



Lung Foundation Australia – Laxmi Vanza Grant For Innovation in Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Research

Background

Via the [Hope Research Fund](#), Lung Foundation Australia is pleased to invite applications for the *Lung Foundation Australia - Laxmi Vanza Grant for Innovation in Pulmonary Fibrosis Research*, valued at **\$10,000 over a maximum of 2 years**.

Laxmi Vanza was diagnosed with Cryptogenic Organising Pneumonia (COP) and breast cancer in 2011. With treatment, her breast cancer was cured; however, Laxmi's lung disease gradually progressed to severe pulmonary fibrosis, and sadly, she passed away in 2021. A loving and giving person, Laxmi left behind a husband, two sons, and four grandchildren. She touched many lives throughout her life, and her passing caused great sorrow within the community.

Laxmi would whole-heartedly support research into the treatment and symptomatic management of pulmonary fibrosis to improve outcomes for patients and families. She would be proud and honoured to assist researchers in fighting pulmonary fibrosis, with the future goal of finding a cure. Narendra, Neil & Samir are proud to partner with the Lung Foundation to name this research grant in her honour.

The awarded funds may be used as a contribution toward existing or new pulmonary fibrosis related research projects. In memory of Laxmi, the Vanza family welcomes applications focused on environmental and genetic causes and/or symptomatic or curative treatment of pulmonary fibrosis.

Impact Statement

The Vanza family has provided an impact statement to help applicants and reviewers to better understand the motivations and desired outcomes of this award. Please review the recording [at this link](#).

The content of the recording is reflected below:

Laxmi Vanza lived her life as a loving, strong and independent woman. She managed to balance work, raising two boys, caring for a mother and father-in-law, and housework without a complaint. Juggling all these responsibilities she also managed to find time to organise charity events for senior citizens and breast cancer awareness and was president of an Indian cultural community group. She was a true social butterfly who was able to light up a room with a smile and witty conversation.

Laxmi was deeply spiritual, a regular meditator and had a positive outlook on life. Hence her diagnosis of lung fibrosis and breast cancer in 2012 was a shock to both her and the family. Her breast cancer was successfully surgically removed; however, the lung fibrosis took considerable time to diagnose and treat involving multiple different respiratory specialists and pathologists. An eventual diagnosis of cryptogenic organizing pneumonia was made, and long-term treatment began. A few years later she battled a recurrence of her breast cancer and underwent surgery, chemotherapy and immunotherapy leading to a cure.

Over a period of ten years, Laxmi's lung fibrosis progressed despite treatment. The disease slowly contracted her ability to leave the home and socialise. Managing cooking, cleaning and self-care became difficult over time despite continuous oxygen therapy. Laxmi was a complete contrast to the woman she was ten years prior. The family felt helpless watching this gradual deterioration and this was the most difficult part of Laxmi's and the family's journey. An early referral to palliative care services was vital for symptom management. The tipping point arrived in her final months when she was diagnosed with severe pulmonary hypertension and right heart failure. She passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family at the age of sixty-six.

With the help of immunotherapy, oxygen and the RPA pulmonary fibrosis clinic Laxmi survived 10 years. While Laxmi gained happiness from seeing her four grandchildren, deep down she prayed for a cure. In consideration of these wishes, the Vanza family would like to see the funds from this grant dedicated to research on drugs to slow or reverse the progression of pulmonary fibrosis. The aim of such research would be to maintain quality of life and alleviate suffering related to symptoms of pulmonary fibrosis.

Application Guidelines

1. This Grant is open to early and mid-career researchers who are undertaking or have completed advanced training in any health or science discipline **or** who have graduated with a higher degree in an area directly related to respiratory research within the last ten (10) years of the closing date for this application.
2. Applicants **must** be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia who has an undergraduate degree in a relevant scientific or clinical research field and, if required has professional accreditation in their chosen profession.
3. Applicants **must** be able to demonstrate relevant clinical and/or research experience.
4. **Where applicable**, applicants should include details of support from a senior investigator (Supervisor) with a strong track record in a related research field.
5. A letter of support on university / institution letterhead co-signed by the Supervisor and/or an authorised research administrative officer from the university / institution **is required** as part of the application.
6. Matched funds provided by the applicant's host institution are **not required** to meet eligibility criteria however would be regarded favourably to extend the value of the research investment provided by the Hope Research Fund. See *Terms and Conditions below*.
7. Applicants **must** be a member of Lung Foundation Australia (Health Professional Category). Evidence of membership is required as part of the Grant application. Apply for membership [here](#).

