



## Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia

### Priority Impact Research Award – Young Investigator (PIRA-YI)

Applications close at 5:00 PM (AEDT) on Monday 16 November 2020

Funds available from 1 February 2021

## Part 1: Overview Information

<b>Organisation</b>	Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA)
<b>Funding Category</b>	Strategic Priority Research – Young Investigator
<b>Grant Name</b>	PCFA Priority Impact Research Award – Young Investigator (PIRA-YI)
<b>Description</b>	<p>PCFA is committed to helping build Australia's capacity to generate knowledge that will improve the lives of men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families. To achieve this, a constant supply of well trained and capable investigators is required to build and expand the prostate cancer workforce.</p> <p>PCFA's Priority Impact Research Award – Young Investigator (PIRA-YI) provides a funding mechanism to support the career development of early career researchers (ECRs) working on prostate cancer.</p> <p>The award provides funds for project support only. The investigators institution is responsible for providing salary support and an undertaking that the applicant can commit 50% of their time to the project.</p> <p>Under Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia's (PCFA's) Research Strategy 2019-2022, this call for applications is open for projects from ECRs that will support strategic priority research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• using existing Australian repositories of biological samples from men with prostate cancer to better predict prostate cancer progression and clinical course; or</li><li>• developing less invasive prostate cancer diagnostics that show promise but need more evidence; or</li><li>• examining the impact of prostate cancer on men's lives and the lives of their partners and their families.</li></ul>

## Important Dates

<b>Program Launch Date</b>	Monday 19 October 2020
<b>Application Submission Deadline</b>	Monday 16 November 2020, 5:00PM AEDT
<b>Expert Panel review and deliberations</b>	November – December 2020
<b>Anticipated Award Notification</b>	December 2020
<b>Funding Start Date - flexible</b>	First day of any month between February and June 2021

## Part 2. Research Funding Announcement

### PCFA's Research Strategy 2019-2022

To ensure that funds raised are invested for greatest benefit, PCFA will align its research program with the needs of men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families.

In implementing this strategy, PCFA's research program aims to:

- Deliver near-term benefits to, and have measurable impacts on, men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families,
- Answer questions identified by consumers, clinicians and prostate cancer service advocates as those most needing research,
- Be fit for purpose and of the highest quality and ethical standards,
- Identify areas of agreed priority where significant PCFA investment can make a major difference in the near term,
- Make the best use of partnership opportunities to achieve strategic research goals,
- Make research capacity development an integral component of PCFA-funded research, and
- Facilitate translation into policy and practice of knowledge gained through PCFA research investments.

## Priority Impact Research Awards - Young Investigator (PIRA-YI)

### Description

A PCFA Priority Impact Research Award – Young Investigator will give financial support to an early career researcher (ECR) to work on research that PCFA has identified to be of high priority.

Aligning with its research strategy, PCFA is calling for applications for research in three areas:

#### **Priority Research Area 1:**

*Research that uses existing Australian repositories of biological samples from men with prostate cancer to better predict prostate cancer's progression and clinical course; or*

#### **Priority Research Area 2:**

*Research to develop less invasive prostate cancer diagnostics that show promise, but need more evidence; or*

#### **Priority Research Area 5:**

*Research that advances knowledge and understanding of the impact of prostate cancer on men's lives and the lives of their partners and their families.*

The objectives of this call are:

- ◆ To promote research use of existing Australian repositories of biological of tissues from men with prostate cancer.
- ◆ Promote research that will develop less invasive prostate cancer diagnostics
- ◆ To support research that addresses the current needs of men with prostate cancer, their partners and families.
- ◆ To support research that will yield benefits to men with prostate cancer in the near term (5-7 years).
- ◆ To support early career researchers as they develop the interests and skills required to become established prostate cancer researchers.

Notes;

1. The call is open to research that investigates localised and non-localised prostate cancer or both.
2. Research Area 1 is open to use of samples from non-Australian repositories if at least one Australian repository is used, and the full number of relevant samples required for the research is not available without recourse to non-Australian repositories.

## Award Information

<b>Funding Instrument</b>	Award
<b>Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards</b>	The total amount budgeted for this funding opportunity and the number of awards is contingent on availability of funds and the submission of scientifically meritorious applications.
<b>Award Budget and Period</b>	The maximum amount of an award is \$70,000 per year for two years. The requested funding amount and the award period are at the discretion of the applicants and <b>must be commensurate</b> with the requirements of the proposed project. Subject to the last, amount and period will not influence award decisions.

