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## Melbourne Neuroscience Institute Research Fellowship Funding Scheme 2017

# Guidelines and Instructions to Applicants

**Closing Date: 5pm Friday 18 November 2016**

Applications are invited for the Melbourne Neuroscience Institute Research Fellowship Scheme. There are two MNI Fellowships available for 2017.

### Objectives

The MNI Research Fellowships provide an opportunity for the University to promote strategic areas of research, in this case, interdisciplinary research projects in the Neurosciences. The incumbent will be instrumental in facilitating the coming together of academic staff from across disciplines to work on a project consistent with the broad research objectives of the Melbourne Neuroscience Institute which demonstrates the following:

- Innovative interdisciplinary research complementary with that of the home Faculty, School, Department and/or Centre.
- Involvement of a team of academic staff from relevant disciplines with appropriate and complementary expertise for the intended research. The research project to be undertaken must, however, be clearly identifiable with the Fellow.
- Significant potential for future funding by granting bodies.

### Funding:

The Melbourne Neuroscience Institute (MNI) is providing financial support for the 2017 Melbourne Neuroscience Institute Research Fellows, commencing January 2017 within a Faculty or School of the University of Melbourne. Up to two Fellowships will be offered for a one year period, with a funding contribution from the MNI of \$50,000 per annum per Fellowship. The balance of salary, on-costs and any clinical loadings must be funded by the employing Department.

### Requirements:

There are two appointments available. The successful applicants will possess suitable qualifications in an appropriate research field, be currently employed by a Department of the University of Melbourne and have the right to work in Australia until 31 December 2017.

Applicants must have been awarded their PhD on or after 1 January 2009 or provide details to demonstrate clearly that their research career has been significantly interrupted by special circumstances.

The funding provided by MNI is for one year (January to December 2017) to support researchers employed as Research Fellow 1 (Level A) or Research Fellow 2 (Level B), who are not current recipients of any other Fellowship or similar support.



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Applicants must be employed in a Department of the University of Melbourne in order to apply, as the Melbourne Neuroscience Institute provides funding of \$50,000 (towards salary only) and the Department must fund the balance of employment costs (salary and on-costs), including clinical loadings if applicable.

#### How to Apply:

The application form provided must be used. Candidates must submit their application form and CV in a single, high quality PDF format and ensure that referee reports are submitted by their referees **by 5pm Friday 18 November 2016** to [research-mni@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:research-mni@unimelb.edu.au).

Applications must use the filename format: Applicant Surname\_Application\_MNI Fellowship 2017.

Referee reports are to use the filename format: Applicant Surname\_Referee Report\_Referee Initials\_MNI Fellowship 2017.

**For Information Contact:** Amy Bugeja  
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**Attachment 1:** Application form: MNI Fellowship

**Attachment 2:** Instructions: Referee Reports

#### Selection Criteria:

Fellowships are awarded primarily on the basis of merit but, all else being equal, they provide an opportunity for the University to promote strategic areas of research, in this case, interdisciplinarity in the neurosciences.

All applicants will be assessed and ranked against the Selection Criteria listed below and on how well their application meets the aims of the scheme. All criteria are assessed relative to opportunity (candidates should document career interruptions in their application, if applicable).

<b>VISION</b>	Vision and career objectives for the next 5 years (in alignment with the interdisciplinary aims of the scheme)	<i>Weight 25%</i>
<b>PROPOSED PROJECT</b>	Quality, interdisciplinarity and feasibility of the project	<i>Weight 25%</i>
<b>RESEARCH OUTPUT</b>	Quality of Research Output (with particular emphasis on the past five years and demonstrating an upward trajectory) and intellectual leadership, including success in obtaining grants and national and international profile	<i>Weight 35%</i>
<b>CONTRIBUTION TO RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT AND THE DISCIPLINE</b>	Contribution to research environment through research supervision, mentoring, peer review and research administration	<i>Weight 15%</i>



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Ideally, successful candidates will have up to 7 years of relevant postdoctoral experience and are seeking to establish a long-term career at the University of Melbourne. Allowance will be made for clinical researchers where specialist training has delayed or coincided with the postdoctoral training period. The Fellowships are expected to predict success in obtaining a nationally competitive Fellowship, or a further academic appointment at the University of Melbourne.

Successful applications will contain clear evidence of internationally competitive research excellence with a strong potential for candidates to develop as self-directed researchers in the neurosciences and related disciplines, either independently or as a member of a research team. In the latter case the research must be clearly identifiable with the Fellow. The candidate's record (relative to opportunity, taking into account career interruptions for family commitments or other reasons) and proposed project will be judged by a panel comprising prominent neuroscientists.

As the MNI Fellowships will be awarded in conjunction with a home Faculty/School/Department/Centre of the University of Melbourne, applicants are required to seek the endorsement of the Head of the appropriate organisational unit prior to submission of their application. Endorsement by the Head of Department/School confirms that the Department/School will provide the additional funding to support the appointment of the Fellow. The Selection Committee reserves the right to discuss applications with Deans, Associate Deans (Research), Heads of Department/School, or other senior colleagues, and reserves the right to seek further information from applicants before making a final decision.