8. Successful applicants **must** be prepared to become a professional member of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) upon awarding of the Scholarship.
9. Applicants cannot be the beneficiary of more than one Lung Foundation Australia Grant or Award at the same time. Previous recipients of Lung Foundation Grants and Awards may apply, provided that they have successfully completed all final reporting requirements for a previous Award in alignment with clause 11 of the Research Grants and Awards Policy.

Terms and Conditions

1. This Research Grant is subject to the terms and conditions of the [Lung Foundation Australia Research Grants and Awards Policy](#).
2. The duration is **a maximum of two years** from the date of commencement.
3. If Grant funds (the Award) will be used to supplement other sources of funding for the research project, the Applicant must specify as part of their application the amount and source of other funding.
4. Regarding matched funding (if applicable), Applicants are asked to confirm the contribution of matched funding in addition to other sources of funding (as mentioned above) in the letter of support provided with the application.
5. A budget for the proposed research plan should be included as part of the application, confirming use of the Award to support direct costs of research and allocation of other sources of funding (if applicable) to additional direct and/or indirect research costs.
6. The Award is paid from notice of commencement of the research project and in accordance with the Research Agreement to be negotiated between the Administering Institution and Lung Foundation Australia.
7. If the Grant is not taken up within twelve (12) calendar months the Award will be forfeited.
8. Applicants must agree to participate in marketing and communication's activities to promote the Foundation and the Hope Research Fund.
9. The successful applicant (the Recipient) will be notified of outcomes during February 2023 with funds available from 1st March 2023. The Scholarship will be awarded publicly at the 2023 TSANZ ASM (25th – 28th March 2023) and remains under embargo until this time.
10. To measure impact of the Hope Research Fund and track contribution to researcher career progression, the Recipient must report annually on their research progress **and** future research outputs for up to five years following the end of the Grant via the Foundation's Researchfish platform.
11. The Recipient is required to submit the results of the research for possible presentation at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the TSANZ or an equivalent international meeting within 12 months of completion of the funding.
12. Any publication/s arising from research funded through the Grant are required to acknowledge the Hope Research Fund, Lung Foundation Australia and the Vanza Family as sources of funding, as per the Research Grants & Awards Policy. The award can be cited as the *Lung Foundation Australia (Hope Research Fund) – Laxmi Vanza Grant for Innovation in Pulmonary Fibrosis Research*.
13. In the event of there being no suitable applicants, the Scholarship may not be awarded.

Application Assessment

Applications will be assessed by the Research Sub-Committee of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ). Recommendations made by the Research Sub-Committee will be ratified by the Lung Foundation Australia Board.

Criterion	Weight
Scientific merit including appropriateness of methods.	40%
Track record relative to opportunity (Applicant and Supervisor/s as relevant).	25%
Feasibility of project and budget (<i>outlines reasonable allocation of funds, including confirmation of scholarship funds to support student stipend and allocation of additional sources of funding, if held</i>).	10%
Significance of the proposed project, including alignment with the family impact statement and alignment with the provided background and significance to individuals impacted by Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis.	25%
Total	100%

Application Form

Before completing the below sections of the application form please read the [Lung Foundation Australia Research Grants and Awards Policy](#).

Please complete **all** sections of the application form using 12-point Times New Roman font and ensure your application has all supporting documents requested. Applications which do not comply with these requirements will not be assessed.

Applicants are required to submit their applications electronically via the [Lung Foundation Australia Awards Submission Portal](#). This will require your application and supporting documents to be saved as a single PDF file before it is uploaded.

