

Metro North Hospital and Health Service *Putting people first*

RBWH Research Services

RBWH and RBWH Foundation

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

(The Robert and Janelle Bird Fellowships)

Advice to Applicants

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 There is \$300,000 allocated by the RBWH Foundation for Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (The Robert and Janelle Bird Fellowships). The intention of the Fellowships is to support current staff members who have recently gained their PhD to continue to develop their program of research. The Fellowships are offered on an annual basis but can be renewed for one year to a total of 2 years based on satisfactory annual progress.
- 1.2 There will be up to six individuals funded this year, including those receiving new awards and those receiving a 1- year renewal based on satisfactory progress in previous years.
- 1.3 The Fellowships are awarded to the appointee and to the hosting Department in the RBWH with funds being able to be used in many ways that facilitate the applicant to develop their research track record. For example, funds may be used to backfill the appointee to undertake post-doctoral research or used to employ a Research Assistant or to purchase equipment or materials to undertake the research

2. Description

- 2.1 The Postdoctoral Research Fellowship scheme aims to:
 - Help build the hospital's capacity for research in all fields of health and medical research, with a emphasis on clinical, public health, health service research and bioinformatics fields;
 - Develop health and medical early post-doctoral career researchers so they establish themselves as independent, self-directed researchers; and
 - Provide a means for Australian researchers working overseas to return to Australia to continue their career development.
- 2.2 The Fellowships are available to researchers who are in the first 3 years (full time) of their post-doctoral careers (or equivalent taking career disruption into account). The proposed research must:
 - Be internationally competitive;
 - Develop the applicant's capacity for original independent research;
 - Develop the applicant's research leadership skills; and
 - Assist applicants to establish themselves as independent self-directed health and medical researchers in a research program or as part of a research team.

- 2.3 The RBWH Foundation currently offers each year funding (\$50,000 per annum) to support in part The Robert and Janelle Bird Fellowships Postdoctoral Fellowship which can be renewed annually for a maximum term of two consecutive years, subject to satisfactory annual performance.
- 2.4 Fellowship holders are expected to:
- Carry out research within the RBWH;
 - Hold a PhD or other research based doctorate in a relevant field at the time the Fellowship is taken up (so that an application could be made, for instance, while a doctoral thesis is being examined);
 - Have held a PhD or other research based doctorate for less than 3 years at the time of taking up the Fellowship; and
 - It is expected that the RBWH (Department or Section hosting the Fellow) will provide facilities adequate for the Fellow's research and meet other costs reasonably associated with the research.
- 2.5 Applications should be accompanied by:
- The CV of the proposed Fellow, including his or her publication record;
 - Nomination of up to 2 research mentors for the duration of the fellowship including a brief (two pages) CV of each named mentor;
 - An outline of the proposed research program, and an indication as to how the research will fit into, and enhance, the research of the hosting department or section of the RBWH;
 - How the funds are proposed to be used; and
 - A written assurance from the hosting department or section of the RBWH that it will provide the requisite research facilities and other necessary support for the whole 2 year possible term of the Fellowship.

3. Application Process

- 3.1 The application must be submitted on the 2020 RBWH Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Application Form. It is the responsibility of the applicant to submit a complete application. The application must contain all the information necessary for assessment without the need for further written or oral explanation, or reference to additional documentation.
- 3.2 Applicants should provide a short account of the proposed research in the prescribed format, clearly identifying originality and importance of the contemporary state of international knowledge. Evidence of capacity to undertake the research, including research experience and track record, the available physical and patient facilities (where relevant), the nature of any collaborations involved in the research, and any additional funding and other support that is available should be provided in the application.
- 3.3 The 2020 RBWH Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Application Form is available from the Research Support Officer at RBWH-Project-Grant-Application@health.qld.gov.au or (07) 3646 2377.
- 3.4 The application and attachments must be submitted electronically by 2 December 2019 to: RBWH-Project-Grant-Application@health.qld.gov.au.

4. Assessment Process

4.1 Applications are assessed by members of the Research Advisory Committee and are evaluated against the eligibility criteria and scoring matrix (see below). The assessment also considers, gender equity, career disruptions and relative to opportunity considerations. The committee contains representatives from medical, nursing, allied health, scientific areas and the Donor. These awards will be based on merit and will be awarded on a competitive basis. Applicants may be interviewed.

4.2 The following matrix will form the basis of assessment:

Criterion	Points
Track record - relative to opportunity	25
Methodology quality	25
Alignment to hospital purpose and benefits to patient care	25
Feasibility of doing the work in the RBWH environment	25
Total	100

Track record – relative to opportunity (25%)

Track record is considered in terms of whether an applicant's previous research demonstrates that the Fellow can achieve the proposed project. The track record of the mentors will also be considered.

Methodology quality (25%)

This includes the clarity of the hypotheses or research objectives, the strengths and weaknesses of the study design and feasibility. The research proposal may be assessed in terms of, but not limited to:

- a) *Clarity of the hypothesis or research objectives: including*
 - *Has the method/framework/approach been partially tested?*
 - *What outcome is sought in the proposed study? What exactly is the outcome measure?*
 - *Is it well integrated and adequately developed?*
- b) *Is there a clear and appropriate research plan? Consider also:*
 - *What are the strengths and weaknesses of the study and its design?*
 - *Have any major pitfalls or problems been overlooked? Have alternative approaches been considered?*
 - *Is the plan well informed by knowledge of the literature?*
 - *Is the design appropriate for the aims of the research?*
- c) *Feasibility*
 - *Will the research plan successfully address the stated hypothesis or research objectives?*
 - *Are the goals concrete and achievable?*
 - *Is the investigating team appropriate; is it capable of achieving the goals? Does it have the right skills and expertise?*

Alignment to hospital purpose and benefits to patient care (25%)

Applicants should indicate how their proposed research program will align with the objective of the RBWH to provide knowledge-led world class care, education, training and research, based on, inter alia: patient-centred care, evidence-based practice, partnerships, governance, leadership and efficiency. They should also provide evidence of how the research will advance the care provided to patients.

Feasibility of Conducting the Research at RBWH (25%)

Applicants should provide evidence of their capacity to undertake the research, the available physical and patient facilities, the nature of any collaboration involved in the research, and any additional funding and other support that is available. They should also provide evidence of successful negotiation of arrangements with the RBWH Department or Section which will house the applicant.

5. Notification of Outcome of Application

5.1 Both successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the outcome.

5.2 Feedback may be obtained from the Executive Director Research RBWH by contacting RBWH-Project-Grant-Application@health.qld.gov.au or (07) 3646 2377.

6. Reporting Requirements

- 6.1 Updated reports will be provided on a six-monthly basis and at completion or termination of the project, this includes a report summarising the work undertaken including details of grant expenditure and details of any publications arising or planned to arise from the grant.
- 6.2 Appropriate recognition for the assistance from the RBWH Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (The Robert and Janelle Bird Fellowships) must be included in all publications resulting from work undertaken during the period of the award.
- 6.3 It is expected that outcomes of research funded by the RBWH and the RBWH Foundation are submitted for presentation at the annual RBWH Symposium.
- 6.4 Fellowships recipients will meet with and present to the Donor annually.

7. Conduct of Research

All research funded by the RBWH must comply with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007):

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/r39>

and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct of Human Research (2007) updated May 2015:

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/e72>

8. Enquiries

All enquiries regarding the RBWH and RBWH Foundation Project Grants should be directed, in the first instance, to the Research Support Officer, RBWH at RBWH-Project-Grant-Application@health.qld.gov.au or (07) 3646 2377.