

Maddie Riewoldt's Vision Centre of Research Excellence in Bone Marrow Biology

Captain Courageous Fellowship 2027 Grant Round Guidelines

About Maddie Riewoldt's Vision:

Maddie Riewoldt's Vision (MRV) is Australia's only not-for-profit organisation dedicated to Bone Marrow Failure Syndromes (BMFS). MRV is the remarkable legacy of the Riewoldt family, created after their daughter Maddie tragically lost her five-year battle with Aplastic Anaemia in 2015. MRV's vision is that BMFS are prevented, diagnosed, and treated with the best available medical care in Australia, and that patients and families receive the support they need. Its mission is to fund research that accelerates next-generation prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of BMFS, while improving outcomes and wellbeing for patients and families.

The Maddie's Vision Centre of Research Excellence in Bone Marrow Biology (CRE), established in 2018, is a national collaborative network driving innovation and impact in BMFS research. Its portfolio includes 40 projects across Australia, spanning clinical trials, grants-in-aid, fellowships, and critical infrastructure such as the Aplastic Anaemia and other Bone Marrow Failure Syndromes Registry and the Australian Marrow Failure Biobank. Many projects involve international collaborations and have contributed to significant advances in understanding, diagnosing, and treating BMFS.

To continue strengthening and accelerating research outcomes, developing expertise, and improving patient and family care, MRV offers competitive grant rounds and fellowships. These funding opportunities support high-quality, collaborative research, foster the growth of researchers and clinicians, and enhance capacity across the national and international BMFS research community.

Fellowship Overview

The Captain Courageous Fellowship has been made possible through the generous support of the Captain Courageous Children's Medical Research Foundation, which was established to support research into rare blood diseases including rare inherited BMFS.

This Fellowship honours this legacy by supporting an early-career, laboratory-based, non-clinician postdoctoral scientist to undertake a high-quality research project focused on inherited BMFS.

Proposed research should advance the understanding, diagnosis or treatment of BMFS and align with one or more of Maddie Riewoldt's Vision's Five Pillars of Research:

1. Collection and analysis of clinical data and samples from BMFS patients
2. Understanding the biology and environment of blood stem cells
3. Monitoring and understanding predictors of disease prognosis, treatment response, and disease evolution

4. Improving patient care and multidisciplinary support
5. Clinical trials

This fellowship supports laboratory-based research ranging from fundamental biology to pre-clinical or translational laboratory studies, provided it contributes to a deeper understanding of BMFS and has the potential to inform future diagnosis, therapeutic development or improved patient outcomes.

Fellowship Details

Timing:

- Call for applications opens: 7 September 2026
- Applications close: 13 November 2026, 17:00 AEDT
- Shortlist/interviews (if required): Week commencing 7 December 2026
- Applicants notified of outcome: Week commencing 14 December 2026
- Fellowship commencement: By July 2027 (deferral requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis)

Funding

- Up to **AUD \$100,000 per annum**, for a maximum of three years.
- Funding may be used to support salary, consumables and other reasonable research costs.
- Payments will be made in milestone-based instalments, in accordance with the final funding agreement.
- The following costs are not eligible:
 - Publication costs, equipment or support staff
 - Salary on-costs, such as employer superannuation contributions, workers' compensation, leave loading and other employment expenses
 - Indirect/overhead costs including infrastructure, utilities and administration
 - Costs arising from receipt of the fellowship, including professional registration, accreditation or continuing education expenses not directly related to the approved laboratory research project

Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a laboratory-based non-clinician researcher.
- Be an Australian citizen, permanent resident, or holder of a valid visa entitling them to reside and work in Australia for the full funding period.
- Hold a PhD, or equivalent research doctorate awarded before the commencement of the Fellowship.
- Be an early-career researcher, defined as within 5 years post-award of their PhD or equivalent research doctorate at the application closing date, excluding career disruptions such as parental leave, illness, or caring responsibilities.
- Demonstrate research experience, interest or engagement relevant to BMFS.
- Propose a research project focused on inherited BMFS and aligned with one or more of MRV's Five Pillars of Research.

