

**Peer Review: 2027 Early- to Early-Mid-Career Researcher Seed Grants  
7-Category Descriptor Scale**

Seed Grants of up to \$80,000 each are available for early- to early-mid-career researchers, for projects of up to 18 months directly addressing one of our Priority Topics (listed on tab 2).

Category	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Category Descriptor	Highest International Quality and Research Performance	Excellent	Highly Competitive	Good	Satisfactory*	Marginal*	Poor*
<b>Notes</b>	<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 &amp; 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>		
<b>Criteria:</b>							
<b>Relevance</b> See Sections 1.3, 1.4 and Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal <b>fully addresses the research priority topics</b>.</li> <li>The research question, objectives and intended outcomes <b>clearly fit within the grant's scope</b> without needing reframing.</li> <li>The applicant clearly demonstrates how the work directly responds to the stated priorities, showing <b>strong and substantive alignment</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal <b>directly addresses the research priority topics</b>.</li> <li>The research question, objectives and intended outcomes <b>clearly fit within the grant's scope</b> with minimal reframing.</li> <li>The applicant clearly demonstrated how the work responds to the stated priorities, showing <b>close alignment</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal <b>addresses the research priority topics</b>.</li> <li>The research question, objectives and outcomes <b>fit the grant's scope</b>, through the alignment could be made more explicit.</li> <li>Some elements are only loosely linked to the priorities but the <b>overall connection is clear</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal <b>engages research priority topics</b>, but they represent only a portion of the overall focus.</li> <li>The research question, objectives and outcomes <b>fit the grant's scope</b>, but <b>aren't strongly centred on the priority topics</b>.</li> <li>Most of the work is only <b>loosely connected</b> to the stated priorities.</li> </ul>	Category 3 includes applications which, budgetary restrictions aside, are fundable, based on a satisfactory research approach and design. There is no question that the applicant(s) will be able to undertake the research. 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).
<b>Research Program</b> See Section 2 and 1.5	<p>The proposal has a research plan that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is <b>well-defined</b>, highly coherent and strongly developed.</li> <li>has a <b>near flawless</b> study design.</li> <li>is <b>highly feasible</b> with all of the required expertise, research tools and techniques established.</li> <li>would be highly competitive with the best, similar research proposals internationally.</li> <li>has very advanced procedures in place to ensure participation of people with lived experience and/or community</li> <li>is outstanding in the degree to which recruitment is inclusive across diverse groups</li> </ul>	<p>The proposal has a research plan that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is clearly <b>defined</b>, coherent and well developed.</li> <li>has a strong study design.</li> <li>is <b>feasible</b> with all required tools, techniques and expertise established.</li> <li>is likely to be competitive with strong, similar research proposals internationally.</li> <li>has advanced procedures in place to ensure participation of people with lived experience and/or community</li> <li>is excellent in the degree to which recruitment is inclusive across diverse groups</li> </ul>	<p>The proposal has a research plan that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is <b>generally clear</b> in its scientific plan and is logical.</li> <li>raises only a few <b>minor concerns</b> with respect to the study design.</li> <li>is <b>feasible in all, or almost all areas</b> - required techniques and tools either established or nearly established.</li> <li>may not be highly competitive with similar research proposals internationally.</li> <li>has adequate procedures in place to ensure some participation of people with lived experience and/or community</li> <li>is very good in the degree to which recruitment is inclusive across diverse groups</li> </ul>	<p>The proposal has a research plan that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is <b>generally solid</b> in its scientific plan, but may not always be clear in its intent and may lack some focus.</li> <li>raises <b>several concerns</b> regarding the study design.</li> <li>raises <b>doubts</b> about the feasibility in some areas.</li> <li>is not likely to be competitive with similar research proposals internationally.</li> <li>has little or no established procedures to promote participation of people with lived experience and/or community</li> <li>is adequate in the degree to which recruitment is inclusive across diverse groups</li> </ul>			
