# EMC Funding Strategy 2021

The Eisdell Moore Centre was established to bring together researchers and clinicians to undertake multidisciplinary research aimed at developing prevention, treatment and interventions for hearing impairment and balance disorders.

This year we have $350,000 of funding from the Hearing Research Foundation to distribute as grants.

**Types of Grants**

1. **Project/Capability Grants (max $70k for up to 2 years).** These are grants for maintaining capability within a research group while seeking longer-term funding. Applicants should ensure their applications are directed towards meeting the Centre’s strategic objectives, that they involve collaborations within the Centre and preferably across universities and should describe how the EMC funding may influence subsequent grant applications.
2. **Seeding Grants (max $70k for up to 2 years):** These should demonstrate new and innovative ideas or approaches to answering questions of importance to the Centre’s objectives. These grants may be to, for example, test the feasibility of a research plan, establish methods or develop pilot data for a larger, future application. Applicants should ensure their application and the future application is directed towards meeting the Centre’s strategic objectives, that the project involves collaborations within the Centre and preferably across universities and should describe how the research collaboration may influence subsequent grant applications. The approach to obtain further funding and names of funding agencies needs to be stated.
3. **Māori Research Project Grant (1 grant, max $70k for up to 2 years):** This grant is for Māori-Centred, Kaupapa Māori research in hearing and balance. It must uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi and support the advancement of Māori knowledge, resources, and health equity. It is expected that a significant proportion of the research team will be Māori.
4. **Pacific Research Project Grant (1 grant, max $70k for up to 2 years):** This grant is for research that will improve hearing and balance health for Pacific peoples, families and communities, within New Zealand and the Pacific region. It is expected that a significant proportion of the research team will be of Pacific descent. Grants for research in the Pacific region must be held by an investigator in New Zealand.
5. **PhD student and Clinician Grants (approximately $5,000 for up to 2 years).** These grants are designed to support additional working expenses for doctoral (eg PhD, MD) students and to assist practising clinicians to become engaged in research. $5,000 is an indicative value of the grant, but we will be happy to receive applications for greater values if warranted.

**Objectives and funding priorities**

***The funding priorities for 2021 are:***

1. To encourage research that partners with Māori Communities.
2. To encourage research that partners Pacific Communities
3. To maintain a platform of research capability for hearing and balance in Aotearoa.
4. To provide seed funding for new research/collaborations/feasibility studies, with a clear pathway for how this grant will be used to leverage further funding.
5. To encourage multicentre/multidisciplinary research, clinician and community research.

***The EMC will support work to develop grant proposals:***

* Mobility funding, and meeting organisation is available if you would like to get a group together to develop a research proposal. We will fund up to $1000 for national travel, and can organise meetings for your group (e.g. find suitable dates for the group, arrange Zoom links, send out material). Enquire about this: emcentre@auckland.ac.nz

* A presentation by Dr Meagan Barclay will provide further information on preparation of grant applications. It will include detail on the purpose of EMC grants, the funding priorities of the EMC and more specific details on completing the grant application, including the pathways to impact section. This webinar will be posted [here](https://www.emcentre.ac.nz/our-research/funding-opportunities/) by the 30 July 2021.
* Resources for addressing the Responsiveness to Māori Section can be found [here](https://cpb-ap-se2.wpmucdn.com/blogs.auckland.ac.nz/dist/1/395/files/2020/04/EMC-Responsiveness-to-Maori-document.pdf). Have a good read through these and if you have further questions regarding how you approach this section, you can send them to Alehandrea Manuel (alehandrea.manuel@auckland.ac.nz) and she will address these in a podcast on [Whakarongo Mai](https://www.emcentre.ac.nz/podcast/) that will be released in September. See dates below.
* Ongoing support to develop grant applications will be provided by Dr Barclay – m.barclay@auckland.ac.nz.

**Timeline**

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| * 20 July 2021
 | Call for Grant Applications |
| * 27 August 2021
 | Deadline for submitting questions regarding Responsiveness to Māori section in EMC Grants. |
| * 10 Sept 2021
 | Q&A Responsiveness to Māori in research podcast released on Whakarongo Mai |
| * **22 Sept 2021**
 | **Closing date for applications** |

**Submission**

Grants should be submitted to the EMC directly (emcentre@auckland.ac.nz). University of Auckland applicants do not need to upload their applications to the Research Funding Module – this will be managed post-award. Applicants from other institutions should follow the submission processes for their institution.

***The following MUST be submitted with your application:***

1. Email confirmation from all named investigators that they have read the application and that their involvement in the project is as stated on the application.
2. Email confirmation from your Research Support Team that the budget for the project has been checked and that salary costs are accurate.

**Assessment**

Assessment of the grants will be undertaken in October and November and successful applicants will be notified by early December 2021.

**Assessing Committee (approx. 7 members):**

* + 2 x External to the Centre
	+ 1 x Representative from EMC Directorate
	+ 4 x EMC Committee members

Committee will include:

* + 1 x Basic Science Researcher
	+ 1 x Applied Science Researcher
	+ 1 x Clinician/Clinical researcher
	+ 1 x Early Career Researcher

The Committee will be decided via an EOI process in September. Principal Investigators on grant applications for the 2021 round will not be able to serve on the committee.

**Process:**

Grants will be assessed by the committee under the following criteria:

* Scientific merit including feasibility and budget (40%)
* Research team and collaborations (20%)
* Impact and if appropriate, potential for further funding (20%)
* Alignment to the goals of the EMC (20%)

Final ranking of research proposals will be confirmed by the committee and submitted to the Directorate.

**Māori Assessing Committee:**

Māori Research Grants and the Responsiveness to Māori section will be assessed by the Māori Advisory Committee.

* Funding recommendation will be made on the Māori Research Proposals.
* Māori Health Advancement Section will be assessed and graded and commentary provided to applicants. The Centre is currently adopting a policy of education for applicants, with regards to how to address this section in EMC grants, however from next year, the grade for this section will form part of the final grade of the grant.

**Assessment of Pacific grant applications:**

Pacific-centred grant applications will be also assessed by the EMC Pacific Advisory Board.

**Final Funding Recommendations**

EMC Directorate with input from the Management Committee will make final funding recommendations utilising input from all assessing committees.

**Guidelines and Eligibility**

* Please ensure you follow the instructions in the application notes.
* The Centre encourages joint funding research proposals. We currently have an agreement with the AMRF and with the Neurological Foundation that they will jointly fund projects with us and are happy to engage with other funding agencies as necessary. Please contact Dr Meagan Barclay (m.barclay@auckland.ac.nz) if you plan to submit your application to other agencies in addition to the EMC.
* The Centre will not fund:
* Salaries (i.e. buy out) of academic staff or professional staff currently employed permanently in host universities
* Student stipends and course fees
* Equipment and computers
* Conference travel – this must be applied for separately.
* The Centre will fund salary buy out for clinicians that are employed by DHB’s and private practices to facilitate their participation in a research project.
* Applicants must be employed by, or enrolled at a New Zealand Institution. Institution does not only refer to tertiary institutions and can be a clinic, company, DHB etc.
* The Directorate makes the final decision and has the right to add or modify criteria or conditions of the grants to ensure awards align with the Hearing Research Foundation funding expectations and conditions of its donation.
* The Oversight Board of the EMC provides final approvals for distribution of funding.