Although not mandatory, it is expected that candidates for the Melbourne Neuroscience Institute Fellowships intend to submit an application for a NHMRC Early Career Fellowship or equivalent.

Applicants who are awarded an NHMRC or other Fellowship or other external funding support for 2017 will not be eligible for the award of an MNI Fellowship for 2017.

## PROJECT GUIDELINES AND REPORTING

### 1. Project details:

The project will be consistent with the broad research objectives of the Melbourne Neuroscience Institute and demonstrate the following:

- Innovative interdisciplinary research.
- Involve a team of academic staff from relevant disciplines with appropriate and complementary expertise for the intended research. The research project to be undertaken must, however, be clearly identifiable with the Fellow.
- Show significant potential for future funding by granting bodies.

### 2. Conditions of Award:

- a. The award must be accepted in writing by the award recipient, research group leader and their Head of Department/School.
- b. The Award recipient must ensure that the research is conducted in accord with University policy, including compliance with the code of conduct for research and policies on human research ethics, animal experimentation ethics, requirements of the Office of Gene Technology Regulator, health



and safety and intellectual property. No project may proceed unless the appropriate ethical or other required clearances have been obtained.

- c. Funding is for one year only, commencing 1 January 2017. Projects must be completed and funds expended by 31 December 2017.
- d. The award recipient is required to provide:
  - i. An interim report on the progress of the project by 30 September 2017.
  - ii. A 2-page written report on the outcomes of the project by 31 March 2018.

These reports must be submitted to the Melbourne Neuroscience Institute Director and be endorsed by the Head of Department/School. Summaries of projects funded and project final reports may be published.

- e. Successful applicants are expected to provide appropriate acknowledgement of the MNI support when communicating research outcomes.
- f. Should the awardee receive independent Fellowship funding for 2017, or cease employment with the University of Melbourne within the allocated funding period, any unspent funds will be returned to the Melbourne Neuroscience Institute.

### 3. Reporting:

The recipient will be required to provide a report at the end of their Fellowship detailing their research outcomes.

MNI Fellows will be expected to participate in Melbourne Neuroscience Institute events (eg lectures, symposia), and that of the employing Faculty/School/Department/Centre.

<b>TIMELINE</b>	
21 October 2016	Applications open
18 November 2016	Applications close
December 2016	Notification of outcomes to applicants and Departments
January 2017	Funds made available to host Department. Fellowships commence.

### About the Melbourne Neuroscience Institute

The Melbourne Neuroscience Institute (MNI) is one of five University-level interdisciplinary research institutes at The University of Melbourne. Its Director is Professor Trevor Kilpatrick. The core MNI team is located in the Melbourne Brain Centre (Parkville). The MNI is charged with focussing the University's cross-disciplinary neuroscience research activities to optimise productivity and impact, increase funding for research in this area and to enable more efficient use of existing facilities and infrastructure. The Institute is responsible for enhancing interdisciplinary research in neuroscience



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through stewardship of cross-faculty activities which involve collaboration with researchers from areas such as Medicine, Mental Health, Engineering, Optometry and Vision Sciences, Ophthalmology, Law, Economics, and Social Sciences. It aims to provide an international neuroscience research-based focus that attracts and retains talented researchers from around the world in addition to the best postdoctoral researchers and research higher degree students. The MNI is also charged with developing new research ventures to address significant gaps in the University's knowledge base in the neurosciences. The Institute aims to enhance the University's connectivity with the community, and with key stakeholders, in order to optimise research outcomes and knowledge transfer, as well as maximising the translation of neuroscience research to clinical outcomes. Endeavours that the Melbourne Neuroscience Institute supports include the Centre for Neural Engineering, the Music, Mind and Wellbeing initiative, Stem Cells Australia and the Melbourne Brain Centre Imaging Unit.

The Institute works through a small core unit that draws together key researchers and administrators whose activities are enhanced to meet a broader objective, namely to promote interdisciplinary research in the Neurosciences across the University of Melbourne. By creating opportunities for links between the University's researchers in areas such as diseases of the brain and mind, social context and health costs, the Institute strengthens University-wide responsiveness to neuroscience-related matters. The Institute is also able to provide a focused opportunity to collaborate with institutional, hospital and commercial partners, in order to maximise research outcomes, facilitate knowledge transfer and strengthen the standing of the University of Melbourne as a leader in research in the Neurosciences nationally and internationally.

Governance of MNI is supported by an Advisory Board. The Advisory Board aims to ensure the MNI is aligned with important trends and provide avenues for interaction with those who might wish to commission or undertake research through collaborative interaction in the Neurosciences and related disciplines of research. The Board provides advice on research directions, business strategies and stakeholder linkages.

**[www.neuroscience.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.neuroscience.unimelb.edu.au)**