

Fueling your research: how ECRs can secure grants

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MSHC

MELBOURNE SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE



MONASH
University

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE





Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodian of the land that we gather, the Kurna People, and pay our respect to the Elders, past and present.

We acknowledge the on-going cultural and spiritual connections to the land and waterways that have spanned for more than 60,000 years as the oldest continuing culture in the world.

Purposes

- Overview of main funding schemes in Australia
 - Grants ECRs should be aware of
- Example of community and consumer engagement


Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

- Director, largest public sexual health clinic in Australia
 - >56,000 consultations a year
- Free sexual health services
- Research centre
 - >133 publications a year
 - Seven full professors



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Your experts in sexual health

[Accessing our clinic](#) [Our services](#)

Opening hours
Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm
Closed Victorian public holidays
CURRENTLY OPEN

Phone
03 9341 6200

You can access other STI clinics closer to you.

[Other clinics near you](#)

[STI testing & treatment](#) [Sexual health fact sheets](#) [Clinical treatment guidelines](#) [Other clinic services](#)



SERVICES

Our partner GP clinics

You can also visit one of our partner health services for STI testing and treatment. Some services have online booking available.



EDUCATION

Clinical education for GPs

We produce and curate a range of videos for GPs to help broaden their knowledge and skills in sexual health.



RESEARCH

Current research studies

Find out more about our current and completed research studies.

My research track record

- \$24 M of funding (\$21 M as Chief-Investigator)
 - NHMRC (Investigator, Partnership, CRE, eAsia, etc..)
 - WHO (Request for proposals, commissioned)
 - International (US NIH)
 - University-based (Monash Warwick Alliance)
 - Industry (Pharmaceutical companies)
 - Philanthropic (John F Marriott for HIV Trust)



