

## Medvet Laboratories Call for Proposals 2011: Special Research Projects

### Background:

Medvet Laboratories (Medvet) was founded in 1985, and has grown to become one of Australia's largest and most successful providers of human medical testing services and products. Medvet conducts 200,000 tests each year in the areas of workplace drug & alcohol testing, food & environmental testing and DNA testing.

Medvet also commercialises medical and scientific intellectual property from pathology and hospital environments. Medvet Laboratories operates a medical emergency retrieval business and an international patient care business.

Medvet supports medical research in South Australia. It allocates approximately 60% of its profits to this activity, and currently funds in excess of \$6.7M of research within SA Health, including (from 2010) the Cancer Genomics Facility based in the Centre for Cancer Biology, SA Pathology which is supported by a \$3.5M grant from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation and by a \$2M grant from Medvet.

Medvet now invites applications for funding in 2011 for Special Research Projects. Medvet expects to fund x 2 / 3 Special Research Fellowships. Special Research Fellowships will be typically for 3 years duration and be funded within the range of \$300k-\$500K per successful proposal.

Applications will be considered by the Medvet Research Committee in November 2010.

### Eligibility:

- Applicants must have a material connection to SA Health
  - In the proposal the applicant(s) must make clear their affiliation and connection to SA Health
- Applications must be in the field of medical research
- Applications must be for laboratory-based experimental research
  - Funding can cover staffing costs and consumables. Travel and conference attendance are excluded
- It must be clear how the proposal aligns with existing research activity within SA Health
- Applications must be for > \$50k pa
- Special Research Projects must be associated with a recent appointee (<3 years)

Preference will be given to applications that:

- Contribute to building “scale and focus”<sup>1</sup> within SA Health
- Leverage external funding (e.g. NHMRC, ACRF, LIEF and ARC Linkage)

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<sup>1</sup> Scale and focus are considered to mean: *Scale* - there is / or will be a sufficient volume of research activity within SA Health to achieve clear and distinctive national and international visibility. *Focus* - the alignment of a number of research projects within a particular field to help achieve Scale.

Exclusions - Medvet Laboratories will not fund:

- Clinical trials
- (Only in exceptional circumstances) work that has a direct commercial focus or is part of the commercialisation exercise
- The continuation of research activities or researchers that are already well established and where Medvet considers that funding could be reasonably obtained in the first instance from other sources

The Application Process:

- Applications must be lodged with the Hanson Institute Research Secretariat (Roy Sneddon) by 5pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2010
- Applications must be submitted electronically to [sneddon.roy@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:sneddon.roy@health.sa.gov.au) and set out according to the Guidelines given below
- Applications will be considered by the Research Committee in November, with outcomes announced by the end of November

Selection Criteria:

- In addition to those set out in Eligibility the committee will be looking for first and foremost **Research Excellence**
- Medvet has a clear preference to fund new research and to fund people and associated costs over equipment
- Medvet will only fund in *exceptional circumstances* continuing positions or technical staff to run equipment *etc*

***Medvet is keen to support Special Research Projects that attract outstanding young researchers into SA Health and into medical research within South Australia.***

Ranking of Proposals:

Proposals will be ranked according to:

- Track Record of researcher/research team relative to experience (30%)
- Novelty and Significance of the research proposal (30%)
- Feasibility and Experimental Method (20%)
- Likelihood to make an Impact within the State, Nationally and Internationally (20%)

Application Guidelines:

- State nature of proposal, i.e. "Special Research Project"
- Applications should NOT be more than **four** pages and one page of references (appendices are NOT allowed)
- Applicants should not use a font size less than 11 and Times New Roman is the preferred font
- There should be borders of at least 1.5 cm and a "congested" layout is not encouraged
- Initial sorting of applications may be made upon the quality of the Summary of the Proposal

Applications should include:

- A Summary to allow quick assessment of suitability
- The Track Record of the researchers / research teams
- A Background to the study
- A description of the study, focussing on its Novelty and Significance
- The Methodology to be used
- A statement of Impact

Medvet fully expects that applications will be written to the standard expected of applications to the NHMRC, ACRC or ARC and that applications are fully referenced.

Outcomes:

- Announcement will be made within one working week of the Medvet Research Committee meeting
- Limited feedback will be given; the Medvet Research Committee will NOT enter into any correspondence on a particular application

Expectations of Successful Applicants:

- Funds will be taken up within six months of the award announcement (exceptional circumstances will be considered)
- The expenditure of funds will be within the period stated within the award letter
- Compliance with any terms within the award letter, including annual reporting to the Medvet Research Committee both on the progress of the work and on the expenditure of funds
- Should alternative funding (e.g. an NHMRC, ACRC or ARC) be awarded unused funding will be returned to Medvet

Prof Rob Short, FRSC

Chairman, Medvet Research Committee

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