

Procedure for Appointment of Assessors

Clinician Research Fellowship Applications (R6) 2018 Raine Priming Grant Applications

The appointment of assessors is now a well-established procedure that has proven to be transparent and equitable. It is a rigorous process and each application is reviewed independently by at least two top, international scientists.

Overview

An overview of the procedure adopted for appointment of assessors is outlined below with separate details provided for Clinician Research Fellowships (p.3) and Raine Priming Grants (p4).

- 1) A Medline search is carried out -
 - (a) to review the published literature in the field;
 - (b) to identify scientists who are working directly in the relevant discipline and have a substantial record of scientific papers.
 - (c) to ensure assessors are independent - both of each other and of the candidate (ie, they have not participated in collaborative research nor co-authored publications; and there is no evidence of a link to co-investigator(s) or associated researchers;
 - (d) to ensure that a potential assessor is not associated with any scientist or group nominated by the candidate as “not to be used”.
- 2) Other science databases are consulted; most notably *The Web of Science* and *PubMed*, to further identify specialists working in the different disciplines, and to build up a more comprehensive picture of the individual research profiles of potential assessors.
- 3) The list of references provided by the candidate is also taken into consideration. While it has become policy to draw at least one reviewer from this list where possible, care is taken not to approach scientists whose research or methodology may have been challenged by the candidate.
- 4) A nominated assessor may be used if they have no conflict of interest and have expert knowledge in the field of the application.

- 5) In the event that specialist knowledge is required to further identify high-ranking international scientists -
 - (a) Raine scientific advisory members are available for consultation; and/or
 - (b) enquiries are directed to leading international scientists known to have a long publishing record in the relevant discipline.

- 6) Prior to establishing contact with prospective assessors, their Institution's webpage is checked to confirm –
 - (a) the current status of the proposed assessor; and
 - (b) the details of their research program and publication list.An approach is not made to a specialist researcher where it is evident that they work for a pharmaceutical company.

- 6) Each project is assigned to two assessors; however, some situations call for the appointment of a third assessor. These include -
 - (a) a comparatively narrow field of research where more than two potential assessors are approached and accept;
 - (b) a recommendation to seek the opinion of another scientist with specific expertise;
 - (c) widely divergent assessor opinions (where time permits).

Assessors are informed of the Raine Foundation's non-disclosure policy which was introduced to protect confidential information, particularly relating to intellectual property and potential commercial material. Assessors who agree to review an application accept the commission on this basis. Each assessor is offered an honorarium that ranges between AUD\$500-\$600 equivalent, subject to currency fluctuations.

Assessors who accepted the commission to review an application for a Clinician Research Fellowship or a Raine Priming Grant were each sent full details of the selection procedure in a position paper entitled: *Guide for Assessors*, which included a copy of the Guidelines/Conditions governing Clinician Research Fellowships or Raine Priming Grants, as appropriate. In the case of Priming Grants, Assessors were informed that the inclusion of Associate Investigators on an application was appropriate where special expertise or clinical guidance was required, although it was further noted that the involvement of co-investigators would be minimal. Assessors of both programs also received a copy of the NHMRC Project Grants Category Descriptors for information.

Assessors were asked to notify the Raine Director if, on reflection, they found that the project was not within their area of expertise, or if they subsequently recognised that they were involved directly or indirectly with the applicant or co-investigator(s)/mentor through any scientific collaboration or personal connection.

Assessors were assured that Assessment Reports were afforded a high level of confidentiality. It was further explained that, while the selection process did not include interviews, assessment reports were released anonymously to applicants who were invited to submit a response. The reports were also released anonymously to the Research Committee.

In order to ensure anonymity of assessors, all document metadata relating to the author was removed.

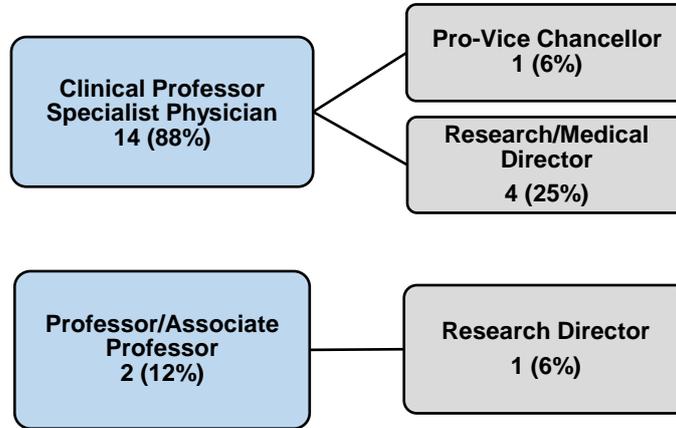
Clinician Research Fellowship Applications (R6)

