



# INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

## Enquiries can be directed to:

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## Submitting your Application Form:

Application Form and relevant attachments must be combined into one PDF. When saving, please use the naming convention:

**Application\_NMHA 2025\_Project Leader Surname.pdf**

Email to [neuro.mentalhealth.addiction@unsw.edu.au](mailto:neuro.mentalhealth.addiction@unsw.edu.au) by 5pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

## 1. Introduction and Objectives

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1. **Introduction**  
The UNSW Medicine & Health Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme aims to address the burdens imposed by neurological, mental health, and drug and alcohol disorders. It constitutes a network of internationally recognised researchers and clinicians leading in the understanding and treatment of complex clinical conditions with physical, behavioural, mental and social dimensions across the lifespan.
2. **Objectives**  
The UNSW Medicine & Health Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme seeks to support the initiation and development of collaborative groups that bring together research, education, and clinical partners to explore innovative strategies towards solving these critical problems.

## 2. Our Collaborating Partners

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Our current Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme collaborating partners are:

- UNSW Sydney, including:
  - Centre for Big Data Research in Health
  - Centre for Health Systems Research
  - Discipline of Psychiatry and Mental Health, including the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing (CHeBA)
  - National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)
  - Rural Clinical School
  - School of Biomedical Sciences
  - School of Clinical Medicine
  - School of Health Sciences
  - School of Optometry and Vision Science
  - School of Population Health
  - UNSW Engineering
  - UNSW Science
- Black Dog Institute (BDI)
- Central and Eastern Primary Health Care Network (CEPHCN)
- Mindgardens Neuroscience Network (UNSW, Black Dog Institute, NeuRA and SESLHD)
- Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA)
- South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD), including Prince of Wales Hospital (PoWH), Royal Hospital for Women (RHW), SESLHD Mental Health Services and SESLHD Drug and Alcohol Services
- South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD)
- St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
- Sydney Children's Hospital Network (SCHN)
- The Garvan Institute of MCID 90 7f)4.3 0 (aC01 TwBe9 (E7e N)1)2 (D)2.6)-r(D)2.6(t)-6n(S)1.9 (LH)2.6D

### 3. Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction

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The Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme is led by Theme Principal Professor Michael Farrell (NDARC) and consists of four sub-themes.

#### Children and Adolescent Wellbeing

- Led by Dr Iain Perkes (UNSW and Sydney Children's Hospital Network) and Professor Valsamma Eapen (UNSW Discipline of Psychiatry & Mental Health and SWSLHD)
- Key areas of focus:
  - suicide prevention
  - prevention, identification and treatment of depression and anxiety
  - substance use and abuse
  - psychobiological risk and resilience in response to early adversity
  - mental health literacy in children and adolescents

#### Complex and Difficult to Treat Diseases

- Led by Professor Philip Ward, Director, Schizophrenia Research Unit, SWSLHD MHS
- Key areas of focus:
  - schizophrenia and related psychoses
  - bipolar disorder
  - treatment resistant depression
  - trauma related conditions
  - alcohol and drug addictions and their co-morbidities
  - behavioural change in the context of lifestyle and social adversity

#### Healthy Ageing

- Led by Scientia Professor Henry Brodaty, Co-Director of CHeBA (Discipline of Psychiatry and Mental Health, UNSW)
- Key areas of focus:
  - cognitive ageing (including dementia)
  - prevention and treatment of frailty, immobility and falls
  - pain management in older people
  - mental health and positive ageing
  - biology, prevention, and treatment of delirium
  - stroke prevention and treatments
  - alcohol and prescription opioids in the elderly

#### Brain Sciences and Translational Neuroscience

- Led by Scientia Professor Bernard Balleine (School of Psychology), Scientia Professor Nigel Lovell (School of Biomedical Engineering, UNSW) and Scientia Professor Gary Housley (School of Biomedical Sciences, UNSW)
- Key areas of focus:
  - the interface of regulation and emotion
  - executive function and decision-making
  - the mind – machine nexus
  - neural coding
  - neural therapeutics
  - neural prosthetics
  - neuromodulation and stimulation strategies

## 4. Funding

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Grants of up to **\$75,000** are available to provide support for strategic projects (reviewed and awarded by a panel including members of the Executive Committee and UNSW) **led by early- to mid-career researchers** that relate to at least one of the sub-themes. Projects need to be approved by the Faculty of Medicine & Health to ensure they are compliant within the current UNSW research environment.

The research projects will be funded by the UNSW Faculty of Medicine & Health, Neuroscience, Mental Health & Addiction Theme and administered by UNSW. All funds will be available for distribution in the second week of January 2025 and need to be spent by close of business December 2025.

Grant funds must be spent for the primary purpose of achieving the objectives of this Seed Funding Scheme and cannot be used for indirect costs. Grants will not be renewed and cannot be extended.

All research projects funded under the scheme will be required to provide information regarding outcomes of the project as required for reporting requests. The Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme reserves the right to choose not to award any seed funding if applications do not meet a minimum quality.

Research projects must have potential to drive further research or clinical outcomes and should endeavour to create collaboration between multiple Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction Theme partners.

## 5. Eligibility

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The Project Leader **must** be an employee at UNSW or at one of the Faculty of Medicine and Health's affiliated Medical Research Institutes:

- Black Dog Institute (BDI)
- Children's Cancer Institute Australia (CCIA)
- The Garvan Institute of Medical Research (Garvan)
- The George Institute for Global Health (TGIGH)
- The Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research
- Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA)
- Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute (VCCRI).

The Project Leader **must** be an

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