



# Avant Foundation Early Career Research Program 2022 Information pack



Dr Al-Rahim Habib  
2021 grant recipient

Supporting  
you in making  
a difference.

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## About the program

Now in its 11th year, the Avant Foundation Early Career Research Program (formerly known as the Doctor in Training Research Scholarship Program) has supported life-changing research to promote better patient outcomes and advance the careers of some of Australia's promising medical researchers.

Started in response to the difficulties early career doctors face in securing research funding, the program has so far awarded 136 scholarships worth nearly \$3.6 million. These scholarships have supported research across a wide range of topics, including organ transplantation, epidemiology, hepatology, oncology, obstetrics, cardiology and general surgery.

The program aims to inspire confidence and empower early career researchers by providing support through research funding, coaching and skills development and to be the leading research partner in Australia for early career Doctors.

In 2022, the Avant Foundation will offer up to \$450,000 in funding across a total of 29 scholarships and grants for full time, part time and short term research projects.



### Full time grants

Full time grants (\$50,000) must be conducted on a full time basis, usually over a 12-month period.



### Part time grants

Part time grants (\$25,000), usually conducted over a 12-month period.



### Short term grants

Short term grants providing financial assistance (\$12,500) for short term research projects.



### Microgrants

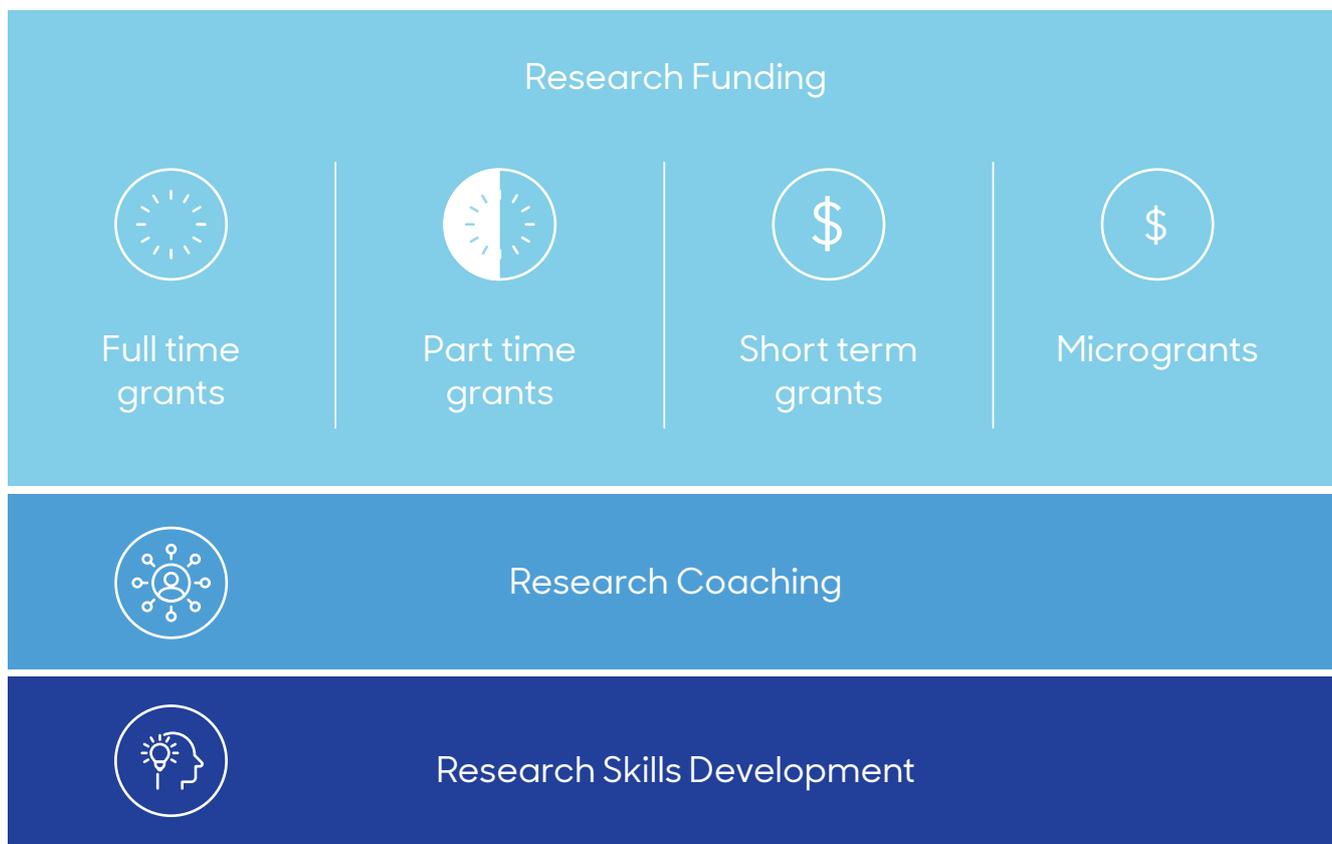
Small grants (\$5,000) to support pre-clinical trial work such as a literature or systematic review or a small pilot piece of research to test a concept. Microgrant recipients will also receive coaching from Foundation alumni.