Electronic submission to be dated no later than **5pm AEDT, 09 December 2023**. Applications submitted after the submission date will **not** be accepted. For all submission enquires please contact the LFA Awards Coordinator: research@lungfoundation.com.au.

Application form is continued on next page.

Applicant Details

Title				Dr	Mr	Mrs	Ms	Miss	Other:
First Name									
Last Name									
Postal Address									
Suburb					State		Postcode		
Contact		T:			M:				
		Email:							
Signature								Date:	

Project Details and Proposed Research Plan

Project Title			
Institution			
Proposed primary Supervisor			
Proposed additional Supervisor/s			
Primary Supervisor Signature		Date	

- Lay description of the research** *One-half page maximum.*
- Outline of the overall research plan including research questions, methodology, statistical analysis, sample size calculation and feasibility of completing the project within time frame** *Two pages maximum, plus references.*
- Detail of how the project aligns with the family impact statement/provided award background and the significance to individuals impacted by Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis.** *One page maximum.*
- Applicant track record and evidence of early to mid-career status.** *Two pages (A4) maximum. Please include any that apply: research experience, publications or presentations, academic performance, professional/scientific standing, relevant work experience. Include any significant career disruptions supporting eligibility outside the listed criteria in a separate page (maximum one A4 page).*
- Supervisor track record in respiratory disease and/or related research field** *Two pages maximum. Please include any that apply: supervision experience, research*

experience, research funding, publications (top 5 relevant), presentations (top 5 relevant), academic performance, professional/scientific standing.

6. **Budget of direct research costs as a table** One page maximum. Provide a detailed research plan budget, confirming use of the Award as a contribution to direct research costs and allocation of additional sources of funding (university matched funds, other grants etc.) Use the template below, adding rows as required.

Budget Item <i>e.g. wages, equipment, resources/supplies</i>	Funding requested (excl. GST)	Description/Justification <i>(<100 words per item)</i>
TOTAL		

7. **Per the Research Grants and Awards Policy, matched funding will be highly regarded, but is not a requirement for your application. If relevant provide a Letter of Support on institution letterhead (co-signed by your Primary Supervisor and Authorised Officer from your university / institution). The letter should state agreement to contribute an equal (or greater) amount to the Award value being provided by Lung Foundation Australia.**

Application Checklist

When submitting your application via Lung Foundation's eProcure portal, you will be required to confirm you have addressed the requirements per the below checklist:

Item	Details
1.	You have read the Lung Foundation Australia Research Grants and Awards Policy and agree to comply with the Terms and Conditions stated in this document.
2.	You meet the eligibility criteria for the Grant and your application falls within the relevant domains of research enquiry for this award (see background section above)
3.	Project details and Proposed Research Plan sections are completed, including budget outlining use of Award funds and alternative sources of funding (if held).
4.	Applicant and Supervisor track records are included with Supervisor's signature to indicate involvement in the study.

5.	In the case of matched funding being provided, a Letter of Support is included.
6.	All documents are formatted correctly: All text submitted on A4 pages with a 2cm margin to the top, bottom, left and right. Text must be single line spaced, with size 12 Times New Roman font. No columns are permitted.
7.	You agree that that the work and investigators included in this project, including yourself, have not had a real or perceived, direct or indirect link to any entity that develops or markets tobacco-based products, whether combustible or non-combustible or any entity that develops or markets nicotine delivery products that are not approved for therapeutic use.
8.	Evidence of Lung Foundation Australia membership (Health Professional Category) is included.
9.	Evidence of existing Thoracic Society of Australia & New Zealand professional membership is included or you agree to provide if successful.

Timeline

Date / time	
14 October 2022	Open to application
09 December 2022, 5pm AEDT	Applications closed
February 2023	Notification period All applicants will be advised of the outcome by email Please note that notification may be delayed if the review process being undertaken exceeds estimated time frame
25-28 March 2023	Awarded at TSANZ ASM

Enquiries

For all application enquiries:

ATT: General Manager, Clinical Programs Research & Innovation, Lung Foundation Australia
e: research@lungfoundation.com.au

For all post-submission enquiries:

TSANZ Awards Coordinator
e: TSANZawards@thoracic.org.au