## Eligibility Information

### Eligibility to Apply

PCFA Priority Impact Research Award – Young Investigator grants are open to early career researchers with less than five years full time research experience after completion of their research higher degree. Applicants must hold a remunerated academic or research appointment at their host institution for the duration of the award and provide written certification of this funding at the time of submission of their PIRA-YI application. If this remuneration is for less than full-time employment the maximum amount of the award will be reduced proportionally.

The proposed research project must address one of the Priority Research Areas.

#### **Priority Research Area 1:**

*Research that uses existing Australian repositories of biological samples from men with prostate cancer to better predict prostate cancer's progression and clinical course; or*

#### **Priority Research Area 2:**

*Research to develop less invasive prostate cancer diagnostics that show promise, but need more evidence; or*

#### **Priority Research Area 5:**

*Research that advances knowledge and understanding of the impact of prostate cancer on men's lives and the lives of their partners and their families.*

To be eligible for a PCFA Priority Impact Research Award – Young Investigator, the Young Investigator must:

- Hold a research-based university or equivalent institution higher degree.
- Have less than five years post higher degree full-time research experience by the grant submission deadline. If applicable, details of career disruption must be provided in the space available on the application form and supporting documents supplied.
- Hold an academic or research appointment at an eligible research institution (see below for

more information) for the duration of the award.

- Be an Australian citizen or hold permanent residency in Australia and be based in Australia for the duration of the grant
- Provide evidence of working within an established research group and demonstrate that they have access to the facilities needed for the proposed research and will be in a research environment that will support their development in accordance with the aims of this award.
- Provide an undertaking from their institution that they can commit 50% of their remunerated research time to the funded project.
- Name a mentor who will advise in the planning, direction and execution of the applicant's program. The mentor should be recognised as an accomplished investigator in research and have a track record of success in mentoring early career researchers. The mentor must be primarily based in Australia for the duration of the grant.

### **PCFA expects all research it funds to:**

- Have at least one consumer as a Co-Investigator
- Include a realistic plan for engagement of end users (e.g. clinicians, consumers, policymakers) in developing research questions and design and oversight
- Lead to publications in peer reviewed journals
- Be available to prepare brief and easily understood evidence-based summaries for specific audiences when requested by PCFA.
- Bring together consumers, clinicians, researchers and policymakers to explore the implications of the research for policy and practice
- Have a formal and practical research translation plan.

### **Eligible Institutions**

To apply for a PCFA Priority Impact Research Award, applicants must be affiliated with an **eligible institution**, which will accept financial responsibility for the grant, be responsible for the award's administration and provide basic infrastructure support (e.g. office, phone, computer & internet access, laboratory space) to its staff members or students who are involved in the research project.

### **Eligible institutions** must:

1. Be an:
  - Australian tertiary institution or one of their affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes; or an
  - Australian non-governmental, not-for-profit organisations (including community or charitable organisations) with an explicit research or knowledge translation mandate.
2. Be an incorporated body under Australian law.

3. Have the necessary accounting systems and financial controls in place to manage PCFA funds.
4. Ensure that the applicant will have the time and infrastructure needed to pursue the planned research and the freedom to publish the results.
5. A list of eligible institutions can be found on the NHMRC website [here](#).

For-profit organisations and organisations without an operating base in Australia **are not** eligible institutions.

## Guidelines and Review Process

### PCFA Research Program Policies & Guidelines

PCFA policies and guidelines apply to the applications submitted and awards made in response to this program announcement and must be consulted in parallel with this Guide to Applicants. A copy of the PCFA Research Program Policies and Guidelines can be found on the PCFA website [here](#).

### Budget

The application must include a budget that details research costs requested.

#### Allowable expenditure

The following expenditures are allowable from funding received in an Award:

- Costs of research consumables and other legitimate costs of research, including research assistance
- one national or international networking **activity** directly relevant to the Award, which may include collaborations, planning, and knowledge exchange activities (i.e. attending and presenting at International and national scientific meetings)

#### Non-allowable expenditure

- Award holder's employment costs
- Institutional overhead costs are ineligible for funding
- Tuition and professional membership dues are not allowable expenses
- The award will not support laboratory equipment or other research infrastructure.

### Conditions of Funding

Successful applicants funded through this funding opportunity must fully comply with the following conditions:

- Successful candidates must accept their awards within 21 days of notification. Failure to do

so will result in cancellation of the offer.

- Acknowledgment of the funder's support in all publications and presentations that result from the funded research. Wording for the acknowledgement will be provided in the letter of offer to successful applicants.
- Immediate notification to PCFA of all publications resulting from this award when they are accepted for publication.
- Submit to PCFA written interim, final and post-completion scientific progress reports that include a list of all presentations and publication resulting in whole or in part from this award.