### Skills Development courses

These courses aim to provide the skill sets essential to evaluating evidence, understanding biostatistics, and beginning clinical research careers.

## The tiered program structure



### Key dates

Full time, part time and short term grants	
Applications open	12pm (AEST) Monday 2 May 2022
Applications close	Midnight (AEST) on Tuesday 2 August 2022
Review of applications	August - November 2022
Applicants notified of outcomes	August - November 2022
Microgrants and Skills Development	
Applications open	12pm (AEST) on Monday 2 May 2022
Applications close	Midnight (AEST) on Monday 4 July 2022
Review of applications	July 2022
Applicants notified of outcomes	July 2022

# Award Categories

		Award Categories	
Category		Pre-vocational	Accredited trainees
		Doctors at any career stage who are not enrolled in a specialty training program	Trainees who are currently enrolled in an accredited specialty training program with an Australian college
Research Grants	Full time grants	1 x \$50,000	2 x \$50,000
	Part time grants	3 x \$25,000	4 x \$25,000
	Short term grants	2 x \$12,500	2 x \$12,500
	Microgrant	10 x \$5,000	5 x \$5,000
Research Coaching	One on one research-based coaching provided by Foundation alumni	Available to microgrant recipients only	
Skills Development Program	Access to online medical statistics skills course	Access subject to application (up to 100 available)	
Fields	Advancement of medicine	Research which contributes to developing improved health and medical practices e.g. diagnostics, drug therapies, biological processes, quality of life and health promotions	
	Quality, safety and professionalism in medicine	Projects designed to improve quality in healthcare that must be site specific (i.e. ward or clinic) and relate to a domain of quality, or related to medical professionalism	
	Social research in medicine	Research that focuses on social factors relating to medicine and that contributes specifically to policy or practice at a local, national or global level	
	Technology in medicine	Research specifically into technologies that can transform healthcare diagnosis, prevention, treatment or management	
Criteria		<i>Full time grants</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot be working full time in a clinical capacity</li> <li>• Can do locum or shift work</li> <li>• Can do teaching or tutoring</li> </ul>	
		<i>Part time, Short term, Microgrant and Skills development courses</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No work restriction</li> </ul>	

# Who can apply?

## Applicants for research grants must be:

- an Avant member with one of the following professional indemnity insurance policies with Avant Insurance Limited:
  - Intern
  - Resident Medical Officer
  - Doctor in Training
- an Australian citizen, New Zealand citizen or permanent resident of Australia
- registered with the Medical Board of Australia
- enrolled in:
  - a specialist research training program recognised and approved by a relevant Australian/Australasian college and accredited by the Australian Medical Council (specialist in training), or
  - a research program with a recognised academic institution working towards a post-graduate degree such as a masters or PhD, or

- a formal research program with at least one appropriately qualified research supervisor, with research commencing on or before 31 March 2022.

Applicants for skills development courses only need to be an Avant member.

For all eligibility requirements, see the terms and conditions at [avant.org.au/scholarships](https://avant.org.au/scholarships)

## Non-members

Non-members are not eligible for this program but if you join Avant before the application close date, you will be immediately eligible. Check which category is best for you and join online at [avant.org.au/join](https://avant.org.au/join). Once your membership is confirmed you can then complete a scholarship application.

## Application process

Applications must be made through the online form at [avant.org.au/scholarships](https://avant.org.au/scholarships)

Please ensure the information provided is detailed and complete. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

