

SYLVIA & CHARLES VIERTEL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARDS GUIDELINES

To be awarded in Australia for 2026

Applications close on 30 April 2025

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation was established by Mr Charles Viertel's Will in 1992. The Will provides for Trustees to administer the Foundation and specifies the purposes for which the income from the Foundation can be distributed (or granted).

Charles Viertel's Will provides that the Trustees of the Foundation may at their absolute discretion select and make grants to charitable organisations and for charitable purposes anywhere in Australia.

Within the terms of the Will and respecting the wishes documented in the Will, the Trustees have set out guidelines to assist grant seekers.

This document provides information and instructions for application for a Clinical Investigator Award for commencement in 2026. The Trustees determine these awards in the light of recommendations received from the Medical Advisory Board.

The Trustees

- Justice Debra Mullins AO (Chair)
- Mr Paul De Silva
- Mr Peter Evans
- Equity Trustees

Medical Advisory Board

- Professor Christina Mitchell AO (Co-Chair)
- Associate Professor Paul Ekert (Co-Chair)
- Professor Jonathan Carapetis AM
- Professor Gemma Figtree AO
- Professor Glenda Halliday
- Professor Marc Pellegrini
- Professor Jose Polo
- Professor Fabienne Mackay

ENQUIRIES

General administrative enquiries in relation to Clinical Investigator Awards must be addressed to Equity Trustees in the first instance by email to: charities@eqt.com.au

ESTABLISHMENT GRANTS FOR CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

Applications are invited for Clinical Investigator Awards of \$90,000, given on a once-only basis. The Foundation intends to offer up to five (5) awards in this category.

Eligible applicants will be medical graduates or graduates of other clinical disciplines who have completed both their clinical and research training, their doctorate has been conferred at the time of application, and are commencing their first substantive clinical position (appointment of 1 year or more) or have been in such a post for no more than **36 months** on 30 April of the year of application (this has recently been revised from 24 months).

Award funds are to be used for research purposes and not for the applicant's salary.

Applicants should be actively engaged in clinical work and pursuing health and medical research in a university clinical department, a teaching hospital, a clinical research unit of a research institute or in an academic general practice setting. The applications will be judged predominantly on the quality of the applicant's track record and career achievements to date. The quality of a brief research proposal will also be taken into account.

Applications must be made following the enclosed instructions and meet the eligibility criteria outlined in this document.

ELIGIBILITY

Establishment grants for Clinical Investigators have been initiated by the Foundation in order to stimulate and encourage clinical research in Australia. In particular, the grants are intended to assist new investigators to establish their research programs at the time of the difficult transition from doctoral and post-doctoral training posts to their first definitive clinical positions in an academic environment. Clinical Investigators will be awarded a once only grant of \$90,000.

Eligibility for a Clinical Investigator Award requires the following:

- The applicant should be actively engaged in clinical research.
- The applicant should be a medical graduate or a graduate of another clinical discipline with a definitive clinical appointment of at least 0.2 FTE or higher in a University clinical department, a teaching hospital, a clinical research unit in a research institute or in an academic general practice setting.
- The applicant should have been appointed to such a position but have been in the position for no more than 36 months on 30 April of the year of application. Unsuccessful applicants may re-apply the year following, provided that they have still been no more than 36 months in their position.
- People holding nationally competitive (e.g. NHMRC) fellowships of 0.5 or greater are ineligible.

Applications will be judged on the basis of merit and excellence in competition with other applications.

REPORTING

- Successful grant recipients are required to lodge a report at the conclusion of the grant detailing the achievements and evaluating the success of the activities for which funding was given.
- Reporting templates will be provided via the SmartyGrants system.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Equity Trustees encourages organisations to publicly acknowledge the support received from a charitable foundation.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING AN APPLICATION

The applications for an award as a "Clinical Investigator" must be made on the current Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation Clinical Investigator Application Form and include:

- A full Curriculum Vitae which should include details of the: new position, specifying in detail the nature of the clinical and research appointment; previous positions and training; any awards or honours; other grant support already obtained or applied for; and a full list of publications;
- A letter from the Head of the department/institution giving details of the date of appointment for both clinical and research positions and the date on which the applicant was due to take up or had taken up his or her position(i.e. 0.2FTE clinical appointment and 0.8FTE research appointment); and
- Ensure that reports complying with the Clinical Investigator Awards Referee Guidelines (available separately from the Equity Trustees website) are provided to Equity Trustees by two (2) separate referees. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the referees complete and email their reports to charities@eqt.com.au by the closing date of midnight on 30 April 2025.

Important dates

- Closing date: The application and attachments must be submitted online by midnight on 30 April each year. Late applications cannot be accepted.
- Referee reports must be emailed in PDF format to charities@eqt.com.au by midnight on 30 April 2025. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that two referee reports are completed and submitted by the closing date.
- Outcome notification date: November 2025.
- Payment date: The Clinical Investigator Awards are normally paid in January of the following year.

It is not the practise of the Foundation for feedback to be provided to unsuccessful applicants.