



Roche Translational Cancer Research Fellowship

Background:

- Translational research is most effective when clinicians and scientists work together.
- Collaboration is a strength of research in NZ, but currently there is a lack of clinicians who are truly integrated into cancer research teams in NZ.
- A key role of NZSO is to encourage cancer clinicians and scientists to collaborate.
- Local expertise and cutting edge ideas can draw people together to conduct research.

Title

'Roche Translational Cancer Research Fellowship' ("the Award")

Purpose of the Award

A unique opportunity for NZ cancer research teams to **up-skill an integral team member (the Roche Fellow)**, so that the team can work together more effectively to improve research output.

Value

\$30,000 – one Award per annum.

Duration of the Award

The Fellowship funding must be used in the calendar year following the announcement of the Fellowship recipient.

Sponsor:

Roche Products (NZ) Ltd

Awarding Body

Award administration will be conducted by NZSO, as per existing NZSO awards.

Recipient selection will be done by an independent panel of at least two qualified judges of international standing and will be completed at least 5 days prior to the Award presentation to allow time for production of press releases and media materials. The decision result shall be under strict embargo until after the Award is presented.

The Roche Translational Cancer Research Fellowship winner will be announced at the Conference dinner.



Status of the Award

The 'Roche Translational Cancer Research Fellowship' is the highest \$\$\$ value award at the NZSO annual conference and would be regarded as the NZSO's premiere award.

Current NZSO awards recognise excellence in pre-career and late career, but not in-between. The two PHARMAC awards are given to the best presentation by a trainee scientist, and the best presentation by a trainee clinician. The Translational Research Award is given to a late career scientist or clinician who has made a significant contribution to translational research in NZ.

The 'Roche Translational Cancer Research Fellowship' complements the current NZSO awards by recognising excellence at the intermediate but critical point between these two career stages – specifically 'early career' and 'up-and-coming'.

Who is eligible?

Individuals that are a member of a translational research team that includes BOTH clinicians and scientists are eligible. The proposal should come from the translational research team and include a nomination for a team member to be the recipient of the Fellowship. The quality of the team, the quality of the proposed recipient, and the quality of the proposal will all be considered by the selection panel.

Favoured recipients

- The named recipient should be earlier in their professional career (e.g., new oncologist, new research fellow/lecturer). This is not a student or trainee award.
- The recipient should be a 'rising star,' or the 'best and brightest' with the most potential, or an integral link in a highly regarded up and coming team.
- Research teams that can show how they work together to share their scientific and clinical expertise to conduct research that could improve cancer outcomes.
- Research teams where a clinician is in a leadership role (team leader or joint leader of the team).
- Newer research teams will be favoured to help develop new talent, balanced by evidence of a track record that would be equated with future success.
- Teams with potential to make significant contributions to translational cancer research.
- Team must be NZSO members.
- The proposal should generally be in keeping with the strategic objectives of NZSO (see website) and must be submitted on the RTCRF application template.



Favoured activities

This Award is aimed at improving researcher capability and their connections with other researchers. The proposed use of the Award must be highly likely to increase the output of the research team. Proposals should be novel and imaginative. Proposals should excite the selection panel. The proposal should state how the proposed activity would improve the output of the team.

The Award could be used for career development, development of clinical research practice expertise, international connection, or creative process - but is not limited to these examples. The Award could be used to enable the researcher to spend time in an overseas laboratory, treatment or clinical trial centre, spend time with a mentor, spend time with an international thought leader, regional thought leader, learn a skill that is missing in the research team, pursue an innovative lead - but is not limited to any of these examples.

The proposed use of the funds should be immediately actionable rather than hypothetical. The proposal should outline how the funds will enable the proposed activity and the proposal should describe efforts made to ensure it is executable in the period required (such as prior contact and agreement for a proposed lab visit or use of another lab's equipment).

The use of the Fellowship funds should not be dependent on other grant funding, conducting a clinical trial or another research team's activities, funding or future capability.

There is no restriction on the category of cancer research. *Instead, the driving requirement is that the proposal must come from a team that includes clinicians and scientists as integral members.*

A research team is eligible to win this Award on more than one occasion.

Prohibited activities

The Award is not to be used for providing standard research consumables, standard research costs, standard salary, standard equipment, or administration costs. The funds should not be a supplement to other grants or money required to carry out a programme of research.

Requirements of recipients

The recipient is required to give an oral presentation at a subsequent NZSO conference (i.e., at the NZSO meeting following the *use* of the Award) that describes the use of the support provided by the Award and learning gained and how this has impacted on the research team. This presentation must explain how the activity supported by the Award assisted the team to work together more effectively.



Proposed funding

Three Awards @\$30,000 for 3 years. NZSO will cover ancillary costs associated with virtual assembly of judging panel, distribution of proposals etc. NZSO understands that there is no obligation for the sponsor to continue to support the Award beyond three years. However, NZSO recognizes that effective delivery of this Award will increase the likelihood of funding continuity.

NZSO plans for future NZSO conferences relevant to the Award

- NZSO to conduct media activity prior to the annual conference to publicise the Fellowship and its 'premier' status within NZSO. This would include recognition of prior Award winners.
- Recognition of NZSO award winners on the NZSO website.
- Publication of available NZSO awards and awards eligibility criteria on NZSO website
- Strategies to increase clinician attendance at NZSO annual meeting
- Review and formalization of current award selection practices
- Better 'value' gained from NZSO membership

Intended secondary gain of the Fellowship

- More effective research teams that can conduct research that improves outcomes for people with cancer
- Increased number of truly translational cancer research teams in NZ with true clinician involvement (both Award winners, and non-winning groups who form to apply for the Award but go on to work together anyway)
- Recognition of translational interactions in NZ (profile of this research increased by Award) and gradual culture shift amongst clinicians to consider involvement in translational research
- More clinician involvement in NZSO
- Raising profile of the NZSO meeting

Stated requirements from Roche as the sponsor:

- Recipient works in NZ (or intends to work in NZ). Should the recipient (Roche Fellow) leave their role, their research team or leave NZ during the term of the Fellowship, any remaining Award funds unspent at the time of departure will be returned to NZSO and used to support subsequent Fellowships.
- 'Roche' in the title of Award
- Roche representative able to present the Award to the winning team during the NZSO annual meeting.
- The named recipient agrees to give a talk to Roche staff after research project/sabbatical (supported activity) has been completed.
- Roche has no role in selection of the Award recipient.
- Interaction between NZSO and Roche meets ethical best practice and international requirements around pharmaceutical sponsorship.



Stated requirements from NZSO as the Awarding Body:

- Research teams applying for the Award will provide NZSO with an interim report on progress of the Fellowship activity and use of the funds by July 1st of the year following receipt of the Award.¹
- NZSO to appoint an 'RTCRF responsible' as a point of contact and that person will ensure the Fellows, Roche and NZSO meet the requirements of the Award Conditions.
- Interaction between NZSO and Roche meets ethical best practice and international requirements around pharmaceutical sponsorship.

How to apply:

To apply for the award please send the CV of the team recipient, along with a one page proposal that includes details on the team, how the team proposes to use the funds and how the proposed activity would improve the output of the team to mandy@conference.nz. All applications must be received by Friday 28 August 2020.

¹ For avoidance of doubt, announcement of the Award at an NZSO conference will require the report to be delivered by July 1st of the following year.