**

## FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

***“Advancing genomic testing in NZ”***

***2018 APPLICATION FORM***

***CLOSING DATE 16 OCTOBER, 2017***

BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION NZ FELLOWSHIPS

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ Fellowships provide the opportunity for a researcher or clinician to further develop their career, and at the same time to advance the BCFNZ’s mission:

*– Pushing for new frontiers in early detection, treatment and support –*

in support of our 20-year vision of “Zero deaths from breast cancer”.

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ (‘BCFNZ’ or ‘The Foundation’) is pleased to invite applications for funding for TWO fellowships for 2018.

The Ronald Kay Science Fellowship is named for Ronald Kay, retired breast surgeon, patron and founding trustee of BCFNZ, long-time chair of BCFNZ’s medical advisory committee, founder member of the Auckland Breast Cancer Study Group, Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

The Belinda Scott Clinical Fellowship is named for Belinda Scott, retired breast surgeon, co-founder of BCFNZ, former BCFNZ medical advisory committee chair, and pioneer of sentinel node biopsy in NZ.

***The 2018 Fellowships will focus on genomic testing***. Breast Cancer Foundation NZ recognises the critical role that genomic testing will play in an increasingly targeted therapeutic environment, while at the same time acknowledging the complexities and costs of advancing that environment in New Zealand. We recognise the need for international collaboration and learning opportunities; for this reason, the fellowships may be undertaken either in NZ or overseas.

BCFNZ Ronald Kay Science Fellowship:

Translational or basic science research, with an ultimate focus on genomic testing for better patient outcomes (e.g. early detection, diagnostic or prognostic biomarkers, molecular assays, actionable molecular profiling, treatment resistance and response).

Proposed studies should have significant potential to advance our understanding of genomic factors and genomic testing in breast cancer, with potential to lead to a reduction in breast cancer mortality, or extended survival for patients with advanced disease.

*Applications with clinical potential in the short to medium term will be regarded more favourably than those with only long-term potential.*

Eligibility and funding: Applicants can be at any stage of their career. Funding will be for a maximum of $80,000+GST, to be paid over a period of one or two years, allowing flexibility for applicants to conduct the proposed study either full or part time.

The fellowship may be undertaken in NZ or overseas.

BCFNZ Belinda Scott Clinical Fellowship:

Studies may be clinical research (including therapeutic interventions, trials and pilots) or taking clinical practice in NZ to a new level. The focus should be on genomic testing – for example: investigating potential for responsible and effective introduction of genomic testing into clinical practice; molecular assays; using genomic testing to guide treatment recommendations; personalised treatment; and links to clinical outcomes.

Eligibility and funding: Applicants may be at the start of specialisation (e.g. in pathology, radiology, radiation oncology, medical oncology, surgery, public health or general practice) and seeking to advance their skills in breast cancer with an emphasis on genomic testing. Alternatively, applicants may be at any stage of their career seeking to train in and introduce or extend availability of genomic-focused clinical practice. Funding will be for a maximum of $80,000+GST, to be paid over a period of one or two years, allowing flexibility for applicants to conduct the proposed study full or part time.

The fellowship is open to NZ-based applicants, but may be undertaken in NZ or overseas.

**Application Review Process**

Applications will be reviewed by the BCFNZ medical advisory committee. Where necessary, an external reviewer knowledgeable in the proposed field of research will also provide a review.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assessment Criteria** | **Weighting** |
| **Track record of the applicant**Track record, research experience and skills commensurate with career stage; plus the career development anticipated from this project | 50% |
| **Quality and feasibility**Quality and feasibility of the proposed project | 25% |
| **Impact and Alignment**Alignment to BCFNZ’s priority around genomic testing, and potential impact on the introduction or expansion of genomic testing into NZ in the short to medium term | 25% |

Shortlisted applicants may be required to supply further information by phone or email, and/or may be interviewed by the BCFNZ Medical Advisory Committee (or a subcommittee thereof) as deemed necessary. The Medical Advisory Committee will choose the successful applicant. Successful applicants will be referred to as “2018 BCFNZ Fellow”.

