



## RARITY NETWORKING MEETING GRANTS

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***Do you have an idea that needs input from clinicians, patient support groups or commercialisation specialists?***

***Are you a clinician looking to explore a fundamental science question?***

***Do you have ideas that need socialising in a symposium format?***

***Do you need support to develop a new multidisciplinary team? Can you share part of the discussion with the RARITY audience?***

RARITY, the Research Alliance for Rare Illness Translational Pathways, is a University of Otago Research Theme. Our overarching goal is to promote understanding of the pathways from the bench to bedside or commercialisation of the many exciting research findings in the rare disorders field at the University of Otago.

A major goal for 2025 is to support new collaborative networks that will contribute to delivering the goals of RARITY. These RARITY Networking Meeting Grants will provide travel and accommodation (up to \$1000) to bring new networks together to develop a new multidisciplinary research project, engage with new key stakeholders, write a position paper, or develop a briefing for a Minister or ministry official.

We welcome applications led by University of Otago-based RARITY members (research fellow and above). Named network meeting members must not have previously worked together on a related project, with key stakeholders, or developed a comparable position paper or briefing document. Members should, where appropriate, involve researchers, clinicians, patient advocates, community members and others from within New Zealand or internationally. International attendees will connect online unless they are already visiting New Zealand.

Please reach out to the RARITY co-directors via [rarity@otago.ac.nz](mailto:rarity@otago.ac.nz) if you require assistance matching with potential network members.

Based on your application, we will help coordinate the meeting, providing flights, accommodation and some reasonable associated costs. Expected funding will be up to \$1000/award, however awards may be higher under exceptional circumstances. Bookings must be completed at least 2 months prior to the event to be cost effective.

Applications will close on **1 August 2025** and should be submitted to [rarity@otago.ac.nz](mailto:rarity@otago.ac.nz).

To apply, submit the attached application form and include an indicative budget. Co-funding from other sources is encouraged but not a requirement. Where appropriate, meetings can be held anywhere in NZ, especially when this minimises costs. Applications will be ranked by the RARITY Steering Group, or a subcommittee, for the enhanced outcomes that would be delivered, aligned to the goals of RARITY.

Network meetings must be completed by March 2026. Network leads must provide a 2-page written report of the outcomes of the meeting, suitable for Otago Research Committee reporting and public media release.