

Peer Review: 2026 Future Leader Grants
7-Category Descriptor Scale

Grants of up to \$5,000 each are offered for early- to early-mid-career researchers and people with lived experience. These grants focus on developing individual leadership skills, increasing potential for successful collaboration and building capabilities of emerging researchers, including those with lived experience.							
Category	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Category Descriptor	Highest Highest International Quality and Research Performance	Excellent	Highly Competitive	Good	Satisfactory*	Marginal*	Poor*
Notes	<i>It is anticipated that only 1-5% of applications will fall into this category.</i>	<i>The panel regards these applications as in the “absolutely must fund” category. It is anticipated that 5-10% of applications will fall into this category with a maximum of 10% in categories 6 & 7.</i>	<i>The panel regards these applications as in the “strong desire to fund” category. It is anticipated that approximately 15% of applications will fall into this category.</i>	<i>The panel regards these applications as in the “fundable” category, budgetary restrictions aside. It is anticipated that approximately 25% of applications will fall into this category.</i>	<i>*It is anticipated that approximately 50% of applications will fall into categories 1, 2 or 3.</i>		
Criteria							
Relevance	The planned activities will result in a highly significant advance in leadership capacity that is highly relevant to stroke .	The planned activities will result in a significant advance in leadership capacity that is very relevant to stroke .	The planned activities will result in an advance in leadership capacity that is relevant to stroke .	The planned activities may incrementally advance the applicant's leadership capacity that is of some importance to stroke.	Category 3 includes applications which, budgetary restrictions aside, are fundable, based on a satisfactory proposal. There is no question that the applicant(s) will be able to undertake the activity. However, on balance the application is one that is not competitive in the Stroke Foundation round this year.	These applications display a number of good features but are not competitive.	Unfunderable grants (reasons must be clearly articulated to applicants).
Leadership Development Plan	The plan for leadership development : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• has well-defined objectives/goals, that are highly coherent and strongly developed.• is highly feasible with all of the required training/mentoring etc. in place• includes a highly developed and focused plan on how the activities will develop leadership	The plan for leadership development : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• has clearly defined objectives/goals, that are coherent and well developed.• is feasible with all of the required training/mentoring etc. in place• includes a well-developed and focused plan on how the activities will develop leadership	The plan for leadership development : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• has generally clear objectives/goals• is feasible with almost all of the required training/mentoring etc. in place• includes a somewhat-developed plan on how the activities will develop leadership, but is somewhat unfocussed	The plan for leadership development : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• has generally solid objectives/goals, but may not always be clear in its intent and may lack some focus.• is somewhat feasible, but some of the required training/mentoring etc. does not appear to be in place• raises some concerns on how the activities will develop leadership			
Track Record and Leadership - <u>researcher applicants</u>	Outstanding potential to extend existing track record to make national and international impact in stroke research. The applicant will demonstrate this by describing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• track record and clear progress in research productivity and/or translation over the last 7 years;• clear progress in leadership activity during that time. This may include student supervision, mentoring, chairing scientific session, and committee membership.	Excellent potential to extend existing track record to make national and international impact in stroke research. The applicant will demonstrate this by describing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• track record and clear progress in research productivity and/or translation over the last 7 years;• clear progress in leadership activity during that time. This may include student supervision, mentoring, chairing scientific session, and committee membership.	Very good potential to extend existing track record to make national and international impact in stroke research. The applicant will demonstrate this by describing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• track record and clear progress in research productivity and/or translation over the last 7 years;• clear progress in leadership activity during that time. This may include student supervision, mentoring, chairing scientific session, and committee membership.	Good potential to extend existing track record to make national and international impact in stroke research. The applicant will demonstrate this by describing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• track record and clear progress in research productivity and/or translation over the last 7 years;• clear progress in leadership activity during that time. This may include student supervision, mentoring, chairing scientific session, and committee membership.			
Track Record and Leadership - <u>lived experience applicants</u>	Outstanding potential to extend existing skills and experience to make national and international impact in stroke research. The applicant will demonstrate this by describing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• experience and skills development in research and/or translation over the last 7 years;• clear progress in leadership activity during that time. This may include student supervision, mentoring, chairing scientific session, and committee membership.	Excellent potential to extend existing skills and experience to make national and international impact in stroke research. The applicant will demonstrate this by describing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• experience and skills development in research and/or translation over the last 7 years;• clear progress in leadership activity during that time. This may include student supervision, mentoring, chairing scientific session, and committee membership.	Very good potential to extend existing skills and experience to make national and international impact in stroke research. The applicant will demonstrate this by describing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• experience and skills development in research and/or translation over the last 7 years;• clear progress in leadership activity during that time. This may include student supervision, mentoring, chairing scientific session, and committee membership.	Good potential to extend existing skills and experience to make national and international impact in stroke research. The applicant will demonstrate this by describing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• experience and skills development in research and/or translation over the last 7 years;• clear progress in leadership activity during that time. This may include student supervision, mentoring, chairing scientific session, and committee membership.			