

**Dr Rebecca James**  
Avant Foundation grant recipient

# Avant Foundation

Supporting  
quality, safety and  
professionalism in the  
practice of medicine

## Our vision

Safer practice of medicine for both  
doctors and patients.

## Our mission

To invest in research, education,  
capability development and leadership  
programs to improve quality, safety  
and professionalism in medicine.



## Background

Avant is a mutual organisation owned by our doctor members. We offer medical indemnity insurance, medico-legal advice and assistance to over 79,000\* health practitioners and students.

### Why has Avant established a Foundation?

As a mutual, our members are at the centre of everything we do. We exist to protect, defend, advise and support them.

We are driven to make a difference to the future of medicine in Australia. By supporting research, training, education and leadership that improves quality, safety and professionalism in medical practice, we will achieve this aim – leading to better outcomes for doctors and the community.

As the complexity of healthcare evolves and systems increase in complexity, there is a need for doctors to lead on initiatives designed to focus greater attention on quality, safety and professionalism with a view to improved outcomes for patients. With this in mind, the Foundation seeks to leverage the experience and expertise of our members, through a Foundation Board, to assist in decision making on Avant's investment in this area.

### The Foundation's goals

- Supporting academic research that will ultimately influence quality, safety and professionalism in the practice of medicine.
- Seeding an interest in quality, safety and professionalism improvements at the level of the doctor's own practice.
- Engaging the profession in the broader objectives of quality, safety and professionalism.
- Supporting doctors to develop capabilities in quality improvement, safety and professionalism.
- Supporting doctors to develop as leaders who can champion and effect change in the healthcare system, with a focus on quality improvement.

### We develop our profile through

- Communicating the Foundation's goals and outcomes.
- Implementing high quality processes to support robust grant making decisions.
- Selecting projects for funding that have a high likelihood of success and have a significant positive impact on quality, safety and professionalism.
- Forming partnerships with organisations to enhance our reach and promote program outcomes.

### Our approach

We focus our investments on highly applicable projects across the healthcare system that can be readily translated into changes in the clinical environment and influence health policy. We report on the outputs and outcomes of the projects we fund over time to demonstrate both short and long-term value.



In funding this project, the Avant Foundation is helping to improve patient care by allowing us to build meaningful and sustainable relationships with the children and families we care for, so that their voices, their experiences and their values become embedded into the work we do each and every day."

Dr Rebecca James, 2020 Avant Foundation grant recipient

We utilise a competitive grants process that is across two stages, allowing applicants to hone and refine their application.

### Funding priorities for 2022

To make a difference and to maximise the return on Foundation funds invested, priority will be given to applications that:

- lead to sustainable and scalable improvements in quality, safety and professionalism for the benefit of patients and the community
- support programs that partner with other healthcare organisations and foster a culture of quality, safety and professionalism
- contribute to the development of leaders in quality, safety and professionalism in medicine
- support safety focused programs that reduce medico-legal and clinical risks
- are highly applicable across the healthcare system
- can be readily translated into changes in the clinical environment
- can influence health policy
- align with Avant's research agenda.

### Priority research topics for 2022

- Genomics – Increasing doctor awareness of medico-legal issues and increasing access to information so doctors can provide appropriate care and advice to patients.
- Digital communication – Using digital platforms safely when communicating with patients and colleagues.
- Medical regulation and the impact of regulation on medical practitioners.
- Telehealth – Increasing doctor awareness of medico-legal issues and compliance with legal/regulatory obligations, including patient safety.
- COVID-19 – Initiatives that lead to sustainable improvements in quality, safety and professionalism for the benefit of patients and the community in relation to COVID-19.

**Full details of the Foundation's funding focus, timings and eligibility are available on our website**  
[avantdifference.org.au/avant-foundation](http://avantdifference.org.au/avant-foundation)

The Avant Foundation (ABN 27 179 743 817) is administered by its trustee, Avant Foundation Limited (ACN 618 393 847). The Avant Foundation is a Public Ancillary Fund, endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient. \*Correct as at 30/6/21

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## Supporting you in making a difference