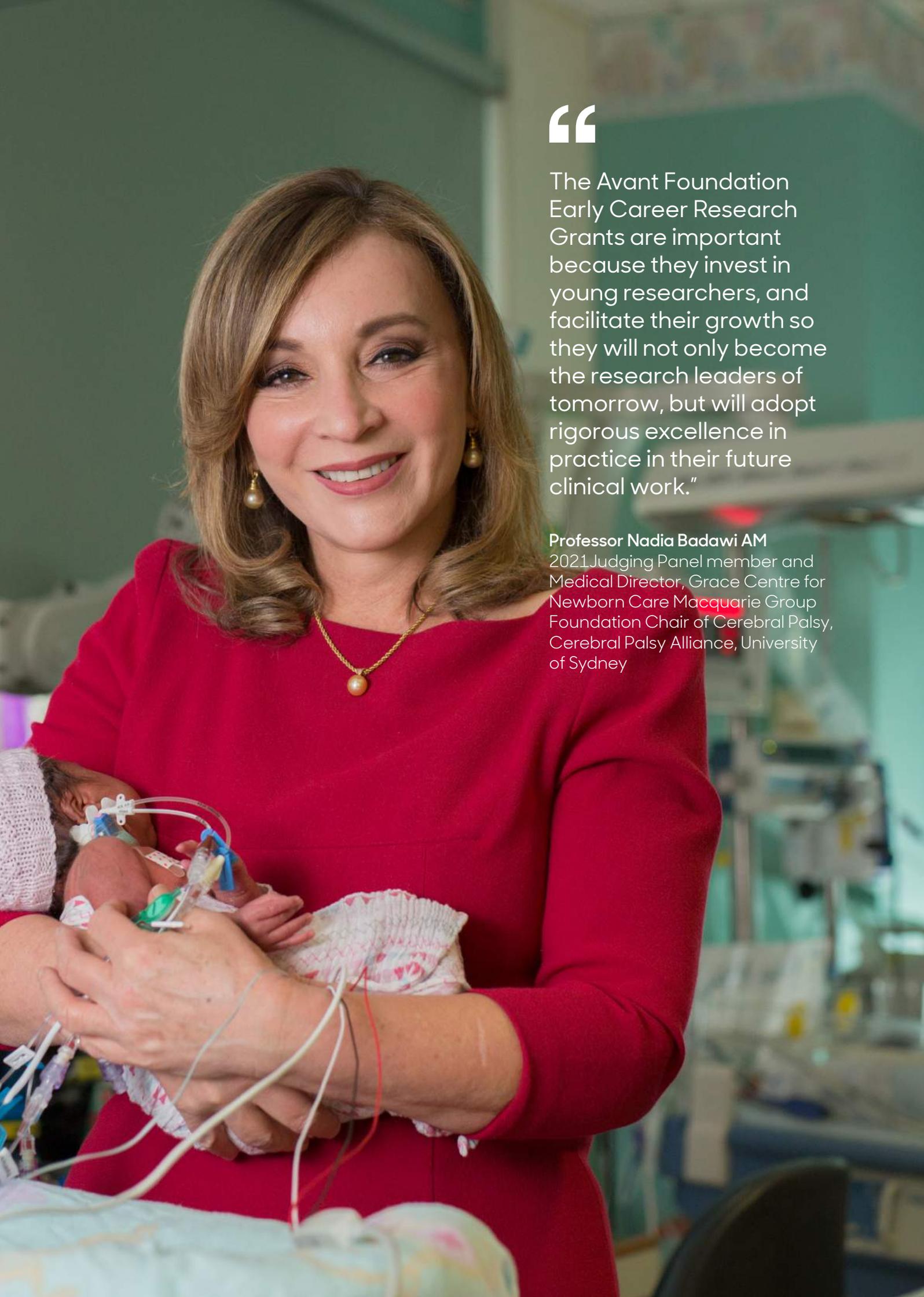
The application form requires the following information:

- personal details
- education
- previous work experience
- past research
- research project
- research team and supervisor.

You will need to indicate your research category and type, and whether you are applying for a scholarship or grant or skills development course access. There is a word limit for each section.



**Dr Elie Matar**  
Grant recipient



“

The Avant Foundation Early Career Research Grants are important because they invest in young researchers, and facilitate their growth so they will not only become the research leaders of tomorrow, but will adopt rigorous excellence in practice in their future clinical work.”

**Professor Nadia Badawi AM**  
2021 Judging Panel member and Medical Director, Grace Centre for Newborn Care Macquarie Group Foundation Chair of Cerebral Palsy, Cerebral Palsy Alliance, University of Sydney

## Further information

### Judging

An independent panel of leading medical practitioners will review all the information provided on your application form. An interview may also be requested.

The criteria for evaluation varies based on the type of award but generally considers your personal information and curriculum vitae including previous research outputs, leadership experience and the research team in which you are working and the proposed research itself, including the experimental design, its significance and expected outcomes and translatability.

View the full evaluation criteria for the different awards at [avant.org.au/scholarships](http://avant.org.au/scholarships)

Successful recipients for the *Microgrants and Skills Development courses* will be advised via phone in July 2022, followed by written confirmation.

Successful recipients for the *full time, part time and short term grants* will be advised via phone in November 2022, followed by written confirmation.

### Presentation dinner

All grant recipients will be invited to attend a presentation dinner and should agree to be photographed and be included in articles for marketing and promotional purposes.

### Payment of awards

Payment of full and part time grants will be in three instalments:

- first instalment of 50% paid on commencement of the research
- second instalment of 25% paid midway through the research
- third instalment of 25% paid on completion of the research.

