

CONCERT PhD Top-Up Award

The Centre for Oncology Education and Research Translation (CONCERT) is calling for applications for PhD Top-Up Awards funded by the Cancer Institute NSW (CINSW).

CONCERT embeds translational cancer research into clinical practice, encompassing basic science, clinical, psychosocial and health services research, as guided by CINSW's translational research model (for details see Appendix 1). CONCERT brings together a diverse consortium of 200+ professional members spanning all aspects of cancer research, diagnosis, treatment and care. Our NSW institutional stakeholders include UNSW Australia, the University of Western Sydney, the University of Wollongong, the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research, Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute, and the Illawarra Shoalhaven and South Western Sydney Local Health Districts (LHD), as well as collaborating partner institutions in the ACT (Health Directorate ACT Government, Australian National University and University of Canberra). Table 1 lists CONCERT's participating institutions and member groups. More details on CONCERT can be perused at <http://inghaminstitute.org.au/Open-Day-CONCERT>.

A PhD Top-Up Award is funded at \$15,000 per annum (\$10K stipend & \$5K research consumables and/or travel), with maximum for three calendar years, subject to the PhD student's satisfactory performance and progress. It is anticipated that two or three new PhD Top-Up Awards (max \$45K) will commence in each year of 2015 and 2016. It is a requirement that PhD Top-Up Award expenditure will be spent by June 2019 at the latest.

Application requirements:

- Research proposals are formalized through CONCERT's Working Research Committees (WRC), see application process below for further details.
- The proposed research project must be in line with CONCERT strategic translational cancer research directions and involve at least two different translational 'T' tiers of the T1-T3 tier model (for details see Appendix 1).
- The proposed research prospect has to engage at least two different participating institutions of CONCERT leading to novel capacity building among CONCERT's member groups (Table 1).
- Only prospective PhDs student, who are recipient of a post-graduate scholarship, are eligible for this Top-Up Award.
- The PhD student has to enrol in one of CONCERT's NSW partner universities (UNSW, UWS or UoW). The student's primary supervisor must be a member of CONCERT.
- CONCERT's support must be prominently acknowledged in all presentations and publications resulting from this work.

Application process:

1. CONCERT members invited to put forward research proposals with nominated student supervisor(s)/co-supervisor(s) for shortlisting by T1/2 and T2/3 Working Research Committees (WRC) . Proposals must be aligned with CONCERT's strategic translational research directions.
2. Prospective supervisors are responsible for providing the following documentation:
 - a) Project proposal as per **Template for Collaborative Project Proposals**
 - b) Supervisor/co-supervisor CV (max 2 page) including PhD supervision track record
3. PhD Top-Up Award for shortlisted proposals to be advertised (eg via CONCERT or university webpages).
4. A selection committee [TBD] will rank PhD applications based on the selection criteria below. More detailed project information might be requested by the selection committee for ranking process.

Selection criteria

1. Feasibility, scientific merit and potential health impact of the research proposal, in alignment with CONCERT's translational cancer research programs
2. Novel capacity building among CONCERT's participating institutions, with particular emphasis on CONCERT members of institutional stakeholders that had limited interactions in the past
3. Supervisors' CV and mentoring track record
4. Student track record
5. Leveraged support from other sources

The successful applicant will be expected to participate in CONCERT activities and programs, including public presentations; as well support reporting obligations and marketing and fundraising activities.

Table 1 – CONCERT Institutional Stakeholders

Participating Institution	Member Group
UNSW	University of New South Wales
University of Western Sydney	University of Western Sydney
University of Wollongong	University of Wollongong
University of Canberra	University of Canberra
Australian National University	Australian National University
South Western Sydney Local Health District	Liverpool Hospital
	Campbelltown Hospital
	Bankstown Hospital
	Braeside Hospital
	Camden Hospital
	Bowral Hospital
Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District	Wollongong Hospital
	Nowra Hospital
	Milton Hospital
	Bathurst Hospital
	Orange Hospital
Canberra Hospital and Health Services	Canberra Hospital
Ingham Institute Applied Medical Research	Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research (Ingham Institute)
Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute	Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute

Appendix 1

Westfall et al (2007) model of translational research (Figure 1), with the following detailed translational pipeline definitions, which has been adopted by the Cancer Institute NSW:

