



Guidelines and Rules

in applying for the

The MAWA Trust Research Grant

The Medical Advances Without Animals Trust (MAWA) offers research grants of up to \$30,000 for projects of one to three years duration to fund research which MAWA considers will further the aims of the Trust to advance medical science and improve human health and therapeutic interventions without using animals and animal products.

Research should be directed towards the development of methodologies that replace the use of animals and animal products in medical research, or provide animal free alternatives to existing research efforts.

**Applications may be submitted at any time but must first be discussed with
MAWA's Executive Officer Sharyn Watson on 02 62871980**

MAWA Trustees:

Ms Elizabeth Ahlston; Professor Anne Keogh; The Hon. Kevin Rozzoli AM

MAWA Management Committee:

Ms Elizabeth Ahlston; Professor Anne Keogh; Mr Raymond Kidd;
Professor Stephen Leeder; The Hon Kevin Rozzoli AM,
Associate Professor Garry Scroop; Ms Sharyn Watson

The MAWA Trust

Policy and Conditions of Support for MAWA Research Grants

1. Introduction

The aim of The Medical Advances Without Animals Trust is to advance medical science and improve human health and therapeutic interventions without using animals or animal products.

MAWA operates as an independent medical research and educational trust fund which facilitates the development and utilisation of non-animal based experimental methodologies to replace the use of animals in medical research.

MAWA board members are aware that an increasing number of medical scientists are attempting to replace animals wherever possible in line with the National Health and Medical Research Council Code of Practice.

The Trust is taking a leading role in animal replacement in medical research and is unique in deliberately fostering dialogue with the scientific research community to discover common ground to achieve its goals.

MAWA supports, assists and encourages scientists to discover, develop, apply and promote valid methodologies and techniques that will replace the use of animals and animal products in medical research. The Trust encourages, through publicity and education, the wider adoption of such techniques.

In practice, MAWA accepts it is not always the case that the direct or immediate outcome of a single piece of research will be the complete replacement of animal procedures in a certain field. **However, projects must have the potential to advance the development, validation or application of non-animal methods in medical research.**

MAWA Research Grants provide opportunities, as they arise, for funding of worthy projects of one to three years duration, identified by MAWA's management committee and scientific advisory panel as following the MAWA principles. There are no formal annual round of applications but all applications will follow an established grant application format, refereed and approved by MAWA's management committee and scientific advisory panel before funding.

2. Scientific Policies and Conditions of Support

MAWA takes a precautionary approach when considering what is “animal” and “non-animal” as the Trust’s intention is to prevent pain, distress, suffering and deprivation of behavioural needs. As it is not certain where the dividing line falls between sentience and non-sentience within the animal kingdom, MAWA will not support the use of animals with any potential for sentience, including animals from lower phylogenetic orders or early developmental vertebral stages.

MAWA will support ethically approved research with fully informed and consenting human volunteers. Safe studies of healthy and patient volunteers can be conducted using techniques such as neuroimaging, iontophoresis, ultrasound, stable isotope methods, microdosing, staggered dosing, microdialysis, and genetic and other analyses of tissue samples.

Research which is directly relevant to human health problems will receive priority consideration. Acceptable approaches include, but are not limited to, research involving human cell lines, ex vivo or primary human tissues and cells, human sub-cellular components in vitro, human gene studies, ethical human volunteer studies, epidemiology, micro-organisms, plant tissues, physico-chemical techniques, sharing and assessment of existing data, pharmacokinetic modelling and computer technology (in silico).

Grants are not available simply in support of non-animal research per se. The research must be directed towards replacing the use of animals and animal products in programmes within the applicant’s laboratory, or, preferably, in the wider field.

Research which requires or involves the use of animals in any way, even though the ultimate aim may be to replace their use, **will not** be supported. The Trust **will not** fund the purchase or maintenance of animals for any reason.

The Trust **does not** offer funding for research which uses (non-human) animal cells, animal tissues, animal cell lines, animal derived antibodies (monoclonal and polyclonal), animal derived stains or reagents. This reflects recent progress in the culture and availability of human cells and tissues, as well as concerns about the problems of species variation.

The Trust will fund the use of human cells and tissue, including adult stem cells and primary foetal cells and tissues if ethically sourced. Human umbilical cord cells, the human placenta or amnion from routine deliveries may be used for research, provided there is informed consent.

3. Method of Application for the MAWA Research Grants

Complete the separate Application Form ensuring that all information is included within the application or as an attachment.

Please note that the nature of the proposed research project **must fulfil the strict criteria laid out in these Guidelines and to the satisfaction of the MAWA Advisory Committee.**

Grants are only available to researchers in institutions which can offer appropriate space, facilities, equipment, consumables and other support necessary to conduct and complete the research project as specified over the time frame identified in the research grant application.

Applications for MAWA Research Grants can be submitted at any time but must first be discussed with MAWA's Executive Officer Ms Sharyn Watson. Email sharyn.watson@mawa-trust.org.au or telephone 02 6287 1980

4. Selection Process

There are two important selection criteria:

The applicant must hold appropriate qualifications and provide suitable referees. .

The research project **must** address the aims of the MAWA Trust as detailed in Scientific Policy and Conditions (2 above). **Research that does not address the Trust's principal aim of replacing the use animals or animal tissues in research will not be supported, and applications which ignore this principle will not be considered.**

Applicants must be Australian residents.

The short listed applicants may be required to attend an interview.

5. Financial Provisions

The MAWA Research Grant will be funded through the institution where the research project is being conducted.

The funds will be paid to the Bursar or equivalent financial manager of that institution in quarterly instalments, in advance

The MAWA Research Grant must be taken up within twelve months of the offer of the grant.

Funding is available to cover salaries, equipment, consumables, travel etc to a maximum of \$30,000.

Continued support is subject to satisfactory progress as judged by MAWA's management committee and scientific advisory panel.

6. Discretionary Allowances

If the funded researcher is presenting a paper at a national or international meeting, a reasonable contribution may be considered to defray costs incurred. Such costs will only be met for one meeting per annum and award of costs will be dependent on the applicant providing a copy of the accepted abstract and appropriate justification of expenses.

Subject to application to the Trust, a contribution may be made to defray costs of publication of work deriving from the research project in peer reviewed journals.

The award of any other benefits will be determined on application by the applicant to the Trust.

Any unexpended annual funds must be returned to The MAWA Trust by the administering institution.

7. Termination of the Grant

The MAWA Trust may terminate a grant if, in the opinion of the Trust's management committee or scientific advisory panel:

- The research is not being carried out with competence and diligence.
- Satisfactory progress is not being made.
- Reporting on the project is unsatisfactory.
- The holder of the grant ceases to be engaged in the project or is absent from the project for more than one month without prior approval.
- The research project ceases to adhere to the approved objectives of The MAWA Trust.

Any unexpended balance held by the institution on termination of the grant must be returned to The MAWA Trust.

A decision by the Trust to terminate a grant will be final.

8. Reports

If the funded research project exceeds one year then an annual report of progress and evidence of adherence to the research time lines spelt out in the application must be provided by the applicant.

Within six months of completion of the MAWA funded project the applicant must prepare and submit a two-page report of the research project.

9. Publications

The Trust must be acknowledged in any publication arising from the research work conducted during tenure of the grant.

Such acknowledgments must use the Trust's full name, namely, **The Medical Advances Without Animals Trust (MAWA)**.

One copy of each piece of published work must be sent to the Trust.