A total of 14 applications were received for a Clinician Research Fellowship in Round Six. After a lengthy and comprehensive review of each individual application, the Research Committee reached the decision that seven applications were unsuitable for external review on the basis that they were not sufficiently competitive in the current cohort. The remaining seven applications were short-listed for external review. All candidates were advised the outcome of the preliminary screening process.

In total, 57 international scientist/clinicians were identified using the procedure described above. Of these, 16 assessors accepted the invitation to review a project. Eleven reviewers were international and five reviewers were national, and all were distinguished clinicians in their field of translational medicine. All 16 were professorial appointments attached to their respective University hospital and all were involved in leading major research programs.

Of the seven applications, five were assigned to two independent assessors and two were assigned to a third assessor. The academic status of the assessors is provided in the graph overleaf:

Status of Assessors



Country of Origin

Country	Number of Assessors
Australia	5
United States of America	5
Denmark	2
Canada	1
New Zealand	1
Norway	1
United Kingdom	1
Total Assessors	16

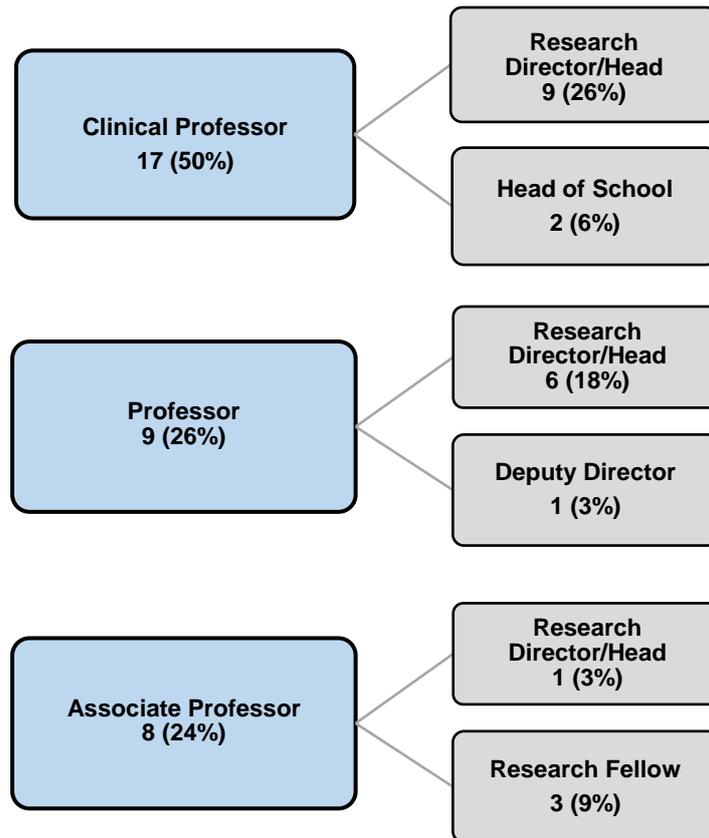
There were no Western Australia based reviewers appointed. Particular care was taken to honour the request of candidates who nominated a scientist/group that they would prefer were not approached.

2018 Raine Priming Grant Applications

A total of 34 applications were received for a Raine Priming Grant for 2018. In the preliminary screening process a thorough investigation identified six applications which were ineligible. The Research Committee identified a further 13 applications where it was considered the application was ‘premature’ and/or uncompetitive in the current cohort. These applicants were advised accordingly. A total of 15 applications were shortlisted for external review. One application was subsequently withdrawn after the review process.

In total, 90 international scientists were identified using the procedure described above. Of these, 34 accepted the invitation to review an application. All 15 applications were each assigned to two independent assessors, with four applications assigned to a third assessor.

Status of Assessors



Country of Origin

Country	Number of Assessors
United States of America	13
Australia	8
Netherlands	4
United Kingdom	2
France	2
Germany	1
Singapore	1
New Zealand	1
Switzerland	1
Portugal	1
Total	34

Again, particular care was taken to honour the request of candidates who nominated a scientist/group that they would prefer were not approached.