T1 - Translation to Humans

- Developing treatments and interventions.
- The translation of basic research into research with humans. Basic research could cover a range of disciplines including: laboratory research, epidemiology, psychometrics, social science.
- The interface between basic research and the clinical setting, striving to find how new knowledge of disease mechanisms can be developed into clinically relevant understandings, and diagnostic and treatment regimes to be trialled in humans.
- Types of studies/activities – Observational studies, Case studies; Phase 1 and II clinical trials

T2 - Translation to Patients

- Testing the efficacy and effectiveness of these treatments and interventions.
- The translation of new clinical science and knowledge into routine clinical practice and health decision making¹.
- The application of information and insights derived from basic, clinical and population health research to the provision of health services².
- Translation of new clinically proven knowledge of disease processes, diagnostic or treatment techniques into routine clinical practice and health decision making.
- Types of studies/activities - Phase III clinical trials; observational studies; evidence synthesis and guidelines development.

T3 - Translation to Practice

- Dissemination and implementation research for system-wide change².
- Moving evidence-based guidelines into health practice, through delivery, dissemination, and diffusion research.
- Practice based research, where the evidence from clinical trials on carefully selected patients is translated into guidelines for complex patients seen routinely in practice.
- Types of studies/activities - Dissemination research; implementation research; diffusion research, Phase IV clinical trials.

¹ Grimshaw et al, 2012

² Wills NSW Health and Medical Research Strategic Review

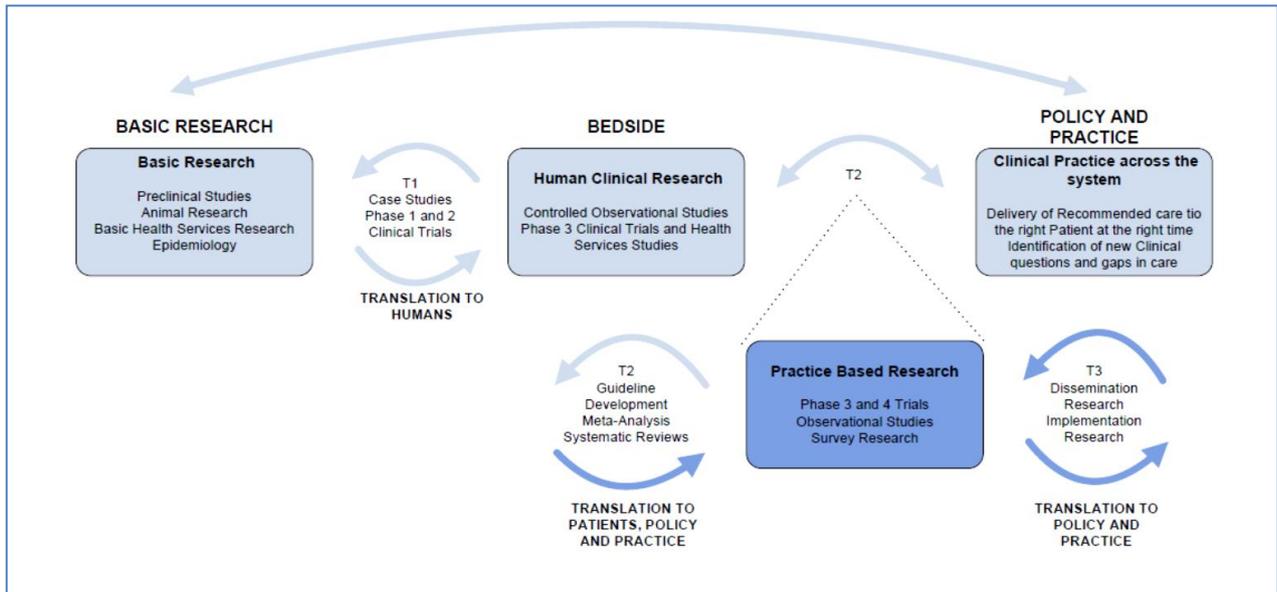


Figure 1: Model of translational research adopted by the Cancer Institute NSW Westfall et al., (2007). Practice-based research – “blue highways” on NIH roadmap. JAMA, 297(4): 403-406 (adaptation)

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