**2025 CRE in Human Milk Nutrition for Preterm Infants – SEED FUNDING GRANTS  
Application Form**

The Centre of Research Excellence in Human Milk Nutrition for Preterm Infants undertakes collaborative research that is aimed at developing innovative, evidence-based care/initiatives that improve human milk feeding among infants born too soon. The CRE is committed to building capacity in the next generation of researcher leaders in optimising human milk nutrition to improve the long-term health of preterm infants.

In 2024, the CRE will award seed funding grants up to the value of $15,000 each to undertake pilot research.

**Eligibility**The lead investigator of the proposed project must be:

* a CRE Scholar, student or staff member of a CRE Investigator or Affiliate
* Early to Mid-Career Researcher (EMCR), where EMCR is defined as within 15 years of gaining a PhD with

allowance for career disruptions

* in lieu of a PhD, career experience as a clinician working with preterm infants or early life nutrition.

The proposed project must:

* align with one or more of the CRE research priority areas
* have an investigator team with least one CI or AI from the CRE and we encourage collaboration across the CRE investigators

*Lead applicants will not be precluded from applying in subsequent years if they receive funding in this round, provided that the new application is for a new project or a significant expansion of an existing project.*

*While there is no limit to the number of applications a lead applicant can submit, if multiple applications are ranked for funding, only one will be awarded per lead applicant per year.*

**Selection Criteria**

Applications will be reviewed by the CRE Career Development Committee. The following criteria will be used to assess each application:

* Research Quality (45%)
* Innovation (15%)
* Significance (20%)
* Feasibility (20%)

*The reviewing committee may also award grants with the aim of ensuring that each of the CRE priority research areas is adequately represented among the funded projects.*

*The seed grant funding will need to be utilised within 12 months of award, unless otherwise negotiated with the reviewing committee prior to acceptance.*

*Applications close: Friday 8th November 2024 5:00pm (ACST)*

**1. APPLICANT DETAILS**

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| **APPLICANT - Lead** | | |
| **Name:** | | |
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| **Email address:** | | **Telephone/mobile:** |
|  | | |
| **Position and Academic Level:** | | |
|  | | |
| **Priority Area:** | | |
|  | | |
| **Name of Supervisor (If applicable):** | | |
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| **PhD conferral date (If applicable):** / / | | |
| **Career disruption – Reason and time period of disruption (if applicable):**  *Please describe the impact of the disruption on your research* | | |
| **Nominated CRE Investigator(s): Name(s):**  **CRE investigator(s) advised of application**  **Yes**  **No** | | |
| **Other Investigator(s) - *replicate boxes as required for additional investigators*** | | |
| **Name:** | | |
|  | | |
| **Email address:** | **Telephone/mobile:** | |
|  | | |
| **Current employment position and Academic Level:** | | |
|  | | |

**2. DETAILS OF PROPOSED PROJECT**

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| **SHORT TITLE OF PROJECT** |
| **Please provide a plain English summary of the project you seek support for:** *(no more than 200 words)* |

**3. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (See appendix A)**

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| **ALIGNMENT WITH CRE RESEARCH PRIORITIES (Eligibility criteria)**  **Please provide a short statement regarding the alignment of your project with the CRE research priorities (up to 350 words)** |
| **RESEARCH QUALITY (45%)**  **Please provide details of the research plan you will undertake using the following headings *(maximum of 3 pages, font 12, Times New Roman).***   * *Introduction, including a brief summary of what is known and NOT known in the literature and any existing preliminary data (if appropriate)* * *Hypothesis/ Research objective* * *Study design* * *Scientific and technical risks and their planned management* * *Project timeline* |
| **INNOVATION (15%)**  **Describe how your planned research demonstrates innovative project aims which will have an impact *(up to 200 words)*** |
| **RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE (20%)**  **Describe the significance of the proposed research, planned publications and other outputs and how this research has the potential to improve your competitiveness to leverage additional future projects/publications and grants relating to human milk nutrition in preterm infants (*up to 350 words)***   * *E.g. What are your planned outcomes and outputs? How will this seed funding place you in a better position to apply for a grant from an external funder (e.g. Philanthropic grant, NHMRC Ideas Grant)?* |
| **PROJECT FEASIBILITY (20%)**  **Describe how this research project is feasible in terms of team capability, project timeline and proposed budget (up to 350 words)** |