It is expected that following the funding period, awardees will continue to contribute to the ongoing success of the funding program by participating in surveys and providing data or reports that will aid program evaluation.

### Performance Indicators

Performance, as documented in the Final and 18 months post-completion progress reports, will be measured by the following indicators:

1. Number and details of peer-reviewed publications, including their impact factor and citation index.
2. Additional funding for continuation of the research, leveraged by way of application to other funding sources such as NHMRC, ARC, Cancer Australia, Cure Cancer Australia Foundation and other national and international competitive grant schemes.
3. Evidence of research results translation or progress towards translation.
4. Career progression.

### Key Evaluation Criteria

PCFA Priority Impact Research Awards - Young Investigator applications will be evaluated based on the following evaluation criteria:

- **Team Quality & Capability relevant to this application (25%)**
  - **Applicant** – track record, potential to develop as an independent and productive researcher, letter of recommendation from the Mentor
  - **Mentor** - Appropriateness of the mentor's research qualifications, quality and extent of the mentor's proposed role in providing guidance and advice to the applicant. Previous relevant research experience and experience in fostering the development of students and early career researchers.
  - **Other team members** – inclusion of a consumer as a co-investigator, quality and capability of the team to support the young investigators development and

successful completion of the study

- **Alignment of the application with its specified priority research area and the likely impact of its outcomes (25%)**
- **Scientific Quality (25%)**
- **Likelihood that the research will yield *near-term* benefit to men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families and/or develop Australian capacity to do research into prostate cancer (25%)**

## Review Process and Evaluation

Applications will be assessed and ranked by 2-3 experts relevant to the proposal, who may include individual members of PCFA's Research Advisory Committee (RAC), and the whole RAC.

RAC makes recommendations to PCFA's National Board on the ranked submissions to be funded based on available funds. The final decision on which Award applications are funded is made by the Board.

## Submission Information

***Applications for funding to PCFA's Research Program MUST be submitted to PCFA through the Research Office of the Administering Institution. Direct applications to PCFA will not be accepted.***

Please read all instructions before applying and provide the following information:

- **Completed application form.**

*Naming Convention: [CI Surname]-2020 **PIRA-YI** Application Form*

The Application Form can be downloaded from the PCFA website [here](#). Please note, the form is a fillable PDF. It cannot be opened directly by clicking on the link, instead it first needs to be saved to your computer, then opened. If necessary, you can request a copy of the form by emailing [Research@pcfa.org.au](mailto:Research@pcfa.org.au).

On completion of the application form, clicking on the "Submit" button will generate a submission email with the application form attached. If the "Submit" button does not automatically generate an email, the application form and required documents can be emailed to [Research@pcfa.org.au](mailto:Research@pcfa.org.au).

The documents listed below must also be attached to this email.

***All*** application documents ***must*** be sent attached to a ***single*** email. Any documents sent separately will not be accepted.

- **Attachment 1 - Research Proposal**

The research proposal must clearly outline the following elements:

- Central hypothesis or research question
- Specific objectives of the research project
- Background of and rationale for the proposed research
- Description of research methods and proposed statistical analyses
- Research, analysis and publication drafting timetable
- Research knowledge translation plan including detail of all steps taken from the research design phase until after the research has been completed to maximise the probability that translatable findings have good prospects of being translated into practice.

The research proposal is a maximum of **9 pages** including tables, figures and translation plan, but excluding References (**2 pages** maximum). Tables and figures can be embedded in or follow the text within the required page limit.

*Naming convention: 1. [CI Surname]-Research Proposal*

- **Attachment 2 – Young Investigator’s CV**

A NHMRC style CV, (maximum 2 pages not counting pages listing papers published in peer-reviewed scientific journals); including training and education, degrees, positions and honours and information on grants and awards held (source, type, title, amount/year, duration) over the past 5 years. The publications list should include ONLY peer reviewed papers that are relevant to this proposal and were published within the last 5 years. Do not include abstracts, only publications or reviews.

*Naming convention: 2. [CI Surname]-YI CV*

- **Attachment 3 – Young Investigator’s Letter**

Letter from the applicant, not more than 2 pages, addressing the following:

- Discuss your research efforts to date, prior research interests & experience and how they relate to your objectives and career plans
- Specific impact of this research proposal on the extent and nature of your other responsibilities
- Listing of other existing, pending or planned research support

*Naming convention: 3. [CI Surname]-YI Letter*

- **Attachment 4 - Mentor’s CV**

A NHMRC style CV must be attached for the Mentor (maximum 2 pages not counting pages listing papers published in peer-reviewed scientific journals); include training and education, degrees, positions and honours and information on grants and awards held (source, type, title, amount/year, duration) over the past 5 years. The publications list should include ONLY peer reviewed papers that are relevant to this proposal and were

published within the last 5 years. Do not include abstracts, only publications or reviews.