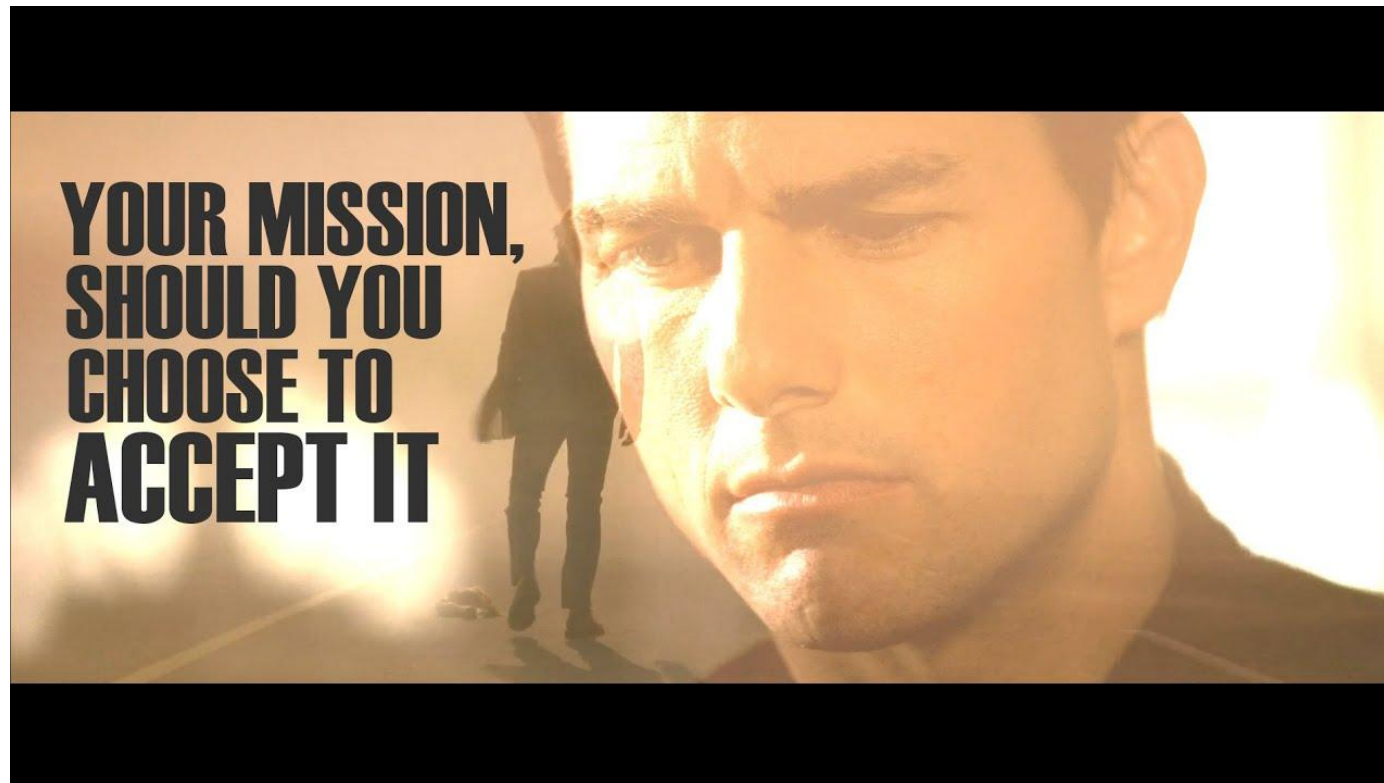
Types of funding

- Hundreds of funding opportunities but only a small number relevant for you (ECRs)



Your task

Identify a funding source you haven't explored before and go after it!



Types of funding

- Main types
- Sectors
- Location
- Scale

Main types

- Grants and fellowships
- Contract research
- Consultancy
- Tenders

Main types

- Grants and fellowships
 - NHMRC / MRFF / ARC
 - Your own research vs. Priorities of funder
 - Grants = usually awarded to teams
 - Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies, Synergy, Centres of Research Excellence, Partnership, Development
 - Fellowships = usually to individual (+ salary)
 - Investigator, Ideas, Postgraduate scholarship (PhD/Masters)



Funding schemes and calendar



This is a list of all our current and upcoming funding schemes with relevant dates. You can also search for upcoming, open and recently closed grant schemes using our [Find funding](#) tool.

Funding calendar

Funding scheme	Applications open▼	Minimum data due	Applications close
Centres of Research Excellence	01 Oct 2025	29 Oct 2025	19 Nov 2025 - 5:00pm
Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies Grants	10 Sep 2025	08 Oct 2025	05 Nov 2025 - 5:00pm
MRFF - 2025 Genomics Health Futures Grant Opportunity (GO7833)	13 Aug 2025	21 Jan 2026	04 Feb 2026 - 5:00pm
MRFF - 2025 Maternal Health and Healthy Lifestyles Grant Opportunity (GO7816)	06 Aug 2025	19 Nov 2025	03 Dec 2025 - 5:00pm
Partnership Projects PRC3	24 Jul 2025	12 Nov 2025	26 Nov 2025 - 5:00pm

I am looking for

Select an option

Select an option

Our Funding Schemes

Partnering with us

International Opportunities

Medical Research Future Fund

Targeted Calls for Research

- International opportunities
 - eAsia multicountry Grant
 - ECRs encouraged to be in country teams
- MRFF
 - Early-Mid Career Researchers Grant Opportunity
- Targeted Calls for Research
 - Anal cancer
 - (HIV prevention)
 - (Syphilis control)



Main types

- Contract research
 - Organisation invites researcher (or team) to undertake specific project
 - Deliverables for the contracting organisation
- Consultancy
 - e.g. WHO global guidelines (8)
 - Developing training materials, literature/systematic reviews, reports
- Tenders
 - Organisation invites bids to undertake project or offer service
 - AusTender

Sector

- Government (Federal or State)
- Internal (University)
- Industry
- Philanthropy



Sector

- Government (Federal or State)
 - National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
 - Australian Research Council (ARC)
 - Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)
 - Government Departments
 - Dept of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions ([StudyWell](#))

GO ID (Include the prefix 'GO')

Keyword

reproductive

All of the words



Search Results

Showing 1-3 of 3 records

Sort By

Close Date & Time - Ascending



Sort

Platform to support miscarriage
resources for parents and families

GO ID: [GO7797](#)

Close Date & Time: 4-Sep-2025 2:00 pm (ACT Local Time)

Agency: Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Primary Category: Reproductive Health

Description: This grant opportunity was announced as part of the 2024-25 Budget which allocated funds to support the Government's com...

[Full Details](#) 

Long-acting reversible contraception
(LARC) Centres of Excellence (CoE)

GO ID: [GO7780](#)

Close Date & Time: 24-Sep-2025 2:00 pm (ACT Local Time)

Agency: Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Primary Category: Health Promotion and Prevention Programs

Description: The 2025-26 Budget allocated funds to establish 8 LARC CoEs to provide LARC services to individuals and accredited LARC ...

[Full Details](#) 

Set up and manage your Notification Settings

You can edit your Notification Settings on GrantConnect by logging in using your email address and password. Once logged in, select the arrow on the right of your login details then press the 'Edit Profile' link.

After editing your profile, select the 'Save' button to confirm the changes made.



Notification Hot Tips

- Enabling notifications within GrantConnect will ensure you receive notifications of new Grant Opportunities.
- Notification settings in GrantConnect are edited in your main Registered User profile.

