



Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovations

ACADI Health Tech Innovation Challenge Guidelines

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What is the challenge?

The ACADI Health Tech Innovation Challenge offers students and researchers the opportunity to pitch for seed funding for a Health Tech innovation in the field of diabetes and its possible complications.

Why should I apply for the challenge?

- Teams compete for two prizes of \$30,000 and \$10,000 available for a 12-month period to be put towards the development of the project.
- Refine your project pitch – shortlisted candidates receive pitch training from an expert.
- Have your pitch heard by a panel of expert judges in business and diabetes research.

What do we expect from applicants?

- To pitch an innovation that prevents, diagnoses, monitors and/or treats diabetes and its possible complications in one of ACADI's three clinical priority areas:
 - Diabetic kidney disease
 - Peripheral neuropathy and diabetic foot syndrome
 - Short-term complications of hypoglycaemia and/or hyperglycaemic hyperosmolar syndrome (HHS) and diabetic ketoacidosis
- To promote Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM)-based interdisciplinary research in diabetes.
- To foster the translation of research with technology that will lead to improvements in health outcomes for people living with diabetes and its possible complications.
- To stimulate the collaboration of ACADI partner organisations – applicants must be in a team of between 2 and 6 people. Teams can come from multiple organisations.
- Proposals must address the health technology (health tech) focus of the Challenge.

What do we mean by health tech?

ACADI's definition of health tech refers to technology that is used to prevent, diagnose, monitor, or treat diabetes and its possible complications. Health tech categories relevant to the Challenge are:

- Medical devices, including software as a medical device.
- Diagnostics.
- Assistive technology.
- Hospital accessories, systems improvements, and surgical instruments/tools.
- Digital health including mobile health; and
- Technology that supports drug discovery and development, and pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Out of scope

- Pharmaceutical drug development, though innovative technology advances associated with pharmacological agents will be considered.



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Format of the challenge



Who can apply?

- Applicants can apply from any discipline and at any career level, including students.
- Teams are to be made of a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 6 people.
- Lead Investigators must be from an ACADI Core Partner or Other Partner organisation.
- Other team members can come from any other organisations.
- We highly recommend that the team includes an industry partner.



To be eligible for the Challenge

1. The Lead Investigator must be an employee of an [ACADI Core or Other Partner](#) organisation.
2. You must be available to attend the events highlighted in bold in the [key dates table below](#).
3. The innovation must be designed to prevent, diagnose, monitor, or treat diabetes and its possible complications, and relate to one of ACADI's three clinical priority areas.
4. The innovation must fit into one or more of the eligible [Health Tech categories, listed above](#).
5. The innovation must be a solution or a technology that can be applied to a clinical unmet need.
6. All application documents must be submitted correctly.

Seed Funding- Prizes

- First prize: \$30,000 to be applied towards the further development of their project.
- Second place: One project will receive \$10,000 to be applied towards the further development of their project.

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to present at a future ACADI Annual Partnering Summit.

Judging Criteria

Submissions will be assessed against the following judging criteria.

The project demonstrates:

- A clear clinical need.
- A concise, achievable project plan with realistic objectives.
- Efforts to conduct inter-disciplinary research.
- Team composition that can deliver the expected outputs of the project.
- A pathway for research translation.
- Significant potential for future funding by granting bodies and/or industry.

Preference will be given to projects who have not previously received funding from any sources, however teams with some previous or current funding are eligible to apply and the significance and relevance of any previous funding held will be considered by the judges.



Application process

Apply online via SmartyGrants at <https://acadi.smartygrants.com.au/htic2023>

To be eligible for the Challenge, all documents below must be submitted:

- A completed application form.
- A signed Letter of Support from the Lead Investigator's organisation executive or leadership team should be uploaded. It should state that the Lead Investigator will bear full responsibility for the conduct of the project.

Within 24 hours of submission of application, the Lead Investigator will receive an email confirming receipt of the application.

ACADI Core Partner Organisations

- Australian National University
- Deakin University
- Dimerix Bioscience Pty Ltd
- Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research
- Menzies School of Health Research
- Queensland University of Technology
- RMIT University
- University of Adelaide
- University of Melbourne
- University of New South Wales
- University of Queensland
- University of South Australia
- University of Sydney
- University of Tasmania
- University of Western Australia
- Western Sydney University

ACADI Other Partner Organisations

- Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA)
- Australian Diabetes Society (ADS)
- Bayer Australia Ltd
- Biointelect Pty Ltd
- Bolton Clarke
- CSL
- Monash University
- Murdoch Children's Research Institute
- Ray Kelly Fitness
- St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research
- University of the Sunshine Coast Australia
- Diabetes Australia
- Diabetes Victoria
- Endocrinology Melbourne
- Flinders University
- Goulburn Valley Health
- Inside Public Relations
- Lilly Australia Pty Ltd



Key Dates

Please note the following key dates for the Challenge. Applicants must be available to attend the dates highlighted in ***bold**. Please note that for the successful shortlisted applicants, ACADI will provide funding for travel and accommodation for 1 team member to attend the in-person Pitch Event in Melbourne.

Launch date of the Health Tech Innovation Challenge:	Monday 21 st August 2023
Application closing date:	12pm Tuesday 3 rd October 2023
*Pitch Training: 2-hour online training session	Wednesday 25th October 2023
*Pitch Event:	Monday 13th November 2023
*Winning teams present at the ACADI Partnering Summit	Tuesday 14 November 2023
Project funding period:	12 months, beginning in early 2024

Competition Enquiries

All enquiries should be made to acadi-info@unimelb.edu.au. The Subject line should state "HTIC 2023".

Competition Terms

All prize money must be spent on the project that was pitched at the event. Funding is for one year only. Funds must be expended 12 months after the award date.

The successful team will be invited back to present at the following year's ACADI Annual Partnering Summit in 2024 to present on the work done and will also be required to provide a brief written report to ACADI on the outcomes of the funding, including a financial report, within 1 month of completion of the ACADI award. Any unspent funds at the conclusion of the grant period must be returned to ACADI. Summaries of ACADI projects and final reports may be used externally or published by ACADI.

IP Considerations

The Health Tech Challenge will be a public event. Teams will not be asked not to include any IP sensitive information in their application and should consult their respective Technology Transfer office regarding the information that they are providing. Teams should not be presenting IP sensitive information at the Pitch event.

Acknowledgement

The Lead Investigator must ensure that ACADI's contribution and support of the project be appropriately acknowledged in publications and presentations. Successful Teams are expected to provide appropriate acknowledgment of ACADI support when communicating



outcomes, including all publications related to research carried out during the term of ACADI award.

The prizes are sponsored by The *Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovations Research Centre* (ACADI). ACADI was established through MRFF funding from the Australian Government's Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) program, delivered by [MTPConnect](#).