- Nominate at least one supervisor from the administering institution who has a proven track record of research relevant to BMFS.
- Be based at an eligible Australian administering institution for the duration of the Fellowship.

Note: This fellowship is not intended to support enrolment in a higher degree by research.

Fellowship Conditions

- The Fellowship must represent a substantial contribution to a nominated research project.
- Periods of substantial leave, including long service leave or sabbatical leave, are not supported.
- Fellows must not concurrently hold another fellowship or grant that provides overlapping salary support or research costs.
- Parental leave of up to 12 months is permitted, with salary support provided by the administering institution.
- Other approved career disruptions, including illness, disability or caring responsibilities, will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may result in an extension to the Fellowship term.
- Fellows must conduct research in accordance with all of the regulatory and ethics requirements of the administering institution.
- The Fellow and administering institution must promptly notify Maddie Riewoldt's Vision of any material changes to the approved project, including changes to the research plan, budget, supervision arrangements, administering institution, employment status or Fellowship commencement date.
- The Fellowship is subject to the execution of a funding agreement between Maddie Riewoldt's Vision and the administering institution.
- Tax obligations arising from Fellowship income are the sole responsibility of the recipient.
- If your research involves children or vulnerable people, you must hold a valid *Working with Children Check* or *Working with Vulnerable People* registration applicable in your state or territory. Maddie's Vision is committed to upholding the highest standards of child safety and the protection of vulnerable individuals in all research activities.

Reporting Obligations

Fellowship recipients must:

- Submit written progress reports against agreed milestones and timelines.
- Provide annual financial statements.
- Present project findings at Maddie's Vision scientific events, as appropriate.
- Acknowledge Fellowship support in all publications, presentations, and media.
- Provide a financial statement and acquittal of funds from the administering organisation at the conclusion of the Fellowship

Application Sections

When preparing your application, please review the overview below in conjunction with the official **Application Form**, which is available for download on the Maddie's Vision website. The Application Form provides complete details, including word limits and formatting requirements.

Application Sections	General information Required
Applicant and Institute Details	• Personal information • Education & employment details • Nomination of administering institution (i.e. the organisation responsible for managing the fellowship award and where the fellow is expected to conduct the proposed research activities) • Eligibility confirmation
Research track record	• Applicant CV / resume • Career summary that is relative to opportunity – including a career disruption statement where relevant ○ <i>Career disruption includes maternity / paternity leave, illness and carer responsibilities</i> • Grants and awards • Achievements in research that are relevant to BMFS, including conference abstracts, publications, presentations, grants and other outputs, relative to opportunity
Research proposal	• Project title • Background and rationale – demonstrate strategic alignment to inherited BMFS and include previous evidence or preliminary data supporting the proposed research • Hypothesis and aims • Detailed description of the proposed research and methodology • Key milestones, deliverables and timeline • Expected outcomes and potential benefit for people affected by BMFS, including patients, survivors, families and carers • Identification of potential risks or barriers and proposed contingency plan • Justification for the nominated FTE for research time • Plan(s) for consumer engagement throughout the project – describe specific activities, roles, and responsibilities of consumers or community members in the research process, including prior engagement or plans for future engagement • Plan(s) for research knowledge translation – outline how findings may be disseminated, built upon in future BMFS research, or translated into therapeutic development, clinical understanding or improved patient outcomes
Budget	• Detailed budget and justification of requested costs, including all income and funding sources, using the Budget Spreadsheet Template, available for download on the Maddie's Vision website. <i>Note: Funding sources other than the Maddie's Vision Fellowship are optional and may be included where relevant to the project.</i>

