

# Grant Funding Allocation for 2025



**AUSTIN  
MEDICAL  
RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION**

12 December 2024

The Foundation is pleased to announce that the following research projects will be funded in 2025.

## **Bernie Sweet Clinical Research Fellowship**

| <b>Investigator</b> | <b>Department</b>         | <b>Project Title</b>  | <b>Amount</b>   |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Dr Mardiana Lee     | Nephrology, Austin Health | Treating Polycystic Kidney Disease with a New Therapy ATX-304 | <b>\$30,000</b> |

## **Early Career Innovation Seeding Grant**

| <b>Investigator</b> | <b>Department</b>             | <b>Project Title</b>   | <b>Amount</b>   |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Dr Karen Oliver     | Epilepsy Research Centre, UoM | Identifying genetic modifiers contributing to clinical variability in families with epilepsy | <b>\$20,000</b> |

## **Project Grants**

| <b>Investigator</b>    | <b>Department</b>                             | <b>Project Title</b>  | <b>Amount</b>   |
|------------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| Dr Annalisa Carli      | Cancer and Inflammation Laboratory, ONJ       | Understanding How HCK Could Help Treat Lung Cancer and Chronic Lung Inflammation                        | <b>\$20,000</b> |
| Dr Kok Fei Chan        | Mucosal Immunity and Cancer Laboratory, ONJ   | Enhancing innate immune response against cancers  | <b>\$20,000</b> |
| Dr Edward Chew         | Pathology, Austin Health                      | Does ultra-sensitive measurement of chimerism after a bone marrow stem cell transplant predict relapse? | <b>\$30,000</b> |
| A/Prof Rachel Davey    | Medicine, UoM                                 | Preventing fractures in transwomen using translational models   | <b>\$20,000</b> |
| Dr Natasha De Alwis    | Obstetrics, Gynaecology & Newborn Health, UoM | Enhancing nanoparticle delivery of RNA therapies to the placenta  | <b>\$30,000</b> |
| A/Prof Douglas Fairlie | Cell Death and Survival Lab, ONJ              | Potential new treatment options for pancreatic cancer   | <b>\$22,000</b> |
| Dr Hong He             | Surgery, UoM                                  | Vaccine-Based Combination Therapy for Effective Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer                          | <b>\$20,000</b> |
| Dr Catherine Hill      | Physiotherapy, Austin Health                  | Respiratory training after pulmonary rehabilitation   | <b>\$20,000</b> |
| Dr Anne Huber          | Molecular Immunology Laboratory, ONJ          | Improving Cancer Immunotherapies by targeting TAK1  | <b>\$20,000</b> |
| A/Prof Richard Khor    | Radiation Oncology, ONJ                       | TICKER  | <b>\$20,000</b> |

| <b>Investigator</b>         | <b>Department</b>   | <b>Project Title</b>   | <b>Amount</b>    |
|-----------------------------|---|--|------------------|
| Dr Ian Luk                  | Cancer Biology and Therapy program, ONJ                             | Modelling gastric cancer in the mouse  | <b>\$20,000</b>  |
| A/Prof Kathy Paizis         | Nephrology, Austin Health   | Confirmation of a specific pattern of gene expression in urine of women with pre-eclampsia | <b>\$30,000</b>  |
| Dr Sia Pefanis              | Surgery, Austin Health  | Treating kidneys on machine perfusion to improve transplantation outcomes                  | <b>\$20,000</b>  |
| A/Prof David Williams       | Anatomical Pathology, Austin Health                                 | Artificial intelligence-based prediction of relapse risk in colorectal cancer              | <b>\$20,000</b>  |
| Dr Charissa Zaga            | Speech Pathology & Institute for Breathing and Sleep, Austin Health | Validation of the Communication with an Artificial airway Tool (CAT)                       | <b>\$20,000</b>  |
| <b>Total amount awarded</b> |   |  | <b>\$382,000</b> |