*NOTE: In recent years, a majority of BCFNZ Fellowships have been awarded to candidates from Auckland. If two or more shortlisted candidates for the 2018 Fellowship are deemed of equal merit, a non-Auckland candidate may be favoured.*

**How to Apply**

# Please complete all sections of the application form:

I Applicant contact details and Supervisor contact details

II Abstract – overview of project suitable for non-scientific readers

III Current funding details

IV Summary of proposed fellowship programme, including

* training plan / career development
* project details
* fellowship timetable / milestones
* significance to BCFNZ mission and genomic testing in NZ

V Referee

VI Budget details, including justification of working expenses/requested items

VII Summarised résumé of applicant and supervisor

Please email the completed application to adeleg@bcf.org.nz. Receipt of your application will be confirmed by email – if you do not receive this confirmation, please contact us ASAP.

***Applications close October 16, 2017***

***The successful applicants will be notified by November 30, 2017***

Enquiries: Adèle Gautier, Breast Cancer Foundation NZ, 09 304 0961 or grants@bcf.org.nz

**(I) CONTACT DETAILS**

**Fellowship Candidate:**

**Name:**

**Address:**

# Phone (Wk): Fax:

**Email:**  **Mobile:**

**Supervisor:**

**Name:**

**Address:**

# Phone (Wk): Fax:

**Email: Mobile:**

**This is an application for:**

 **Science Fellowship Clinical Fellowship**

**(II) ABSTRACT OF RESEARCH:**

(Up to 200 words. Description of research suitable for non-scientific readers, explaining the rationale, research objectives and the significance of this project to breast cancer)

**(III) PAST AND CURRENT RESEARCH FUNDING GRANTS:**

*Please complete the table below providing details on research projects you have previously received funding grants for (last 5 years).*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title of Research Project** | **Funding Agency** | **Duration of Grant** | **Amount $** | **Date Funding Grant Confirmed** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

*If you have previously received funding from the BCFNZ, please include details of where you have publicly acknowledged this funding.*

 **RESEARCH PROJECT FUNDING FOR THIS APPLICATION:**

*Have you applied to other funding sources for this research project? If so, please complete the table below and indicate whether this is confirmed funding; if not confirmed, indicate expected date of decision.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title of Research Project** | **Funding Agency** | **Duration of Grant** | **Amount $** | **Confirmed or Expected Date of Decision** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**(IV) DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME:**

1. **Training or Career Development Plan (1 page maximum)**
* Outline the objectives of your training and/or career development activities.
* If appropriate, provide a detailed description of the training programme, including courses, papers, duties and responsibilities.
* Show how your training or career development plan will develop your knowledge in the field of breast cancer and genomic testing.
* How, if at all, would the research or training or clinical practice undertaken through this fellowship establish or build on linkages and/or partnerships within the breast cancer community?
* Outline your vision for the next 3-5 years of your career.
* Describe how knowledge gained through this fellowship will be shared and/or applied.
1. **Scientific Research or Clinical Research or Clinical Practice Implementation Details (4 pages maximum)**

***(The word “project” in this document can refer to a scientific research study, a clinical research project or a clinical implementation. Some of the questions below will apply only to scientific research – please ignore questions that are not relevant to your proposed fellowship programme)***

Background Data

*Summarise relevant literature, preliminary data, etc., or clinical context, that led to the development of this project.*

Rationale for the Project

*Why do you want to undertake this project? What do you hope to achieve?*

*How has existing knowledge and/or expertise led to the development of this project?*

*If your Fellowship will be undertaken overseas, please explain why this is necessary.*

Hypothesis/Research Question (if relevant)

*Identify the key concept(s) to be tested, or the research question to be answered*

Objectives

*The project should have specific, measurable objectives*

Project Design

*Demonstrate that the project design is appropriate for the rationale and objectives and (if this is a research study) that the data generated will answer the research questions. Where relevant, specify study parameters and inclusion/exclusion criteria.*

Research Methodology

*For research studies, describe methods to be used, in sufficient detail to enable reviewers to understand the steps/protocols. Where possible, reference validated instruments or methodologies*

*Statistically justify sample size (for studies involving human research subjects, specify the population of interest, how accrual rates have been determined and reasons for confidence that accrual targets will be met)*

Data Analysis

*Where appropriate, specify subgroups and stratification parameters for statistical analysis*

*Provide bio-statistical information (sample size calculations, power estimates, etc.).*

*For qualitative projects, provide justification for chosen analyses*

Resources

*Demonstrate that you will have access to the resources necessary to complete the project*