Sector

- Internal (University)
 - School, Faculty, internal teams or centrally from Research Portfolio.
 - Check newsletters
 - Monash-Warwick Alliance
- Industry
 - Gilead Sciences, Viiv, Roche, etc...
- Philanthropy
 - John F Marriott for HIV Trust (PrEP STAT)
 - Glendonbrook Foundation (\$5 M for anal cancer research)

Location

- Australia
- International

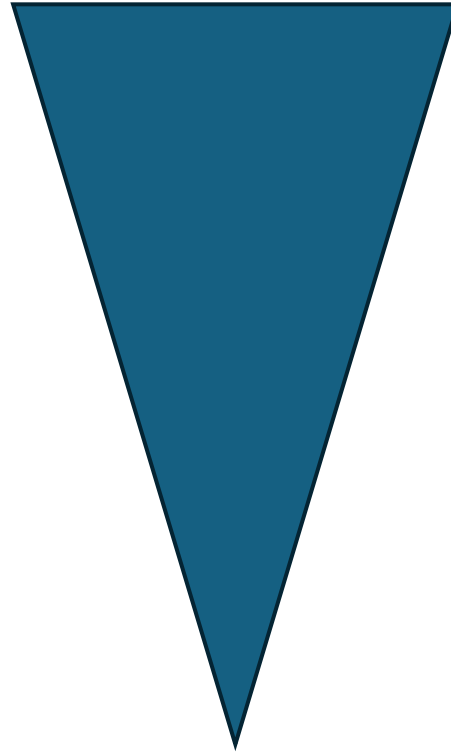
Location

- Australia
 - As described above
 - Can also support international projects
- International
 - US NIH (Nigeria HIVST / cervical cancer prevention)
 - UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)
 - Wellcome Trust
 - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
 - Check eligibility (lead application or is part of sub-award/consultancy)

Scale

- Seed
- Project
- Program
- Centre

Highly relevant for ECRs
– actively pursue these!



Less relevant for ECRs
but stay involved... (AI, co-applicant)

Scale

- Seed
 - Kick-start new research idea in view of subsequent application for project funding
 - Small-scale preliminary work (PrEP STAT – PhD student as co-applicant – on CV!)
- Project
 - Single focus/objective e.g. ending HIV transmission

Scale

- Program
 - Series of projects around a well-defined topic/issue
 - More typical of senior researchers but plenty of opportunities for ECRs
 - E-Asia multi country grant
- Centres
 - Series of exemplar projects, fund collaborations between teams and organisations
 - Centre of Research Excellence (NEIS, STRIDE)
 - Focus on ECRs – join ECR newsletter to funding rounds/supports for ECRs (travel/conference grants)

PhD scholarships, ECR-focused grants

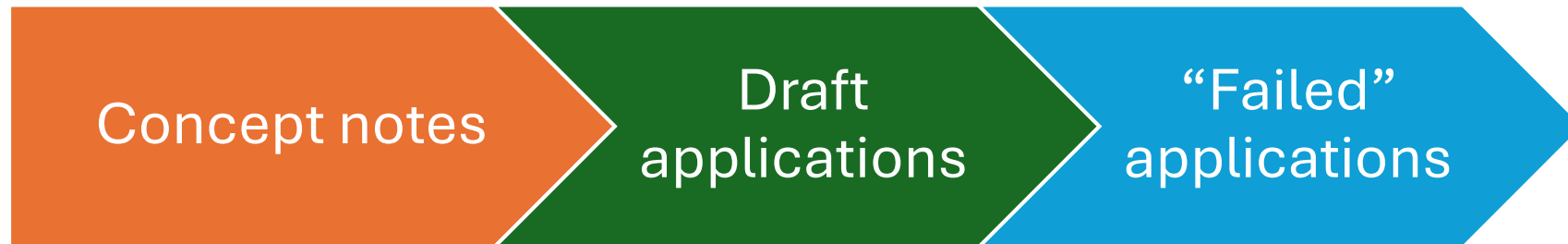
- NEIS CRE
 - Control of *Neisseria meningitidis* and *N. gonorrhoeae*
- STRIDE CRE
 - Economics of control of infectious diseases
- RAPID CRE
 - Molecular testing
- AMR Hub
 - Antimicrobial resistance

Top tips for ECRs

- Funding for ECRs can come from a variety of places with different scales and for different intended purposes
- Check websites regularly (sign up for alerts where you can)
 - ECR newsletters
 - CRE ECR newsletters
- Prioritise time for grantsmanship

Top tips for ECRs

- Regularly submit applications
 - Be ready for opportunities!
 - Have something in each “bucket”



