

2025 CVMM Collaborative Grant Scheme Guidelines

1. Introduction and Objective

Cardiac, Vascular & Metabolic Medicine (CVMM) is one of the main research themes in the UNSW Faculty of Medicine and Health. Our vision is to ease the significant burden of cardiovascular diseases and metabolic syndromes and diseases within Australia and beyond.

The CVMM Steering Committee is inviting applications for the 2025 CVMM Collaborative Grant Scheme. The 2025 **Collaborative Grants** is designed to support new collaborations between scientists and clinicians across disciplines and faculties. Applicants are required to define and address research questions driven by community and clinical need.

This scheme aims to give early and mid-career researchers opportunities to lead and develop innovative projects with evidence of a clear pathway to securing significant, external funding to sustain and build ongoing research.

This scheme is open to all researchers from basic science to population and clinical science through to implementation focussed research. Research projects must involve at least 3 UNSW and affiliated **organisational** units e.g., Schools, MRIs, LHDs.

2. Funding

A maximum of seven Collaborative Grants of up to **\$30,000** each (GST exclusive) are available to undertake projects commencing 1 January 2025. Grants must be acquitted by 30 November 2025. Grants are non-renewable.

The funds for these theme grants are sourced from the UNSW Faculty of Medicine and Health. The funds must be spent for the primary purpose of achieving the objectives of the UNSW Faculty of Medicine and Health Grant Scheme. Granted funds cannot be used for indirect costs.

All projects funded under the scheme will be required to report against key performance indicators developed by the applicants as part of the submission process (see section 'Project Plan'). These indicators will be reviewed and additional KPIs may be requested as part of a grant award.

UNSW Medicine and Health reserves the right to not award any grants if applications do not meet a minimum quality.

3. Eligibility and Timeline

All Principal Investigators will have a primary affiliation at UNSW or an affiliated MRI/Centre. EMCR researchers are emerging researchers within their first 10 years after receiving their PhD, relative to opportunity.

Projects should comprise two Principal Investigators, with at least one being an early-or-mid-career (E/MCR) investigator, and a maximum of four Associate Investigators across themes or faculties.

Principal Investigators from the previous round are discouraged from reapplying in the following year unless they provide written justification that their proposal represents a completely new idea. This justification must be reviewed and approved in writing by the CVMM Research Development Manager prior to submitting an application for consideration.

Individuals may be named as Principal Investigators on one application only; however, being an Associate Investigator on more than one application is allowed.

New collaborations are strongly encouraged.

Awarded projects must commence immediately and be completed by 30 November 2025.

Applications must not be currently under consideration for other seed-funding schemes offered by UNSW or SPHERE. Individuals may not receive funding from more than one source for the same or a similar project or purpose.

If the application is for a project that will be an extension of a larger project that is already funded, you are required to explain the interrelation between the two as part of your application.

The submission is to be a maximum of 6 pages (excluding CV and Project Plan). For Principal Investigators, a 2-page CV is to be included.

The milestones for the Grant Scheme are:

Applications open	29 August 2024
Applications close	10 October 2024, 5pm
Notification to applicants	19 November 2024
Progress report due	3 June 2025
Final report due	31 January 2026

No extra funding or extensions will be provided to complete the project. Funds must be spent by 30 November 2025. Unspent funds must be returned to the faculty. Successful applicants will be invited to present their relevant research to the CVMM Committee and/or at the annual CVMM Symposium.

4. Application Evaluation

Upon receipt, applications will be reviewed for completeness and adherence to submission requirements. Successful applicants will be selected through a competitive process based on merit and strategic value.

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Project team demonstrates broad UNSW collaboration; and includes multiple disciplines and organisational units.



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- Novelty or significant value-add to existing activities.
- Project feasibility/Academic outputs and grant potential.
- Project alignment with the CVMM Theme vision and strategies.
- Evidence of a clear pathway to sustainable future funding.
- Budget appropriateness, value, and leverage.
- Ability to complete the work by end of 2025.
- Consumer engagement, collaboration or partnership is highly encouraged.

Project Leads will be notified in writing of the evaluation outcome.

5. Application Submission

The following application template is to be used to complete your application and cannot be altered in terms of margins. Applications should provide all requested information and be no longer than six pages, in 11-point Calibri font, excluding supporting CVs (two pages each) and the Project Plan. The total maximum pages should be 12 pages. All documents must be combined into a single Word document. Word limits will be strictly enforced, and any text exceeding these limits will not be sent to the reviewers. Only the information provided in the application will form the basis of the review process.

Completed applications must be submitted to medicine.themes@unsw.edu.au and received **by 5PM, 10 October 2024**. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

If you have any questions regarding the grant, please email Stella Jun, CVMM Research Development Manager, stella.jun@unsw.edu.au.



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