Applications for the Locarnini-Morningside Fellowship in Virology

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Background

The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity is a joint venture between the University of Melbourne and the Royal Melbourne Hospital, combining research, teaching, public health and reference, laboratory services, diagnostic services and clinical care in infection and immunity.

The Morningside Foundation has given the Doherty Institute a generous gift to create a fund to support talented early to mid-career researchers (EMCR) in the area of virology.

These funds have been provided in honour of Professor Stephen Locarnini, whose decades of legendary research and public health contributions in understanding viral infectious diseases and hepatitis have advanced molecular virology and viral evolution, leading to diagnosis, treatment and control of these deadly infections. Professor Stephen Locarnini dedicated his career to this field, and, in doing so, has improved the lives of millions of people living with hepatitis.

One fellowship will be awarded in 2021.

Award

This award provides support to a talented post-doctoral fellow or young investigator who is specialising in the field of virology.

This support package includes salary support for 3 years, and a small budget for consumables (total support package is up to $750,000 over 3 years).

Eligibility

Early and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs) is defined as being up to University of Melbourne classification – Level C and within 10 years following the award of a PhD or highest degree (taking into

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consideration career disruption and relative to opportunity). There is no age limit on who can be an EMCR as the definition is dependent on where the researcher is in their career progression. EMCRs must be working on or wish to work on research projects with direct relevance to the field of virology.

Applicants not currently based at the Doherty Institute are encouraged to apply. Applicants are encouraged to discuss their application with a potential mentor or supervisor currently at the Institute prior to applying. Preference will be given to research activities which are complimentary to Institute activities. Letters of support from Doherty-based mentors or potential supervisors are encouraged.

Information on the activities of Doherty Institute can be found at www.doherty.edu.au.

Applications

Online applications are preferred. Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers, select the relevant option ('Current Opportunities' or 'Jobs available to current staff'), then search by position number 0052954. Submitted applications must include:

1. Detailed academic CV including education and training; positions, honors and awards; ongoing research support and completed research support (Funder, PI name, role, year, duration, title)
2. In a cover letter, a statement of your goals and career plans: Description of how this support will further your career aspirations (1-2-page limit).
3. 5 top publications last 5 years with justification of impact (1-page limit).
4. Research proposal including an impact statement (4-page limit)
5. Letters of support from two referees – 1 supervisor; 1 external party – collaborator.
6. Letter of support from potential Doherty mentor or supervisor.

The research proposal is limited to 4 pages and should be completed on the "Research Proposal Template" provided. To assist in completing your research proposal, the following outlines what should be considered and included within your page limit.

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A. **Rationale**: A concise outline of the rationale for the application to support the scientific merit and importance of the proposed research
B. **Objective**: A statement of the specific aims
C. **Preliminary data**: Relevant and project-specific preliminary data that provide a basis of, or support the need for, the project (if available).
D. **Approach**: A description of the approach.
E. **Outcomes and significance**: Description of how this project could potentially increase knowledge about virology. Description of how the project is innovative.
F. **Supporting References/Bibliography**
G. **Ethics (if required)**: Confirmation of the need for ethics approval and estimated timelines for approval, or evidence of approval

Research proposals will be assessed for alignment to the vision and goals of the Doherty Institute; these are outlined in our [Strategic Plan](.).

Assessment Criteria

Assessment criteria and corresponding weightings for Locarnini Fellowship applications are:
- Candidate's goals, career plan, and CV   (40%)
- Research proposal Quality and Innovation   (35%)
- Feasibility and Strategic Alignment to Institute vision and goals   (10%)
- Impact   (15%)

Selection Process

The selection of the successful candidate will be made by:
- The Director of the Doherty Institute
- Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for research and reference of Influenza
- Virology Theme Leaders for Doherty Institute
- Representative from the University of Melbourne

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The outcomes are based on:
- Panel review of applications
- Interview
- Two (2) referee reports - 1 supervisor; 1 external
- Assessment by head of relevant future department within the Doherty Institute

Successful Applicants

Applicants will be informed of the results of their application by 1 October 2021. The successful applicant will be notified by email and asked to sign a grant agreement. This will summarise the core requirements of the grant award, the amount of grant allocated and the responsibilities for each party.