Community and consumer engagement

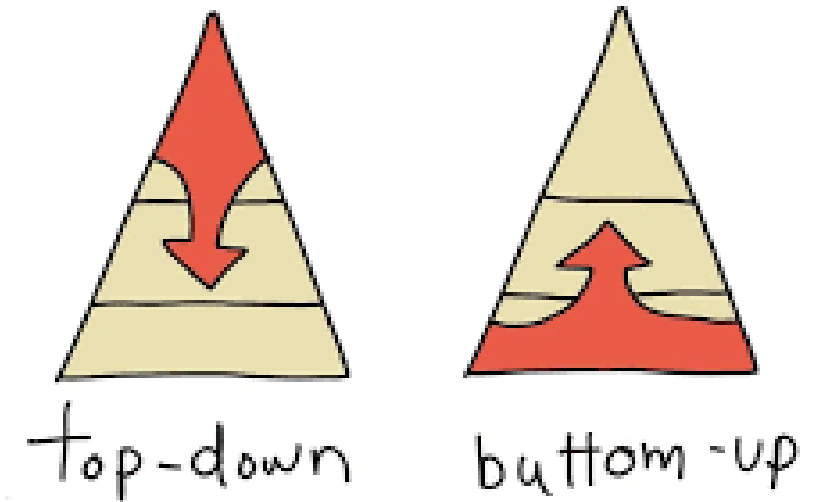
My research focus

- HIV among marginalized populations
- Community/consumer engagement is at the heart of my research / services I provide via MSHC



Involve community from beginning

- Crowdsourcing / Designathons / Discrete choice experiments
- Examples:
 - Ending HIV network (Victoria)
 - Community members / Researchers / CBOs / Clinicians
 - “StudyWell” website
 - PrEP STAT



Community, Consumers

Starting with community

- Great ideas
 - Hot Peach Tea audio drama
 - PrEP STAT Love pack



Intervention:

The community-based audio drama— Hot Peach Tea

- A 3-day designathon at the Alfred Centre, Melbourne, Australia in April 2023
- 8 teams | 30 participants



Intervention:

The community-based audio drama—
Hot Peach Tea



BRAINSTORMING

with people from
different backgrounds



MENTORING

get to learn from experts



NETWORKING

connect to people who has
similar interest

Intervention:

The community-based audio drama—
Hot Peach Tea



Hot Peach Tea

Participatory digital storytelling to improve PrEP literacy among
Asian-born MSM in Australia



Further developed by the winning
team, researchers, community
members and professional
scriptwriters between July 2023 and
March 2024



Refined through three focus groups

Intervention:

The community-based audio drama—
Hot Peach Tea

- Six podcast-style episodes in English.

Written by

- Asian-born MSM living in Australia
- Professional scriptwriters

Reviewed by

- community members
- research team

Intervention:

The community-based audio drama—
Hot Peach Tea



‘PrEP is for everyone, being on PrEP doesn’t mean saying goodbye to your culture’.

Open Forum Infectious Diseases

MAJOR ARTICLE



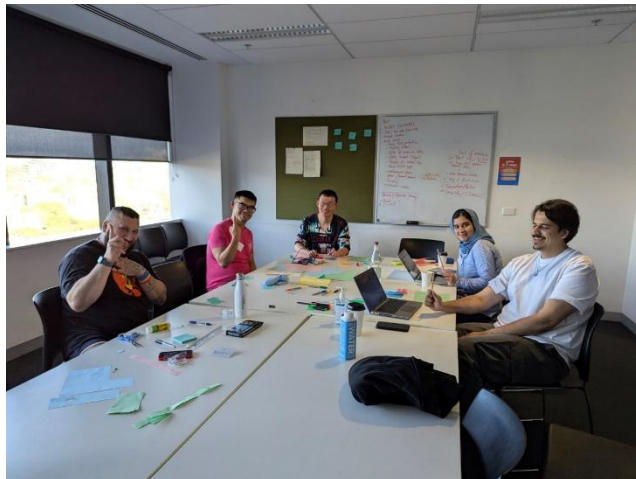
Using Online Media to Increase the Awareness and Uptake of Preexposure Prophylaxis for HIV Among Asian-Born Men Who Have Sex With Men Living in Australia: An Open-Label Randomized Controlled Trial

Warittha Tieosapjaroen,^{1,2,✉} Tiffany R. Phillips,^{1,2,✉} Eric P.F. Chow,^{1,2,3,✉} Christopher K. Fairley,^{1,2} Satrio Nindyo Istiko,^{4,5,6} Jason Wu,^{2,7} James Tapa,¹ Limin Mao,^{8,✉} Lei Zhang,^{1,2,✉} David Wang,⁹ Budiadi Sudarto,^{1,✉} and Jason J. Ong^{1,2,10,✉}



