permanent position or additional funding
- > Growing our understanding of the nervous system or neurological conditions or developing technology that enables this
- > The next steps – where could your research lead to immediately and in the future, collaborations you have developed





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Q & A

