



MEDICAL RESEARCH FUTURE FUND

Frontier Health and Medical Research

International Scientific Peer Review Panel

COMMUNIQUE

4 April 2019

The International Scientific Peer Review Panel (the Panel) co-chaired by Professor Ian Frazer AC and Ms Jenny Morawska met in Singapore on 18 and 19 March 2019 to assess the inaugural Stage One of the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Frontier Health and Medical Research Initiative (simply known as Frontiers).

Frontiers, a signature initiative of the MRFF, creates opportunities for Australia's best and brightest to bring together formidable multidisciplinary teams to transform new innovative research ideas into products and services that benefit Australians and the world.

The Panel would like to thank the Australian health and medical research sector and its collaborators for the passionate response to Frontiers. The Panel immensely enjoyed the opportunity to review bold and innovative submissions from across Australia and see great promise in the future of Australian health and medical research.

In reviewing the applications, and ultimately coming to a difficult decision on the first successful 10 Stage One applicants, the Panel determined that the successful applications were the ones that:

- articulated a defined problem and proposed a feasible solution of practical clinical relevance;
- were innovative and bold ideas, not merely incremental in approaches to applied new science;
- understood the global competitive context of their work;
- were able to articulate their technological and methodological point of difference sufficiently;
- had a team with a proven track record and multidisciplinary engagement;
- were more than proposals to establish networks of like-minded and skilled researchers;
- had agile fit-for-purpose governance structures able to focus on a desired outcome;
- were sufficiently narrow in focus to deliver across the Frontier stages with a credible pathway for success; and
- demonstrated an appreciation of the associated risks and incorporated strategies to address uncertainties.

Further Information

Applicants who were not successful are encouraged to apply for the second round of Stage One expected to open towards the end of 2019. Researchers are encouraged to register with GrantConnect at www.grants.gov.au to stay alert to further MRFF grant opportunities, including the second round of Frontiers – Stage One.