*Naming convention: 4. [CI Surname]-M CV*

- **Attachment 5 – Mentor’s Letter of Recommendation**

Letter in support of the applicant, not more than 2 pages, addressing the following:

- Strength of the applicant’s research
- Confirm that the applicant is working within a research group and that they will have access to the facilities needed for the proposed research
- Provide a research environment that will support the applicant’s development in accordance with the aims of this award.
- Confirm that the applicant can spend 50% of their time on the research project for the duration of the award
- Confirm that remuneration of the applicant’s research time will be fully paid for the term of the award from funds other than a PCFA grant.

*Naming convention: 5. [YI Surname]-Mentor Letter*

- **Attachment 6 - Signed certification page**

*Naming convention: 7. [CI Surname]-Certification Page*

The attached documents must adhere to the following instructions for presentation and content:

- PDF format
- A4, (21 cm X 29 cm)
- Arial font (regular), minimum 11-point
- Single-spaced text
- 2.54 cm margin on all sides of each page

**Application deadline:** the application and all relevant documents must be submitted via email to [Research@pcfa.org.au](mailto:Research@pcfa.org.au) by **5:00 PM (AEDT) on Monday 16 November 2020**. Late submissions **will not** be accepted.

## Terms and Conditions

- 1) PCFA does not make any representation that it will, and disclaims any obligation to, proceed with or to commit to any particular future actions in relation to the subject matter of program call, including without limitation: a) accepting any application or shortlist any applicant; and b) considering, not considering, accepting or rejecting any application.
- 2) PCFA reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to initiate another selection process, enter into negotiations with a person or persons who have not been invited to respond to this call for programs or to cancel the program.
- 3) Applicants must pay their own costs and expenses incurred in preparing and submitting an application.
- 4) To the extent permitted by law, PCFA excludes all liability for any loss, costs (including legal expenses) or damages, suffered or incurred by an applicant or any person, arising out the applicant's participation in the application process.
- 5) The Applicant warrants that it has no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to its participation in the application process or its delivery of the Project other than that is has disclosed in the application.
- 6) No legal or other obligation arises between an Applicant and PCFA in relation to the outcome of the application process, unless and until PCFA executes a contract with the applicants.
- 7) PCFA is not obliged to a) accept any notice of intent to apply and full application or b) enter into any contract with any applicant or c) give reasons for not considering or accepting or rejecting all or any part of any full application, or for cancelling the full application process. PCFA may, at its sole discretion, consider for acceptance a response that does not comply with the requirements of this request for applications.
- 8) The Applicants grants PCFA, a non-exclusive license to use for the purpose of this application process, any information, processes, sketches, calculations, drawings, or other data or information submitted with or included in, the response submitted by the Applicant.
- 9) Each Applicant agrees to indemnify PCFA against third party claims arising out of any use of any proprietary information submitting with or included in, the full application.
- 10) Should the Applicant find any material discrepancy, error or omission in this call for applications, the applicant must immediately notify PCFA in writing of the nature of the discrepancy, error or omission.
- 11) The Applicant and team members of the program acknowledge that their details, including any personal details may be disclosed to third parties including peer reviewers, for the purposes of this application process and any related purposes.
- 12) PCFA reserves the right to fund lower rated projects based on specific areas of interest in the requested themes.

### Variations

PCFA may vary the requirements set out in this call for full applications and seek further information from the Applicants. Applicants shall supply this information on reasonable request.

### PCFA's Rights

PCFA reserves the right to subject the Applicant to a "due diligence" enquiry, which may comprise of:

- A) Verifying whether the represented resources and skills are actually available; and
- B) Assessing experience and integrity.

PCFA, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to depart from any method of evaluation set out in this call for proposals.

### **Reliance on Information**

PCFA will rely on information provided by, or on behalf of the Applicants at all stages of the application process. In providing information, Applicants represent to PCFA that the information is complete and accurate in all material respects, that it is not misleading and that in preparing the information, reasonable skill and care has been exercised by the Applicant and its personnel and acknowledges that PCFA may rely on that information.

### **Publicity**

Applicants are not to make any public statement in relation to - the notice of intent to apply or the full application process, their response, or their participation in the application process, or contract negotiation process without PCFA's prior written consent.

### **Contact Information**

For questions relating to the Priority Research Grant program, please contact:

**Dr Jacqueline Schmitt**  
**Manager, Research Programs**

T 03 9948 2075

E [Jacqueline.Schmitt@pcfa.org.au](mailto:Jacqueline.Schmitt@pcfa.org.au)