PrEP STAT Love Pack

- Participants: overseas born MSM, graphic designers, researchers, clinicians
- 4 teams of 5 members



PrEP STAT Pack: Love Kit

Love Yourself

Feel Loved

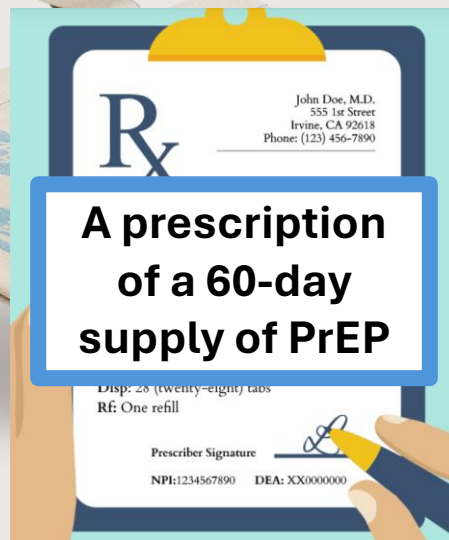
Share Love

INTERVENTION

Love Yourself



A free 30-day supply of PrEP



A prescription of a 60-day supply of PrEP



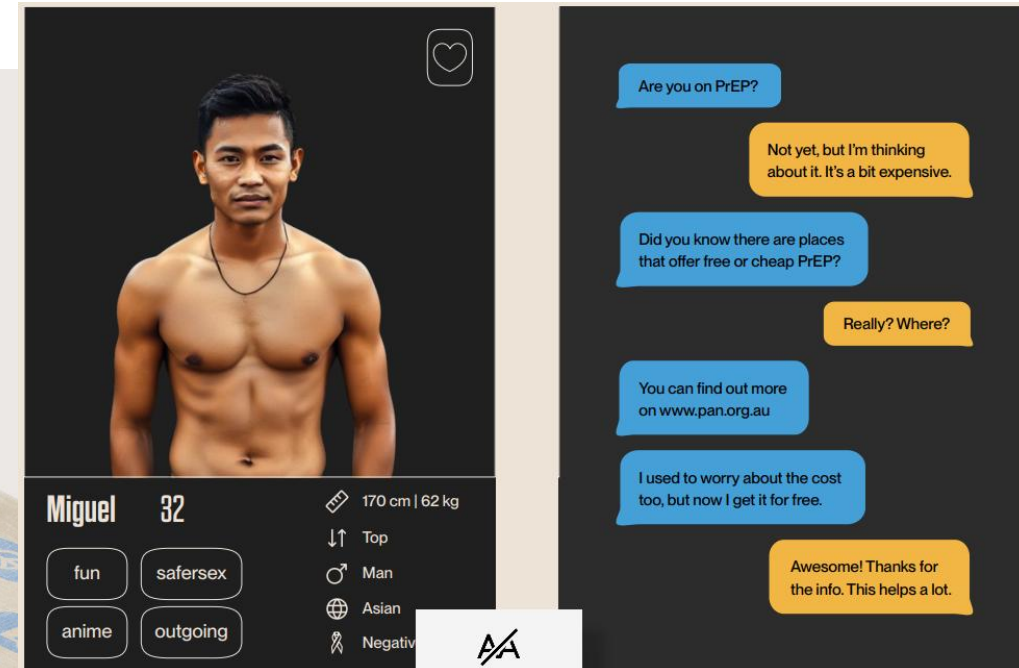
Body wipe

INTERVENTION

Feel Loved



Love card to the
pay-it-forward
e-hub



Nudge message

INTERVENTION

Share Love

LOVE YOURSELF 🤍 爱自己 📱 MAHALIN
ANG SARILI MO 📱 ਆਪਣੇ ਆਪ ਨੂੰ ਪਿਆਰ
ਕਰੋ 📱 SAYANGI DIRI ANDA 📱 རྟོག་འོ
འཇེ ��� YÊU CHÍNH MÌNH 📱 ÁMATE A TI
MISMO 📱 شراب هت شاد تسود ار تدوخ

LOVE YOURSELF,
CHOOSE YOURSELF.



Scan the QR code for PrEP info in multiple languages!

Love card to the
pay-it-forward
e-hub



Tote bag with a
nudge



Conclusion

- Keep community engaged throughout
 - Generating ideas – *what do you need?*
 - Developing ideas – *how do you want it?*
 - Implementing ideas – *let's do it together!*





Thank you

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