**4. BUDGET (description and amount)**

*PLEASE NOTE:*

* *The budget for this application should be clearly itemised and costs should be ordered in terms of priorities.*
* *It is anticipated that this funding scheme will be highly competitive, and the number of applications will exceed funding capacity.*
* *Funding provided will apply for the duration of the award.*
* *Amounts granted are exclusive of GST.*
* *Request for funding for personnel must be fully justified, including the salary requested.*
* *Total funding requested must not exceed $15,000.*
* *Funding for computing equipment, conferences, travel and open access fees are not supported by this grant. For additional queries about item eligibility, please seek guidance from the CRE project team at* [*humanmilkcre@sahmri.com*](mailto:humanmilkcre@sahmri.com)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Direct Research Costs | $ |
| *Item 1* |  |
| *Item 2* |  |
| Indirect Costs | $ |
| *Item 1* |  |
| *Item 2* |  |
| External Service Providers | $ |
| *Item 1* |  |
| Salaries | $ |
| *e.g. Research Assistant (0.2 FTE for 3 months)* |  |
| **Total** | **$** |

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| **Budget Justification *(no more than 200 words)***  *If project costs exceed $15,000, please provide evidence of other funding and/or funding applications.* |

**5. STATISTICIAN SUPPORT**

*In addition to the funds provided, you may also be eligible to receive in-kind statistical support from the CRE statistician. If this would benefit your proposed project, we kindly ask that you discuss this opportunity with CI Associate Professor Lisa Yelland prior to submitting your grant application.*

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| **This project plans to utilise CRE statistical support:**  **Yes**  **No**  ***If yes, I confirm that this has been discussed with A/Prof Lisa Yelland:***  **Yes**  **No** |

**6. CONSUMER ADVISORY BOARD UTILISATION**

*The CRE has established a Consumer Advisory Board, available to review and provide consumer input on research project designs, grant applications and study materials.*

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| **Do you plan to utilise the CRE Consumer Advisory Board as part of your proposed project:**  **Yes**  **No** |

**7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONDITIONS**

Terms and Conditions of Seed Grant Funding:

* Acknowledge the support/contribution of the CRE in Human Milk Nutrition for Preterm Infants (funding  
  provider) when publishing or presenting material that relates to the research project.
* Provide a short-written report about your project, including an outline of how the funds were spent and the key project outcomes for use on the CRE website, newsletter, and other communications.
* Contribute to the communication updates for CRE stakeholders.
* Complete a conflicts of interest declaration.

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| By submitting this application by email, I declare that the information I have supplied is correct to the best of my knowledge. I recognise that it is my responsibility to provide all necessary documentation at the time of submission of this application.  SIGNATURE: Date: / /  ***Lead Applicant*** |

**7. ENDORSEMENT OF GRANT APPLICATION**

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| Please circulate your finalised grant application to all listed investigators for acknowledgement, prior to submission.  SIGNATURE: Date: / /  ***Investigator***  SIGNATURE: Date: / /  ***Investigator***  SIGNATURE: Date: / /  ***Investigator*** |

**Applications close Friday 8th November, 5:00pm (ACST).**

**Please submit your application as a single PDF to** [humanmilkCRE@sahmri.com](mailto:humanmilkCRE@sahmri.com)

**APPENDIX A – ASSESSMENT RUBRIC**

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|  | *Research Quality* ***(45%)*** | | | *Innovation* ***(15%)*** | *Significance* ***(20%)*** | | | | *Feasibility* ***(20%)*** | | |
|  | Hypothesis/Research Objective | Study Design | Scientific and technical risks and their planned management | Planned research demonstrates innovative project aims which will have an impact | Outcomes & Significance | Planned publications & other research outputs | Policy Relevance | Clear Plan to leverage seed funding | Timeline | Team Capability | Financially Sound (budget is appropriate for the project). |
| Word Limit | Up to 3 pages | | | 200 words | 350 words | | | | 350 words | | |