Payment of short term and microgrants will be in two instalments:

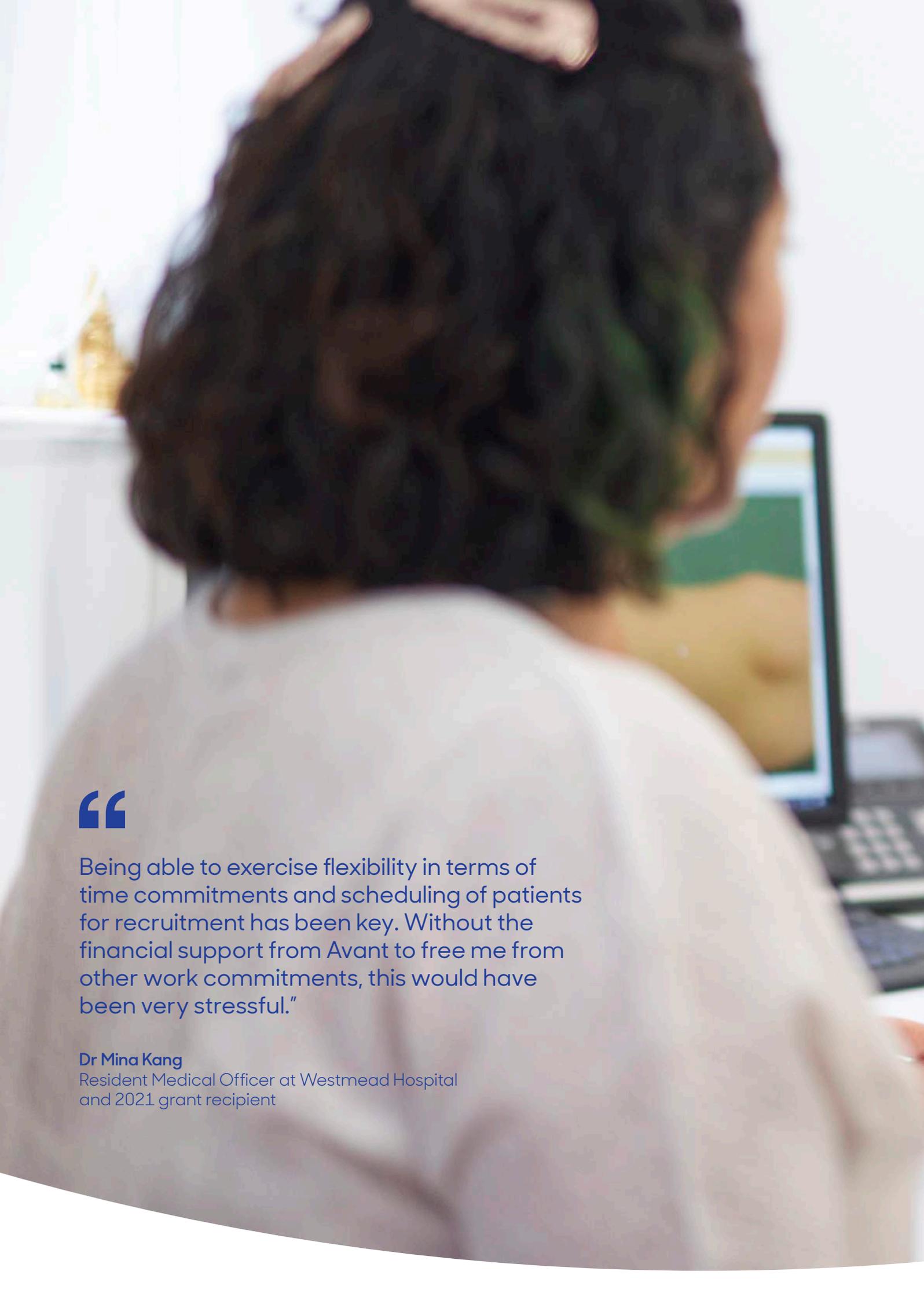
- first instalment of 50% paid on commencement of the research
- second instalment of 50% paid on completion of the research.

Enrolment fees for the skills development courses will be paid directly to the provider.

*Microgrants and Skills Development course applications close on **Monday 4 July 2022***

*Full time, part time and short term grant applications close on **Tuesday 2 August 2022***

**For full details, see the terms and conditions at [avant.org.au/scholarships](http://avant.org.au/scholarships)**



“

Being able to exercise flexibility in terms of time commitments and scheduling of patients for recruitment has been key. Without the financial support from Avant to free me from other work commitments, this would have been very stressful.”

**Dr Mina Kang**  
Resident Medical Officer at Westmead Hospital  
and 2021 grant recipient



# Avant Foundation Early Career Research Program 2022

Supporting you in making a difference

Apply today at [avant.org.au/scholarships](https://avant.org.au/scholarships)

Refer to page 5 for application deadlines



[avant.org.au/scholarships](https://avant.org.au/scholarships)  
[scholarship@avant.org.au](mailto:scholarship@avant.org.au)  
1800 128 268

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