



Prostate Cancer
Foundation of Australia



PCFA's Research Strategy 2019-2022

RESEARCH
AWARENESS
SUPPORT

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1. About the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia

The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) is a broadly-based community organisation and the peak national body for prostate cancer in Australia. It is dedicated to reducing the impact of prostate cancer on Australian men, their partners and their families.

PCFA does this by:

- Promoting and funding world leading, innovative research into prostate cancer
- Implementing awareness and advocacy campaigns and education programs for the Australian community, health professionals and Government and
- Supporting men and their families affected by prostate cancer through evidence-based information and resources, support groups and prostate cancer specialist nurses.

2. Why does PCFA need a research strategy?

PCFA provides funding for prostate cancer research in Australia. We have a responsibility to the generous public who fund prostate cancer research; we must invest our research funds wisely. By consulting widely with Australian men with prostate cancer and those who care for them, we direct funds to research projects that best address their needs.

During the development of this strategy, we have identified the top priorities of the Australian prostate cancer community, and gaps in the current research that align with these priorities. Understanding what is needed by men with prostate cancer has allowed us to develop goals within our specific research niche.

This strategy provides a clear guide as to how our research funding is disbursed for the information for researchers, clinicians and the whole prostate cancer community.

3. PCFA's strategic research goal

The goal of PCFA's research funding is to **create** and **promote the uptake** of knowledge that will improve the lives of Australian men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families.

4. Objectives of PCFA's research program

- Support men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families
- Contribute to PCFA's work in advocacy, and its awareness and support programs

5. Principles of PCFA's research program

PCFA's research program aims to address the top priorities of the Australian prostate cancer community. To do this:

We fund research that has the most impact on men with prostate cancer, and all who care for them, that delivers benefits in the near term.

We seek to answer questions identified by these men, their clinicians and service providers, as those where research is most needed. Our strategy has identified areas of agreed priority where significant investment by PCFA could make a major difference in the near term.

We are committed to funding researchers and projects of the highest quality and ethical standards.

PCFA's research program actively supports translating research results into clinical practice, policy or clinical guidelines.

We recognise that support for capacity development is an important contribution by PCFA in achieving the goal of this strategy.

PCFA recognises the value of partnerships and makes optimal use of partnership opportunities to achieve our strategic research goal.

6. Strategic directions

PCFA funds practical research with direct implications for men with prostate cancer and all who care for them. These research projects will improve treatment, care and support **in the near term**.

Such research will include:

- A. **Clinical research projects** that deliver near-term outcomes. These projects are clinical trials of new drugs and treatments, or research that uses biological samples collected during clinical trials
- B. **Prostate cancer survivorship research**
- C. **Research in priority directions** identified through consultation with PCFA's stakeholders.

7. What are the present research priorities

During the development of our strategy, men with prostate cancer, as well as clinicians and scientists, told us what research they believe is most needed. From this information, we have developed specific research priorities:

1. Research using existing biological samples from men with prostate cancer to better predict the cancer's course
2. Research to develop less invasive prostate cancer diagnostics that show promise, but need more evidence

3. Research to better understand the side effects from prostate cancer treatments and how they can be managed more effectively
4. Research to better understand how digital technologies can be used to improve access to prostate cancer information, monitoring, treatment and support
5. Research to investigate the impact of prostate cancer on men's lives, and how best to improve the quality-of-life of men diagnosed with prostate cancer, their partners and their families.

PCFA expects that:

Each project includes a realistic plan for engagement of end-users. End-users are clinicians, patients and survivors, and policymakers to whom the research results are relevant. Engagement with end-users needs to be considered whilst developing research questions and during project design and conduct, and results dissemination and translation.

Each project brings together consumers, clinicians, researchers and policymakers to explore the implications of the research for policy and practice.

Each project has a formal translation plan that includes implementation of translation of results to practice. The plan should be developed with input from stakeholders, and facilitated by PCFA, where necessary.

Post-graduate students and post-doctoral fellows will be engaged in the conduct of the research, where feasible.

The research results will be published in peer-reviewed journals and summarised on PCFA's website.

A brief and easily understood summary of the results from each project will be produced for specific audiences.

Other ongoing funded research and partnerships

Our research program is much bigger than its funding round focus on the top priorities mentioned above. PCFA will continue to fund research projects or programs underway, subject to their performance and their continuing alignment with its strategic research goal. These include:

- Research into survivorship (as part of PCFA's membership of the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence at Griffith University)
- Research arising from our partnership with ANZUP. This currently includes the Therap Trial of Lutetium-PSMA, a new treatment for metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer
- Research on regional and rural inequity in prostate cancer outcomes, to examine what is driving inequity and how best to address it. This project is a partnership with the University of Southern Queensland.

Through its partnership with the Movember Foundation, PCFA facilitates investment building clinician scientist capacity, supporting multidisciplinary, outcomes-focused research through the Revolutionary Team Awards program and some other research

programs. PCFA will continue this facilitation role while the Movember Foundation continues its support for these research areas.

PCFA will also fully discharge commitments it made under its previous New Concepts Grants and Young Investigator Awards programs.

**For any questions regarding this strategy please contact us at:
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