

12 September 2023

Tracey Rudd
Australian Rheumatology Association
Via email: Tracey.Rudd@rheumatology.org.au

Dear Tracey,

Re: 2024 Arthritis Australia National Grants Research Program

On 25th August 2023, the Arthritis Australia Grants Assessment Committee met to discuss a total of 75 applications for the for the 2024 National Research Program.

Present were the committee members: Helen Benham - Chair, Susanna Proudman, Kerry Mace, Jenny Walker, Ilana Ackerman, Sanaa Zaki, Michelle Hall, Tasha Stanton, Mihir Wechalekar, and Lauren Host.

Our Board has now resolved to award the grants recommended by the GAC, listed below, which were enabled by the generous donation from the ARA Research Fund.

Please convey to the ARA Research Fund, our thanks for their continued commitment to and support of the National Research Program. I will, of course, share results from the 2024 funded projects, when the reports are made available, I expect early to mid-2025.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions regarding these projects.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Smithers
Chief Executive Officer

2024 National Research Program

ARA sponsored Fellowships, Scholarships, Project Grants and Grant-in-Aid

2024 ARA Ken Muirden Overseas Training Fellowship

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Tahlia Igel
Intended department:	Monash Health, Department of Rheumatology
Project:	Identifying Ancestry-Specific Lupus Molecular Profiles that Could Uncover New Genetic Causes of SLE
Amount:	\$100,000.00

2024 ARA Philip Robinson Memorial Award

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Mandana Nikpour
Intended department:	The University of Melbourne at St Vincent's Hospital and St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research Melbourne - Department of Rheumatology and Department of Dermatology
Project:	Gene signatures in scleroderma skin: towards molecular disease classification and personalised treatment targets
Amount:	\$50,000.00

2024 Scholarship

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Ms Laura Glass
Intended department:	Westmead Institute for Medical Research, Centre for Immunology and Allergy Research
Project:	Linking genotype and autoantibodies to pathology and treatment in systemic lupus erythematosus
Amount:	\$20,000.00

2024 Project Grants

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Prof Elina Hypponen
Intended department:	University of South Australia, Clinical and Health Sciences
Project:	Machine learning to predict and prevent rheumatoid arthritis
Amount:	\$45,000.00

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Romi Haas
Intended department:	Monash University, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine
Project:	Living clinical practice guidelines for management of rotator cuff related shoulder pain: Priority questions
Amount:	\$45,000.00

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Prof Christopher Little
Intended department:	Kolling Institute - University of Sydney, Raymond Purves Bone and Joint Research Lab
Project:	Does mild joint injury and how its managed, increase risk of catastrophic injury and post-traumatic osteoarthritis?
Amount:	\$ 45,000.00

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Claire Owen
Intended department:	The University of Melbourne - Austin Health, Department of Rheumatology
Project:	Utility of 18F-FDG Whole Body PET/CT To Quantify Disease Activity and Monitor Treatment Response in PMR
Amount:	\$ 45,000.00

2024 Grant-in-Aid

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Kim Watkins
Intended department:	Curtin University, Curtin School of Allied Health
Project:	Closing gaps in osteoarthritis care through community pharmacy
Amount:	\$20,000.00

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Annabelle Small
Intended department:	Flinders University, Department of Rheumatology
Project:	Synovial neutrophils in early rheumatoid arthritis: relationship with clinical outcome and the development of improved handling procedures
Amount:	\$20,000.00

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Caitlin Jones
Intended department:	The University of Sydney, Sydney Musculoskeletal Health
Project:	REduced oPioids After joInt Replacement Surgery (REPAIRS): a pilot trial
Amount:	\$20,000.00