

SYLVIA & CHARLES VIERTEL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



SENIOR MEDICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS 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 Senior Medical Research Fellowship 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 AC
- Professor Marc Pellegrini
- Professor Jose Polo
- Professor Fabienne Mackay

ENQUIRIES

General administrative enquiries in relation to Senior Medical Research Fellowships must be addressed to Equity Trustees in the first instance by email to: charities@eqt.com.au

SENIOR MEDICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Applications are invited for a five-year Senior Medical Research Fellowship valued at \$275,000 per annum to be held in Australia to commence in 2025. The Trustees award at least two (2) Fellowships each year at their discretion. Additionally, the Foundation is collaborating with Bellberry Ltd to offer an extra (1) Fellowship each year. The Bellberry-Viertel Fellowship will have the same value and be offered on the same terms as the other two Fellowships each year.

The Foundation intends to award at least one (1) fellowship to an eligible female applicant.

The Fellowships are an integral part of a scheme that is intended to provide both salary and project grant support for outstanding Australian medical researchers. The total value of the award is \$1,375,000. Applicants cannot hold another full-time salary grant (see FAQs for further clarification).

Outstanding researchers who are medically qualified or PhD graduates of another scientific discipline, with recognised postdoctoral achievements seeking to establish a research career in Australia and undertake research in an Australian academic institution, are eligible to apply whether or not they are currently working in Australia. Applications will be judged on the basis of merit and excellence in competition with other applications.

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

ELIGIBILITY

The Senior Medical Research Fellowship is an integral part of the Foundation's intention to provide salary and project grant support for outstanding medical researchers in Australia in the fields of medical science and public health.

Eligibility for a Senior Medical Research Fellowship will require the following:

- The applicant is medically or scientifically qualified to at least the postdoctoral level.
- The applicant has been working at a postdoctoral level for less than ten (10) years at the time of submission and does not currently hold a senior research or teaching position. The applicant must provide proof of their conferral date as per academic records from their University.
 - The Medical Advisory Board and the Trustees reserve the right to take into consideration carer breaks and exceptional circumstances for applicants who have exceeded this ten (10) year period. Examples of exceptional circumstances include maternity leave and major illness*.
- The applicant is sponsored to undertake the Fellowship research in an Australian institution.

*Additional information on calculating career length affected by exceptional circumstances are outlined in the FAQs

The applicant is an Australian national or permanent resident. Applicants shortlisted for interview will need to provide proof of their status.

The Foundation will consider applications where Ethics Approval has been sought. Applicants shortlisted for interview will need to provide proof of ethics approval having been sought and/or approved. No award will be made until ethics approval has been granted by the Institutional Ethics Committees for Human Research and/or Animal Experimentation as appropriate.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING AN APPLICATION

The applications for an award as a “Senior Medical Research Fellow” must be made on the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation Senior Medical Research Fellowship Application Form. Additionally, the following information must be supplied with your application:

- A full Curriculum Vitae incorporating all your publications, and all of the information detailed in the relevant section of the application form.
- Two separate referee reports that comply with “Guidelines for Referee Reports”. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the referees complete and email their signed reports in PDF format to charities@eqt.com.au by the closing date of midnight on 30 April 2025.
- A signed recommendation from your sponsor which includes the information about your sponsor and the department/institution you will be working in. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the information required from your sponsor is completed and a PDF version is uploaded with your application by the closing date of midnight on 30 April 2025.
- Your completed application must be read by your Department Head or equivalent prior to its submission. By submitting your application, you are acknowledging that your Department Head has read your completed application and agrees to this research being carried out in his/her department in accordance with the conditions set out in the Guidelines for the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation Senior Medical Research Fellowship.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Closing date: Your application must be submitted online and all other required attachments and reports received by Equity Trustees in PDF format by midnight on 30 April each year. Late applications cannot be accepted.
- Payment date: The Fellowship will be paid in half-yearly instalments commencing in January of the following year.
- It is not the practice of the Foundation for feedback to be provided to unsuccessful applicants.

Applications open and closing dates and outcome notification

Applications open	February 2025
Closing date for applications	11.59 pm AEST, 30 April 2025
Advice to Applicants	November 2025

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A FELLOWSHIP IS AWARDED

1. Employment of Staff

- This grant is awarded on condition that your institution administers the grant and that the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation is not responsible for any injury or for the death of any person, or for the loss of or damage to property of whatsoever kind, occasioned by or arising out of your own negligence or the negligence of some other person employed by the host institution, whether funded by the Foundation or some other source.
- The Foundation does not act as an employer and will not be responsible for claims under any statute or at common law, nor will it indemnify the host institution against any claim for compensation or against any other claims for which the host institution may be responsible.
- The tenure of appointment of the Fellow and any other staff must be confined to the period of the grant and shall not exceed five years unless the host institution wishes to retain the staff beyond the period for its own purposes, and at its own expense.

2. Status

It is an expectation of this award that the Fellow should be granted the status and responsibilities of at least Senior Lecturer in the department in which he or she is employed.

3. Financial Arrangements

Expenditure under this grant must be in accordance with the financial details shown in the formal letter of award. Funding allocated for the Research Fellow's salary may not be used for any other purpose.

Payments will be made by the Trust in two equal half-yearly instalments each paid in advance, to a fixed total of \$275,000 annually, irrespective of award increases, or inflation.

4. Limitations of the Foundation's Liability

The Foundation accepts no responsibility, financially or otherwise, for the expenditure (or liabilities arising out of such expenditure) or liabilities arising out of the work, other than those specifically listed in the formal awarding letter and accompanying notes. The control of expenditure to be funded under this grant must be governed by the normal standards and procedures of the host institution and must be covered by the formal audit arrangements that exist in that host institution.

5. Equipment

Any apparatus provided in this grant is donated to the sponsoring department for the benefit of the Fellow's research.

6. Patents

The Foundation, as a charitable entity, is under an obligation to ensure that the results of research, which it funds, in part or in whole, are published 'for the public good'. At the same time, it recognises the commercial pressures which are upon research institutions and, therefore, the following grant conditions are intended to pay due note to both of these potentially disparate demands.

All results of research, and the intellectual property rights in such results, in relation to which the Foundation has made a grant, must be considered for patent protection by the appropriate authority within the host institution. Publication of the research findings may be delayed until such consideration and if a patent application has been filed until it is published under a patent law. However, no unnecessary delay should be allowed to occur before publication is sought. The Foundation does not seek to retain ownership of the intellectual property and is happy to vest its share in the Research Fellow and the host institution.

7. Transfer of a Grant

The award of a Senior Medical Research Fellowship is made to enable a Fellow to work in a specified department, or section within an institution. The Fellowship will not usually be transferable to another institution. Fellows wishing to move to another institution must obtain permission from the Trustees to continue the Fellowship.

8. Progress Reports

It is a condition of the grant that the Foundation receives annual reports, including copies of all publications published on or in press during the reporting period, upon the work for which the grant is awarded by 31 January each year and a final report within two months of the end of the Fellowship. All reports will be reviewed by the Medical Advisory Board.

9. Publications

The Foundation requires its support acknowledged in any publications arising from this work, and a report of such publications is to be included in the annual reports to the Foundation.