



Multiple Sclerosis Research Australia PROJECT GRANTS

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

1. A project grant is an award made in support of a scientific research project within an Australian institution proposed by an appropriately qualified investigator.
2. The project is to be consistent with the aims of MSRA and the work is to be approved by the host institution (including relevant ethics committees). The institution is responsible for administration of the grant.
3. Researchers who are based overseas for the duration of the grant are not eligible to apply.
4. No person funded by MSRA can be regarded as an employee of MSRA.

Purpose of the Grant

1. The award of project grants is MSRA's main avenue for the support of research relevant to multiple sclerosis in universities, hospitals or other recognised research institutions.
2. Since these awards will normally be made for a period of two years only, the purpose is primarily to assist investigations in which considerable progress can be expected over this or a shorter period.
3. MSRA does not intend to provide long term salaries for support staff.

Public Funds

1. As MSRA derives its research funds from public and corporate donations, grantees are requested not to make direct appeals for funds to be channelled into specific projects.
2. Grantees are requested to refer a donor of funds for multiple sclerosis research to the national body, Multiple Sclerosis Research Australia.

Award and Termination of Grants

1. MSRA grants are made for specified periods. They are subject to renewal on application in the normal way (see 'Instructions to Applicants'). All grants are subject to funds being available.
2. When a grantee leaves an institution to which a grant is paid before the normal expiration of that grant, the grant may be terminated or transferred at the discretion of MSRA.
3. MSRA shall give notice in writing to the institution and the grantee of such termination or transfer. Upon the termination, grant funds already paid to the institution and not duly expended or committed shall be refunded.

Payment of Grants

1. Payment of any grant shall be upon the terms and conditions specified in the grant and shall be transferred to the grant administration bank account of the institution at which the work is being performed, normally half yearly in advance.

Use of Grants

1. Funds offered are a grant-in-aid and will not be supplemented. MSRA does not provide extra money to meet national salary awards or those given by the NHMRC. The grantee is responsible for the management of salaries and other expenditure within the limits of the grant.
2. In accepting an MSRA grant, each institution remains responsible for normal overhead expenses including maintenance costs on equipment purchased with MSRA funds and institutional maintenance charges. The grant shall not be used for such purposes without agreement in writing by MSRA.
3. Grants shall be used solely for the purposes specified in the awards i.e. for items listed in the application under the heading 'Budget', except where permission has been obtained in writing from MSRA to vary the use of the grant.

Equipment

1. Equipment purchased with an MSRA grant will normally become the property of the host institution subject to the following conditions:
 - The grantee will have free use of it during the tenure of the grant from the MSRA or any subsequent grants in connection with research relevant to multiple sclerosis.
 - If the principal investigator moves to another institution during the tenure of the grant the MSRA has the right to require that the equipment is transferred with the investigator following discussion with the institutions concerned.
 - The institution will be responsible for installing, accommodating, maintaining and insuring equipment.

- In particular circumstances, and as specified at the time of purchase, MSRA may retain ownership of equipment.

Accounting for Grants

1. Grants for periods not exceeding one year that are not spent or committed at the end of the specified period shall be refunded by the institution, except where MSRA approves funds to be carried forward in writing.
2. Grants for periods exceeding one year which are unspent and uncommitted at the end of each calendar year may be carried forward into the following year in amounts not exceeding 50% of the grant for the purposes specified (see 6), except where MSRA approves in writing a greater amount to be carried forward.
3. The responsible officer of the institution receiving each grant shall certify for each year not later than 1 March of the year following that:
 - The grant has been expended solely upon the work and for the purposes specified in the award of the grant;
 - All funds allocated in the grant for each year not expended or carried forward under conditions 8 and 9 have been returned.
4. The account for each yearly grant shall be closed on 31 December of the year following the grant.

Publication of Results

1. Importance is attached to the publication of results funded by MSRA grants. The support of MSRA shall be acknowledged in publications. A copy of each published paper shall be sent to the Research Coordinator of MSRA as soon as possible after publication. This is essential as these are used to assist in future fundraising.

Intellectual Property

1. Intellectual property resulting from MSRA funded research normally belongs to the administering or host institution and must be handled in the national interest.
2. Grantees and/or the responsible officer of the host institution must immediately notify the MSRA in writing of any patentable discoveries, inventions, processes or improvements arising from MSRA supported research.
3. The institution is authorised to conduct all necessary negotiations concerning the patent proceedings.
4. Any revenue derived from commercial exploitation of inventions arising from MSRA funded research must be disclosed (in confidence, if required) to MSRA at the time of submission of progress reports and may be taken into account when funding of subsequent grants is being determined.

Project Report

1. The grantee must furnish a progress report (scientific) and a short lay summary not later than 31 March of the year following that for which the grant was awarded.
2. The report should list the aims of the project and address each one describing the progress (or otherwise) made during the previous year.
3. The lay report will be published on the MSRA website and used in fundraising. The main report will be reviewed by the RMC.
4. Further funding for any grant will be withheld unless these reports are received.