

Pūtahi Manawa | Healthy Hearts for Aotearoa New Zealand CoRE

2021 Integrated Research Modules: call for Expressions of Interest

Background:

The mission of Pūtahi Manawa | Healthy Hearts for Aotearoa New Zealand (HHANZ) Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE) is to improve equity in heart health for Māori and Pacific Peoples through research excellence and precision medicine. HHANZ will bring together research scientists, clinicians, educationalists and communities by comprehensively and collaboratively addressing issues around equity in heart health outcomes to support and complement the public health approach. We wish to work in partnership with communities and researchers to create a vibrant world-class environment and network for heart research in Aotearoa that is underpinned by evidenced based, multi-disciplinary collaborative research that delivers clinical benefits and equity to patients with cardiovascular diseases. It is our aim that HHANZ works directly with and for communities across Aotearoa.

About the Integrated Research Modules (IRMs):

IRMs will be awarded the majority of contestable funds (up to a total of \$1.8M per year) over a three-year period in the first instance.

A unique feature of Pūtahi Manawa is the integration of numerous research disciplines to address a common question. Traditionally, many cardiovascular researchers have worked in silos or where collaborations have been formed these have been relatively limited in number and diversity due to cost and lack of sustaining infrastructure. This CoRE provides the opportunity to assemble “*integrated research modules*” that can comprise multi-disciplinary approaches (e.g. Māori and Pacific methodology, epidemiology, epigenetics, physiology, bioengineering and clinical science). We propose to fund IRMs that will become Pūtahi Manawa’s forerunner research areas. The intention is that the funded IRMs may be renewed for a further three years if the project has achieved its aims and if the renewal bid obtains a sufficiently high enough priority score. However, Pūtahi Manawa will also consider new IRMs at the mid-point of the life of the CoRE (2024-2028), which will compete with those being renewed. This permits flexibility and versatility to accommodate unexpected changes within Aotearoa New Zealand during the lifetime of the CoRE.

It is recognised that IRMs will take time to fully develop (months) and involve significant work-up in terms of hui and fono, interactions between researchers, health providers and communities. Thus, IRMs will be selected following an expressions of interest (EOI) round. Each IRM must also include how a contribution to our outreach and education activities will be delivered.

Each IRM will assign a leader or co-leaders who will be responsible for the conduct of the research and report to the Executive Leadership Team. Within each IRM there will be distinct programmes of work addressing a common research goal and leads will be responsible for the distribution of funding within their IRM. Reporting will follow Host and Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) requirements.

The application process for an IRM will be a two-stage process: (i) an expression of interest will be reviewed by our Funding Panel and (ii) after a sifting process, a number of full applications will be invited and reviewed by our international advisory panel.

Expressions of Interest:

Expressions of interest (EOI) will be called to ascertain areas of multidisciplinary research that align with Pūtahi Manawa's Goals. This will involve consultation and discussion among colleagues and communities across the country. EOIs will be evaluated based on alignment to CoRE funding principles and potential to disrupt the norm and take a “business not as usual” approach to cardiovascular research. EOIs will be processed to prevent overlap and internal competition. This may mean some EOIs are merged or split off with components and join other EOIs such that we enhanced the added value of the projects.

Grant duration

The IRMs support up to a 3 year period with potential to renew for a further 3 years.

Eligibility:

Applicants must have a right to work/hold a current visa to work in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Lead Investigators must be based in Aotearoa New Zealand.

International co-investigators may be listed but they cannot receive funds as this is part of the TEC funding obligations.

No funds can be distributed offshore, although clarity for research support on Pacific Islands is being sought.

Key Dates:

Call for EOIs Oct 22nd, 2021

EOIs due by: 5pm Nov 29th 2021

EOI results announced: Dec 18th 2021

Anticipated full project submission: ~ March 2022

Anticipated full results announced: ~May 2022

Integrated Research Module Criteria:

Pūtahi Manawa funding criteria have been discussed widely through bid development and in the set-up phases of the CoRE itself. The table below provides definitions of each criteria and example questions that you might try to answer to show how your proposal is able to meet each criterion.

	Definition
Scientific integrity	Best practice or rules of professional practice in research How robust is the science? How relevant is this topic to the aims of HHANZ core? Evidence of peer review?
Te Tiriti o Waitangi	Acknowledgment and upholding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi How does the proposal have Te Tiriti o Waitangi focus? How is Māori partnership/leadership/governance included? How does the proposal acknowledge Māori cultural beliefs, values, practices Is data handling culturally-appropriate? (i.e.: is there a data governance strategy)
Equity	Fairness and justice, distinct from equality How does the proposal address /enhance equity/ intervene in inequity? How will this funding impact equity? What research is being included that will support equity?
Co-Design and Translation	If not a co-design project, how are co-design principles included in the research What co-design methodology is incorporated – e.g. kaupapa Māori, Pacific methodologies / classic co-design. Translation is the process of passing research findings along the research pathway to the next user and/or end user How will you translate your findings? How will this project engage with the community and stakeholders? How will dissemination of results to Māori, Pacific communities occur?
Multidisciplinary and Team Excellence	Tell us about your team. Describe how your team is diverse. Who are the key stakeholders? What research disciplines are involved? What is the track record, relative to opportunity, of the team?

Proposal outline, scoring and weighting:

Please describe:

- The 3 year research plan (include a hypothesis) (2 page maximum, weighting 50%)
 - Background
 - Purpose Statement / hypotheses
 - Research Plan
 - Impact
 - Future directions for continuation for additional 3 years
- CoRE funding criteria (2 pages, 50%)
 - Scientific integrity
 - Te Tiriti
 - Equity
 - Co design and translation
 - Multidisciplinarity and Team Excellence
- Appendix
 - References
 - CVs of leadership team

Conditions:

The proposed work must be completed in Aotearoa New Zealand, unless there is a critical part that cannot be completed here. Funds are not permitted to move overseas.

How to apply:

Please send the completed application form and NZ RS&T CV to:

hhanzcoregrants@auckland.ac.nz unless your institution requires you to work with your local research office to submit on your behalf. For example, this applies to the University of Otago and the University of Auckland.

Contact information:

hhanzcoregrants@auckland.ac.nz