



Roche Translational Cancer Research Fellowship

Background:

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

Purpose of award:

This Fellowship, endowed by Roche Products (NZ) Ltd, provides a unique opportunity for New Zealand cancer research teams to up-skill an integral team member, so that the team can work together more effectively to improve their research output.

Value:

\$30,000. One award is made annually.

Awarding body:

Recipient selection and award administration will be conducted by the NZSO. Applications will be assessed by one international scientist and one international clinician, with the selection process administered *ex officio* by the NZSO President.

Status of Award:

Current NZSO awards recognise excellence in early 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 New Zealand.

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.

Eligibility:

Translational research teams that include BOTH clinicians and scientists will be eligible. The award will be given to the team and the team nominates the individual recipient in their proposal. Therefore, 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:

- A research team who can show that they can work together to share their scientific and clinical expertise to conduct research that could improve cancer outcomes.

- Research teams where a clinician is a leader of the research team.
- Newer research teams will be favoured to help develop new talent, balanced by evidence of a track record that would be indicative of future success.
- Recipient should be earlier in their professional career (e.g., new oncologist, new research fellow/lecturer). This is not a student or trainee award.
- Teams with potential to make significant contributions to translational cancer research.
- The individual 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.
- Each member of the team identified in the application must be NZSO members.
- The proposal should generally be in keeping with the strategic objectives of NZSO as described in the [NZSO website](#).

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, and 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.

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

The award is not to be used for providing standard research consumables, standard research costs, standard salary, standard equipment, or administration costs.

Any research team is eligible to win this award on more than one occasion.

Requirements of recipients:

The recipient is required to give an oral presentation at a subsequent NZSO annual scientific meeting (i.e., at the 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.

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 27 August 2021.