Application Sections	General information Required
Research environment & support	• Infrastructure & resources • Collaborations, where relevant • Plan(s) for professional development activities
Consumer engagement summary	• Overview of the proposed consumer engagement approach, written in plain language for general public understanding, including: ○ How consumers or community members have been, or will be, involved in the research design and development ○ The plan for ongoing consumer or community engagement throughout the Fellowship period, proportionate to the project's scope, stage and methodology ○ The role, contribution and responsibilities of consumers or community members, where relevant ○ How accessibility, inclusivity, privacy, consent and cultural safety will be considered, where relevant ○ How findings will be communicated to patients, families, carers and the broader BMFS community
Supervisors, collaborators & mentors	• Supervisor(s) information: ○ Applicants must nominate at least one supervisor from their administering institution. Supervisors should demonstrate a strong track record in research relevant to BMFS and the proposed Fellowship project. ○ A letter of support from each supervisor must be included with the application • Mentorship (<i>optional but strongly encouraged</i>): ○ Applicants are encouraged to establish a formal mentorship with a senior academic from another institution who has a strong track record and mentoring experience. This mentorship aims to provide additional guidance and support for the applicant's research and career development. A letter of support from the mentor, where applicable, is to be included with the application. • Collaborators and other supporters: ○ Where relevant, applicants may include letters of support from key collaborators, partner organisations, or consumer representatives

How to Apply

Applicants must complete the official **MRV Captain Courageous Fellowship Application Form**, available for download on the Maddie's Vision website. The completed application form, along with all required attachments, such as the applicant's CV, research proposal, budget spreadsheet, supervisor and mentor letters, and any other supporting materials can be attached together in a **single PDF file** named: **MRVCCFellowship2027_[Surname]**.

Submission

- Applications must be submitted via email to **research@mrv.org.au** by the closing date.
- Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
- One Captain Courageous Fellowship will be awarded in this grant round. The Fellowship is competitive and subject to applications meeting the required standard.

Application evaluation criteria

Applications will be assessed by the MRV Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) based on the pre-defined evaluation criteria outlined in the table below.

Evaluation Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Weighting
Consumer Engagement	• Evidence of existing and/or planned consumer engagement in research design and development • Clear plan for ongoing consumer or community engagement throughout the Fellowship period, proportionate to the project's scope, stage and methodology • Clear description of the role, contribution and responsibilities of consumers or community members, where relevant • Consideration of accessibility, inclusivity, privacy, consent and cultural safety, where relevant • Clear plan for communicating findings to patients, families, carers and the broader BMFS community	10%
Applicant Capability & Track Record	• Quality and significance of research outputs, including peer-reviewed publications, grants, conference presentations, datasets, models, methods or other discipline-appropriate outputs, adjusted for career stage and career disruptions • Quantity of outputs relative to career stage and opportunity • Leadership roles in previous projects or research teams • Building or contributing to research networks and partnerships. • Professional development activities demonstrating commitment to advancing expertise relevant to the fellowship • Alignment of skills with proposed research • Clear articulation of how the fellowship will build on the applicant's track record to achieve future career goals • Potential to grow as a research leader and contribute strategically to the broader field	30%

Evaluation Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Weighting
Research Quality & Innovation	• Applicability and relevance to research in inherited BMFS • Well-defined research objectives with clearly articulated questions, hypothesis and aims • Robust study design and research methodologies, including appropriate data collection and analysis and attention to ethical conduct, governance and regulatory compliance • Introduction of new or unique concepts, approaches or methodologies • Realistic project design, access to facilities, and alignment with applicant's expertise	25%
Research Impact & Benefit	• Potential for research outcomes to address critical gaps in BMFS scientific knowledge, disease biology, diagnosis or treatment • Relevance and anticipated benefit for people affected by BMFS, including patients, survivors, families and carers • Potential to generate new knowledge, tools, models, datasets or approaches that advance inherited BMFS research • Clear pathway for translating research findings into future research, therapeutic development, clinical understanding or improved patient outcomes • Potential for research outcomes to be built upon in future BMFS research • Scope for sustained impact beyond the Fellowship period	25%
Feasibility & Institutional Support	• Access to necessary facilities, equipment, technology, personnel and other resources required to complete the research • Identification of potential risks or barriers and proposed contingency plan, including strategies for ethical, regulatory, or practical challenges that might arise • Commitment from administering institution with formal letter of support confirming endorsement and commitment to the agreed-upon protected research time • Confirmation of experienced supervisor and/or mentors relevant to the proposed research area • Plans or structures to support continued collaboration, mentorship and future BMFS research opportunities following completion of the Fellowship	10%