SEEDING GRANT APPLICATIONS

INTRODUCTION:
The Department of Surgery Executive have established a series of seeding grants that are funded from the Department of Surgery to provide funding of up to $25,000 to researchers for research activities carried out within the Department of Surgery at the University of Melbourne.

AIMS:
The goals of the grant program are to:
- Generate pilot data to enable subsequent submission for major grants;
- The funding will be awarded to submissions that meet the above criteria and will:
  - augment our research impact across the department;
  - increase department success in grant applications.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:
- Applicants will hold an honorary or fractional appointment with the Department of Surgery at the time of application.
- If a researcher submits multiple applications, all their applications will be ineligible.
- Not have been named CI (A) (or equivalent) on a funded NHMRC research support grant and/or an ARC research support grant (e.g. DECRA, Discovery projects) over the last two year period (2018/2019).
- Not having been awarded an NHMRC Investigator Grant in 2019.

IMPORTANT DATES:
- Applications open **August 12 2019;**
- Applications close **September 9 2019;**
- Panel will consider all applications received **(September 16 – October 14);**
- Successful applicants notified **21 October 2019;**
- Grants presented at Department of Surgery Research Day – **12 November 2019;**
- Commencement of project – **1 January 2020**
- Completion of project – **31 December 2020**
- Scientific and financial reporting (as per template to be provided) – **30 June 2021.**

CONDITIONS OF FUNDING:

Successful grant recipients will be required to:

- Provide a written report within a six month period of completion of the grant; evidence of submission of a major competitive grant based on the seed funding, and completion/submission of financial report (template to be provided).
- Acknowledge Department of Surgery Research Grant in any subsequent publications, grant applications, or presentations that result from this funding;
- Commit to present at the 2020 Department of Surgery Research Showcase.

SELECTION PROCESS:

The Research Committee for the Department of Surgery (chaired by Professor Peter Choong) oversees the seeding grant program and utilises a matrix scoring program that is outlined below with funding awarded to the highest scoring applications. Applications that do not meet the above goals, timelines or standards of presentation will not have their applications assessed.

SCORING

 (1) Poor
 (2) Unsatifactory
 (3) Marginal
 (4) Good
 (5) Very good
 (6) Excellent
 (7) Outstanding

Criteria	Percentage weighting Score
Scientific Quality • Research plan is clearly defined, coherent and well developed • Is feasibile with all required tools, techniques and expertise available	40%
Significance and/or Innovation • Presents a proposed body of research that addresses an issue of utmost importance to human health and will have a significant impact. • Probability of subsequent presentation at conferences; • Probability of result in influential publications. • Potential to lead to a successful competitive grant as CIA.	40%
Track record relative to opportunity & Research Environment (refer to track record information) • Quantity and quality of research outputs (e.g. publications, awards, conference presentations) • Broader community engagement. • Is appropriate for the proposed research • Provides appropriate mentoring and training arrangement	20%