<b>Impact</b> As a guide, please consider Sections 1.7 and 2	<p>The planned work will result in a <b>highly significant</b> advance in knowledge which addresses an issue of <b>great importance</b> to the prioritised area of stroke and <b>will</b> translate into fundamental outcomes in the science and practice of clinical medicine, public health, or in health policy. The planned research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>will <b>almost certainly</b> result in <b>highly influential</b> publications</li> <li>will <b>almost certainly</b> be the subject of invited plenary presentations at national and international meetings, often with relevance across several fields.</li> <li>is <b>highly</b> innovative and introduces advances in concept(s)</li> <li>will use <b>very advanced</b> approaches which will optimize outcomes nationally</li> </ul>	<p>The planned work will result in a <b>significant</b> advance in knowledge which addresses an issue of importance to the prioritised area of stroke and <b>is likely</b> to translate into fundamental outcomes in the science and practice of clinical medicine, public health, or in health policy. The planned research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>will <b>likely</b> result in <b>influential</b> publications</li> <li>will <b>likely</b> be the subject of invited plenary presentations at international and national meetings.</li> <li>is <b>highly</b> innovative in concept</li> <li>will use <b>advanced</b> approaches to enhance outcomes with wide reach</li> </ul>	<p>The planned work will <b>advance</b> knowledge in this field which addresses an issue of importance to the prioritised area of stroke and <b>may translate</b> into fundamental outcomes in the practice of clinical medicine, public health or in health policy. The planned research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is likely to result in some <b>very strong</b> publications</li> <li><b>could</b> be the subject of invited plenary presentations at international and national meetings</li> <li>is innovative in concept</li> <li>Will use <b>well established</b> approaches to good effect with potential for wide reach</li> </ul>	<p>The planned work may <b>incrementally</b> advance knowledge which addresses an issue of some importance to the prioritised area of stroke, but is <b>unlikely to translate</b> into fundamental outcomes in the practice of clinical medicine, public health or in health policy. The planned research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>may result in some <b>good but not excellent</b> publications</li> <li>is <b>unlikely to</b> be the subject of invited plenary sessions at international meetings</li> <li>less solid in concept</li> <li>Will in the main use <b>standard</b> approaches with somewhat limited reach</li> </ul>			
<b>Team Track Record</b> See Section 3	<p>Relative to opportunity, the applicant(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>has expertise that <b>specifically targets the proposed research</b> both in terms of its depth and/or breadth.</li> <li>has over the last 7 years, a combined record of research achievement quality and productivity and/or translation into practice that is <b>outstanding by international standards</b> commensurate with their field of research.</li> <li>if junior members are involved they are supported by <b>outstanding</b> senior members who will provide a <b>very strong</b> mentoring environment.</li> </ul>	<p>Relative to opportunity, the applicant(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>has expertise that is <b>highly relevant</b> to the proposed research both in terms of its depth and/or breadth.</li> <li>has over the last 7 years, a combined record of research achievement quality and productivity and/or translation into practice that is <b>excellent by international standards</b> commensurate with their field of research.</li> <li>if junior members are involved they are supported by <b>excellent</b> senior members who will provide a <b>strong</b> mentoring environment.</li> </ul>	<p>Relative to opportunity, the applicant(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>has expertise that is relevant to the proposed research, and there are only <b>minor concerns</b> regarding the depth and/or breadth of expertise.</li> <li>has over the last 7 years, a combined record of research achievement quality and productivity and/or translation into practice which places it <b>well above average</b> for their peers or cohort.</li> <li>if junior members are involved they are supported by members with <b>very good and growing</b> reputations who may provide some mentoring</li> </ul>	<p>Relative to opportunity, the applicant(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>has expertise that is relevant to the proposed research, but there are <b>some significant concerns</b> regarding the depth and/or breadth of expertise.</li> <li>has, over the last 7 years, a combined record of research achievement quality and productivity and/or translation into practice, that places them at an <b>average</b> level for their peers/cohort.</li> <li>if junior members are involved they are supported by members with <b>good and growing</b> reputations, but there is little or no evidence of a mentoring framework to support them</li> </ul>			