Risks

*Identify risks to completing the project, and strategies to mitigate risk*

1. **Fellowship Timetable/Milestones**

*Provide a timetable for training and/or research activities and identify specific milestones within the project*

1. **Significance to BCFNZ mission and advance of genomic testing in NZ**

*Describe how the proposed project advances the BCFNZ mission and vision defined on page 2 of this application, with a particular emphasis on the role of genomic testing. Indicate the short to medium term potential of this project.*

***IF YOUR PROPOSED FELLOWSHIP IS OVERSEAS, PLEASE SUPPLY WRITTEN CONFIRMATION FROM THE HOST RESEARCH INSTITUTION OR HOSPITAL; AND PLEASE INDICATE HOW THE PROJECT PERTAINS TO NZ.***

**(V) REFEREE**

Please nominate a referee with personal knowledge of you, who can comment specifically on your professional research skills and future research potential. The referee should justify their comments and should also comment on the potential benefit of the proposed project to breast cancer and the future development of the project.

***It is the applicant’s responsibility to supply the Referee Report Template (available at*** <https://breastcancerfoundation.org.nz/what-we-do/apply-for-funding/fellowships> ***) to the referee. The referee should submit the reference directly to the BCFNZ by the closing date for applications.***

**(VI) BUDGET FOR RESEARCH PROJECT:**

Please provide details below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Staff Costs % FTE |  |
| 2. Equipment up to $3,000 (quotations must be attached) |  |
| 3. Operating Costs  |  |
| 4. Other, including travel (please itemise) |  |
| **Total $ (maximum $80,000 exc. GST)** |  |

Note: The grant may be used solely as salary

**JUSTIFICATION OF EXPENSES:**

Please provide a summary of the costs listed in the table above.

**(VII) RESUMES**

**RESUME OF APPLICANT:**

Applicant to provide a **summarised** résumé, including the following information:

Name

1. Qualifications: including date received and institute
2. Awards/Prizes:
3. Publications in the last five years:
4. Relevant work or research experience:

Previous employment

Current positions

**RESUME OF SUPERVISOR:**

Name

1. Qualifications: including date received and institute
2. Awards/Prizes:
3. Publications in the last five years:
4. Relevant work or research experience:

Previous employment

Current positions

#### ETHICAL AGREEMENT

The undersigned signify that in any research project involving experimentation with animal or human subjects, this proposal will be submitted to a properly constituted university or hospital ethical committee. The undersigned accept that no funding will be forthcoming until the committee has agreed to the ethics of the proposal outlined in this application, and that if such approval is not forthcoming within three months of a fellowship offer from BCFNZ, BCFNZ will revoke the funding offered.

Signed ..................................................................... ...........................................................

 (Principal Investigator/Supervisor) (date)

Signed .................................................................... ...............................................................

 (Head of School Faculty/Hospital Department) (date)

Ethics Committee Approval not required [ ]

**ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT:**

The undersigned agree to abide by the following administrative agreement:

1. **I agree to undertake the research project outlined, abiding by the ethical and statutory requirements of research, and within the regulations of the host institution, and that the grant funds will not be expended for any other purpose than that described in this application.**
2. The host institution agrees and undertakes to bear all risks and claims connected with any operation covered by this application and to indemnify and hold harmless the BCFNZ against any and all liability suits, actions, demands, damages, costs or fees on account of death, injury to persons or property, or any other losses resulting from or connected with any act or omission performed in the course of the research.
3. **The applicant(s) agrees to publicity, photographs and acknowledgement of Breast Cancer Foundation NZ’s research fund sponsorship.**

**NOTE: This agreement must be signed by individuals with the appropriate institutional delegated authority**

**Signed by: Date:**

Applicant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dean of Host Faculty/Institution: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Head of Institution: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **Written summary of the project and its outcomes to be submitted to BCFNZ at the end of the 12-month fellowship.**
2. **Further reports to be submitted as data matures, along with copies of any publications resulting from this project**
3. **A verbal presentation to BCFNZ’s Board of Trustees/Members of the Medical Advisory Committee by request**
4. **Acknowledgement of BCFNZ funding in publications/journals, etc**
5. BCFNZ’s Board of Trustees, Members of the Medical Advisory Committee or other appropriate representative(s) may wish to undertake a site visit and meet with you.
6. Public Relations - Agree to publicity, media interviews, photographs and acknowledgement of BCFNZ research fund sponsorship