

11<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Tracey Rudd  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Rheumatology Association  
Via email: [Tracey.Rudd@rheumatology.org.au](mailto:Tracey.Rudd@rheumatology.org.au)

Dear Tracey,

**Re: 2025 Arthritis Australia National Research Program**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024, the Arthritis Australia Grants Assessment Committee met to discuss a total of 82 applications for the 2025 National Research Program.

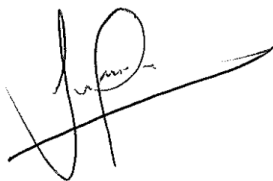
Present were the committee members: Chair- Helen Benham , Kerry Mace, Jenny Walker, Ilana Ackerman, Michelle Hall, Tasha Stanton, Mihir Wechalekar, Lauren Host, Jessica Day, Jeanette Prichard.

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 2025 funded projects, when the reports are made available from early to mid-2026.

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

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Smithers  
Chief Executive Officer

## 2025 National Research Program

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

#### 2025 ARA Ken Muirden Overseas Training Fellowship

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Bonnia Liu
Intended department:	University Medical Center Groningen, Netherlands
Project:	Application of imaging biomarkers using PET/CT in large vessel vasculitis and polymyalgia rheumatica
Amount:	\$100,000.00

#### 2025 ARA Private Practice Grant

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Paul Russo
Intended department:	The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Rheumatology Dept
Project:	JAK inhibitors in Eosinophilic Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (EGPA): a retrospective, multicenter, observational study
Amount:	\$50,000.00

#### 2025 Scholarship

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Athena Chin
Intended department:	Flinders Medical Centre, Rheumatology Dept
Project:	Clonal Haematopoiesis in Rheumatoid Arthritis
Amount:	\$25,000.00

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Jianna He
Intended department:	Westmead Institute for Medical Research, Centre for Immunology and Allergy Research
Project:	Pathogenic B cells in inflammatory myopathy
Amount:	\$25,000.00

## 2025 Project Grants

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Jessica Day
Intended department:	WEHI-Wicks Laboratory, Inflammation Division
Project:	IBM Biomarker Discovery
Amount:	\$50,000.00

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Annabelle Small
Intended department:	Flinders University, College of Medicine and Public Health
Project:	Acquired mutations as the link between rheumatoid arthritis and cardiovascular disease
Amount:	\$50,000.00

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Laura Ross
Intended department:	St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, Department of Rheumatology
Project:	Prucalopride for Treatment of Systemic Sclerosis Gastrointestinal Dysmotility
Amount:	\$ 50,000.00

## 2025 Grant-in-Aid

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Sarah Wallwork
Intended department:	University of South Australia, Allied Health and Human Performance
Project:	Co-designing the VITAL Project for juvenile idiopathic arthritis
Amount:	\$25,000.00

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Glen Whittaker
Intended department:	La Trobe University, Podiatry Dept
Project:	Patient-centered outcomes of a rheumatology podiatry service for people with foot-specific symptoms: a randomised feasibility trial
Amount:	\$25,000.00

Funded by:	ARA Research Fund
Recipient:	Dr Nicole D'Souza
Intended department:	University of Sydney, Discipline of Physiotherapy
Project:	Co-design of a knee osteoarthritis gait retraining intervention program
Amount:	\$25,000.00