

RAP Stage I: Collaboration and Ideation Fund Guidelines

1. Overview of Funding

This fund is part of the Research Acceleration Programme (RAP) of the Te Titoki Mataora MedTech Research Translator initiative.

The RAP Stage I Collaboration and Ideation Fund supports the formation of new collaborative relationships between researchers, clinicians, companies, and/or new collaborative relationships with Māori and Pacific communities. Inter-institutional collaborative behaviour is a strong push in the Te Titoki Mataora MedTech Research Translator initiative and this funding recognises that new relationships are difficult to pursue, particularly when potential collaborators are in different centres throughout the nation.

This fund is for researchers from NZ universities, DHBs and healthcare providers, and Crown Research Institutes (CRIs) who have not formally worked together to build relationships, or for existing collaborating groups wanting to pursue a new concept or build new relationships. There is an expectation that with the funding, the team will progress into a RAP Stage II Concept Seeding Project or other grants including HRC, MBIE, and Royal Society funds.

Projects of **up to \$20,000 (excluding GST)** are sought, typically for completion within a 12-month period from project start date. Funding should be used within New Zealand unless in exceptional circumstances.

Funding of up to \$10,000 can be used to bring potential collaborators together in focused meetings or curated workshops to explore new opportunities or ideation sessions. Funding for more than \$10,000 can be requested if there is a clear rationale. The funding covers travel support for researchers from different institutions to meet and visit one another's facilities, workshops, hui, or community consultations. In the case of projects that include or focusing on such ideation sessions, the funding will extend only to explore the initial concept, and where no ethics is required; a detailed research plan suitable for applying for RAP Stage II Funding would be an expected outcome.

An additional \$10,000 can be used to fund discrete activities arising from ideation sessions and are required to move the research project forward to a successful or strong RAP Stage II application. For example, funds to develop and pilot a research protocol, to develop initial technology for a research project, or to carry out an initial feasibility study, or to contract personnel (i.e. research assistant) for a specific task. These research activities should not require full ethics approval, but expedited low-risk studies or studies (extensions) under existing ethics approval to test a new technology could be considered.

The funding does not cover student costs and does not include FTE time of PIs or AIs.

This is an open call for proposals. Applications may be submitted at any time, but funding is awarded every two months from February 2022 (see also Section 5).

Projects will be contracted with the Project Team Leader's institution. The project start date is flexible but must be within 1 month of contracting.

Funded projects will be tracked and assessed against milestones and outcomes by the RAP Executive Team over its duration. The RAP advocates a fast-fail philosophy to ensure that we have a continuing pipeline of fresh ideas.

Reporting will be required at the completion of the project.

2. Capability Building Modules

Alongside the RAP, Te Titoki Mataora MedTech Research Translator also offers Modules for capability development through its Healthtech Capability Programme, which projects can access for specific support. These are:

- **Mātauranga Māori:** supports relationship building with Māori communities and organisations, and capability building for Māori researchers and students.

- **Pacific Engagement:** connections to Pacific organisations and community, capability building of Pacific researchers and students, and workshops and programmes to understand Pacific health and wellbeing requirements.
- **Future Leaders:** connections to early- and mid-career researchers' networks and activities.
- **Clinical Translation:** connections to clinicians interested in translational research and innovation, workshops on clinical trial design, and clinical validation of technology.
- **Commercial Translation:** access to seminars on technology translation and commercialisation, workshops to understand regulatory requirements and market validation, and specialist advice to guide early-stage commercialisation strategies.

3. Project Eligibility Criteria

Projects must meet the following criteria to be eligible for funding:

- The project team must include members from at least **two** NZ universities, DHBs/healthcare providers and/or CRIs. One of these must be from the CMDT partnership (comprising AUT, University of Auckland, Canterbury, and Otago, Victoria University of Wellington, and Callaghan Innovation). While collaborators can be located within the same city, we strongly encourage forming networks across New Zealand as well.
- The project must be led by researchers at NZ universities, DHBs/healthcare providers, and/or CRIs.
- Clear reasons must be given as to why this collaboration is important to the medtech translational network, its goals, what it will achieve from this project, and next steps. In the case of existing collaborating groups, applicants must explain the new "stretch" to this collaboration. For example, explain if this involves the inclusion of a new group or collaborator; development of a new concept; or extension of the relationship to Māori and Pacific collaborators.
- A project plan to progress the collaboration or new idea is expected alongside a budget.
- Early/Mid Career Researchers and Clinicians are encouraged to apply. The RAP Executive Team will prioritise applications from Early/Mid Career Researchers that are PIs or co-PIs. Doctoral and Masters' students are not eligible for this funding as it is focused on developing longer term goals and relationships to grow the translational research community. However, students can be included in the meetings, workshops, and activities that the project will support.
- Industry collaborators can be a collaborator in the project, but funding may not cover the costs of their participation (e.g. travel or accommodation costs).

4. Evaluation and Funding

Applicants must complete the Proposal and Budget templates provided – these should outline the team applying and address the eligibility criteria in Section 2.

The RAP Executive Team will assess the proposals and decide on awards.

5. Funding Cycle

This is an open call for proposals and submissions can be made at any time. However, proposals are reviewed for funding by the RAP Executive Team once every two months in **February, April, June, August, October, and December**. Awards will be made by the 20th of these same months. All proposals should be submitted to medtechresearchnetwork@auckland.ac.nz by the last Monday of the preceding month (see table below).

2022 Deadlines

Proposals must be submitted by:	To be considered in:
12pm Monday 31 st January 2022	February 2022
12pm Monday 28 th March 2022	April 2022
12pm Monday 30 th May 2022	June 2022
12pm Monday 25 th July 2022	August 2022
12pm Monday 26 th September 2022	October 2022
12pm Monday 28 th November 2022	December 2022

6. Project Completion

Projects are expected to be completed by the contracted end date, typically with a maximum duration of 12 months.

Upon completion, project teams must provide:

1. A one-page report outlining the status of the relationship or ideation outcome, highlights on what has been achieved, and next steps for the newly formed relationship or concept; and
2. A short summary (up to 300 words) with photos/images of workshops for Te Titoki Mataora MedTech Research Translator social media posting, or a lead for a feature in the MedTech Bites newsletter.

This information will be used for annual reporting and communications to showcase Te Titoki Mataora MedTech Research Translator. The progress of the collaboration will be tracked over the life of the initiative.

The funding source (Te Titoki Mataora MedTech Research Translator) should be acknowledged in presentations and any media or formal communications.

7. Contact Information

All queries can be directed to medtechresearchnetwork@auckland.ac.nz.