



Avant Foundation Grants 2022

Information pack

Dr Rebecca James
2020 Foundation grant recipient

**Supporting you in
making a difference**

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About the Avant Foundation

Established in 2017, the Foundation's vision is for safer practice of medicine for both doctors and patients. The Foundation seeks to provide leadership on safety, quality and professionalism within the medical profession.

The Avant Foundation provides funding to support research, education and leadership programs designed to make a real difference to how medicine is practised – in particular, the systems and processes. We believe this is key to creating sustainable change, enhancing patient care and reducing clinical and medico-legal risks.

In this way, Avant and its members can have a meaningful impact on the future of medical practice.

The Avant 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.

Funding Priorities

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.

What type of projects are we seeking?

- Initiatives that develop and support leadership capability, especially those focused on quality improvement in medicine.
- Academic research in the domains of quality and professionalism that drive towards a reduction in medico-legal and clinical risk.
- Quality improvement initiatives in the clinical setting.
- Education initiatives focusing on quality, safety and professionalism.

Priority research topics

- 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.



Project Funding

How much can I apply for?

In general, we seek to support projects between \$10,000 and \$100,000. In assessing the project budget, we will consider the actual value and whether the project represents value for money in terms of a likely outcome.

The number, type and value of projects funded will be determined based on the quantity and quality of applications received and at the discretion of the Foundation.

Can projects be co-funded?

We will consider funding projects that have already received or had commitments for funding from other sources. Any existing funding sources or funding that you intend to apply for outside of the Avant Foundation should be disclosed in your application.

What type of projects will we not fund?

- Projects predominantly related to capital purchases (e.g. clinical or other equipment).
- Establishment or support for a registry.
- Projects where the key deliverable is communication or promotional materials.
- General sponsorships of events.
- Seed funding for the development of products intended to be commercialised.
- Projects outside of Australia.
- Travel costs where alternate methods of communication can be utilised (e.g. video conferencing).
- Projects in areas that should reasonably and already be part of clinical practice for the specialty of the applicant.
- Higher degrees.

For full details, see the terms and conditions at
avantdifference.org.au/avant-foundation

Applying for funding

Who can apply?

The Foundation may provide funding to:

- a) Entities¹
 - who are in the healthcare industry, and
 - who have Deductible Gift Recipient status (but not another ancillary fund) listed with the Australian Taxation Office under Item 1 of the Table in Section 30.15 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*; or
 - do not hold DGR status.
- b) Medical practices that hold (at the time of application and throughout the project period) a practice medical indemnity policy with Avant Insurance Limited.
- c) Medical practitioners
 - who hold (at the time of application and throughout the project period) a professional indemnity insurance policy with Avant Insurance Limited in a practitioner category of practice, that is not Intern/RMO or a Doctor in Training
 - who are an Australian citizen, New Zealand citizen or permanent resident of Australia and based in Australia
 - who are a practising medical practitioner registered with the Medical Board of Australia.

Medical practitioners must be project leaders responsible for the design, execution and management of the project. If a project involves other people, you must confirm their consent to you being the project leader. Grants are awarded on an individual basis, and other parties are not eligible to receive any part of the grant. You must have the support of your employer if you are applying on their behalf.

Application process

The Avant Foundation uses a two-stage application process.

Stage one is for expressions of interest and is designed to allow us to assess how your project fits with the objectives and priorities of the Foundation. It will also be used to identify important information such as the project leader, a high-level outline of what the project is intended to achieve, its timeframes and funding requirements.

Stage two is for applicants that have been shortlisted by the evaluation panel to progress from stage one. These applicants will be invited to submit a more detailed application which will include further information about the project design, its budget and plans for sustainability and scalability of outcomes.

¹including but not limited to: Medical Research Institutes, Medical/Healthcare Foundations, Universities, Medical Colleges and Societies, Hospitals or Hospital Groups (public or private), Local Hospital Networks or Local Health Districts, and Primary Health Networks.

Evaluation process and criteria

Projects are evaluated using a closed, weighted evaluation system. The criteria for stage one are [available on our website](#).

Stage one criteria include:

- relevance of the project to the Foundation's objectives and specific research priorities
- the project type (e.g. research, education)
- the project topic area (e.g. domains of quality improvement, professionalism)
- the leadership experience of the project team
- the design of the project.

Stage two criteria include:

- detailed project design
- project rationale and relevance
- project scalability and sustainability
- project timeframes
- project budget
- how important funding from the Avant Foundation is to the delivery of the project.

Detailed evaluation criteria for stage two will only be released to applicants invited to submit a detailed application in stage two.

Timeframes and key dates

Key dates	
Stage one – Expressions of interest open	1 October 2021
Expressions of interest close	30 January 2022
Review of expressions of interest	7 February to 13 March 2022
Stage two – Detailed applications open	28 March 2022
Detailed applications close	1 May 2022
Grant recipients notified	June 2022

No time extensions will be granted. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by email. Beyond notification of outcome, The Foundation will not provide feedback on individual applications.





Associate Professor Grant Phelps

BMBS MBA FRACP FRACMA FAICD

Avant Foundation Board member

“I’m delighted to be associated with Avant Foundation, both as a director of the Foundation and as a grant application reviewer. It is a rare privilege to be able to support colleagues as they set out on their research and quality improvement journeys. Avant’s commitment to supporting the healthcare community to make care better is only matched by the extraordinary commitment that I see in the applications from colleagues who are willing to invest their energies in exploring ways to improve care, and to create the future of healthcare. Our community is in good hands.”

Expectations of grant recipients

a) Funding agreement

All grant recipients will be required to execute a funding agreement which outlines their acceptance of the terms and conditions.

b) Meeting milestones and payment of grants

Payment of grant instalments is linked to meeting milestones outlined in the funding agreement. Milestones need to be accompanied by the submission of progress reports.

Payment of Avant Foundation Grants will be in three instalments:

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

For full details, see the [terms and conditions](#).

c) Promotion and media

You'll be required to work with our editorial team to enable the Foundation to publish information about your project in Avant or other publications. All reports, articles, publications, relevant correspondence and materials relating to the project or findings pertaining to the subject of the project must state that the work has been supported by the Avant Foundation Grants program.

We also expect you to participate, where reasonable, in any promotional activity (such as publicity or photography) to promote the Avant Foundation.

d) Intellectual property

You will retain the ownership of any intellectual property that you develop as a result of our funding, but give the Foundation license to utilise the material or results arising from the project for promotional activities. You will also acknowledge the Foundation in activities arising from the use of material or results arising from the project.

e) Foundation presentation dinner

Successful recipients will be advised via phone in June 2022, followed by written confirmation. All grant recipients must be willing and available to attend a presentation dinner and agree to be photographed and be included in articles for marketing and promotional purposes.

All grant recipients are expected to provide the required information (such as milestone reporting) via the grant management portal.

Avant Foundation Grants 2021

Supporting you in making a difference

Apply today at
avantdifference.org.au/avant-foundation

**Expressions of interest close 5pm (AEDT)
Sunday 30 January 2022**

 1800 128 268

 avantdifference.org.au/avant-foundation

 avantfoundation@avant.org.au

IMPORTANT: 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. MJN804 09/21 (DT-2083)