



## **Procedure for Appointment of Assessors**

### **Clinician Research Fellowship Applications (R9) and Raine Priming Grant Applications (2020 Application Round)**

The appointment of assessors is now a well-established procedure that has proven to be transparent and equitable. It is a rigorous process where each application is reviewed independently by at least two top national or international scientists who are experts in the field of the application.

#### **Overview**

An overview of the procedure adopted for appointment of assessors is outlined below with separate details provided for Clinician Research Fellowships (pg.3) and Raine Priming Grants (pg.5).

- 1) A Medline search is carried out:
  - (a) to review the published literature in the field;
  - (b) to identify scientists who are working directly in the relevant discipline and have a substantial record of scientific papers;
  - (c) to ensure assessors (nominated or otherwise) are independent - both of each other and of the applicant (ie, they have not participated in collaborative research nor co-authored publications, and there is no evidence of a link to co-investigator(s) or associated researchers within the last six years;
  - (d) to ensure that a researcher identified as “do not approach” by the applicant is not invited to review.
- 2) Other scientific databases are consulted; most notably *The Web of Science*, *Scopus* and *Google Scholar*, to further identify discipline-specific experts and to build up a more comprehensive picture of the individual research profiles of potential assessors.
- 3) The list of references relevant to the research field, as provided by the applicant, is also taken into consideration when selecting potential reviewers.
- 4) Nominated assessors may be used if they have no conflict of interest and have expert knowledge in the field of the application.
- 5) In the event that expert knowledge is required to further identify high-ranking international scientists:
  - (a) Advisory Panel members are available for consultation; and/or
  - (b) enquiries are directed to leading international scientists known to have a long publishing record in the relevant discipline.



- 6) Prior to establishing contact with prospective assessors, their Institution's webpage is checked to confirm:
  - (a) the current status of the proposed assessor; and
  - (b) the details of their research program and publication list.

An approach is not made to a specialist researcher where it is evident that they work for a pharmaceutical company.

- 7) Each project is assigned to two assessors; however, some situations call for the appointment of a third assessor. These include:
  - (a) a comparatively narrow field of research where more than two potential assessors are approached and accept;
  - (b) a recommendation to seek the opinion of another scientist with specific expertise;
  - (c) widely divergent assessor opinions (where time permits).

Assessors are informed of the Raine Foundation's non-disclosure policy, which was introduced to protect confidential information, particularly relating to intellectual property and potential commercial material. Assessors who agree to review an application accept on this basis.

### **Appointment of Assessors in 2020 Application Round**

Assessors who accepted to review an application for a Clinician Research Fellowship or a Raine Priming Grant were each sent full details of the selection procedure in a position paper entitled: *Guide for Assessors*, which included a copy of the Guidelines and Conditions governing Clinician Research Fellowships or Raine Priming Grants, as appropriate. In the case of Priming Grants, Assessors were informed that the inclusion of Associate Investigators on an application was appropriate where special expertise or clinical guidance was required, although it was further noted that the involvement of Associate Investigators would be minimal. Assessors of both programs also received a scoring guide based on the selection criteria.

Assessors were asked to notify the Raine Director if, on reflection, they found that the project was not within their area of expertise, or if they subsequently recognised that they were involved directly or indirectly with the applicant or co-investigator(s)/mentor through any scientific collaboration or personal connection. Assessors were assured that Assessment Reports were afforded a high level of confidentiality. It was further explained that, while the selection process did not include interviews, assessment reports were released anonymously to applicants who were invited to submit a rebuttal. The reports were also released anonymously to the local Advisory Panel. In order to ensure anonymity of assessors, all document metadata relating to the author was removed.

### **Clinician Research Fellowship Applications (R9)**

A total of 11 applications were received for a Clinician Research Fellowship in Round 9 and all met eligibility requirements. After a lengthy and comprehensive review of each individual application, the

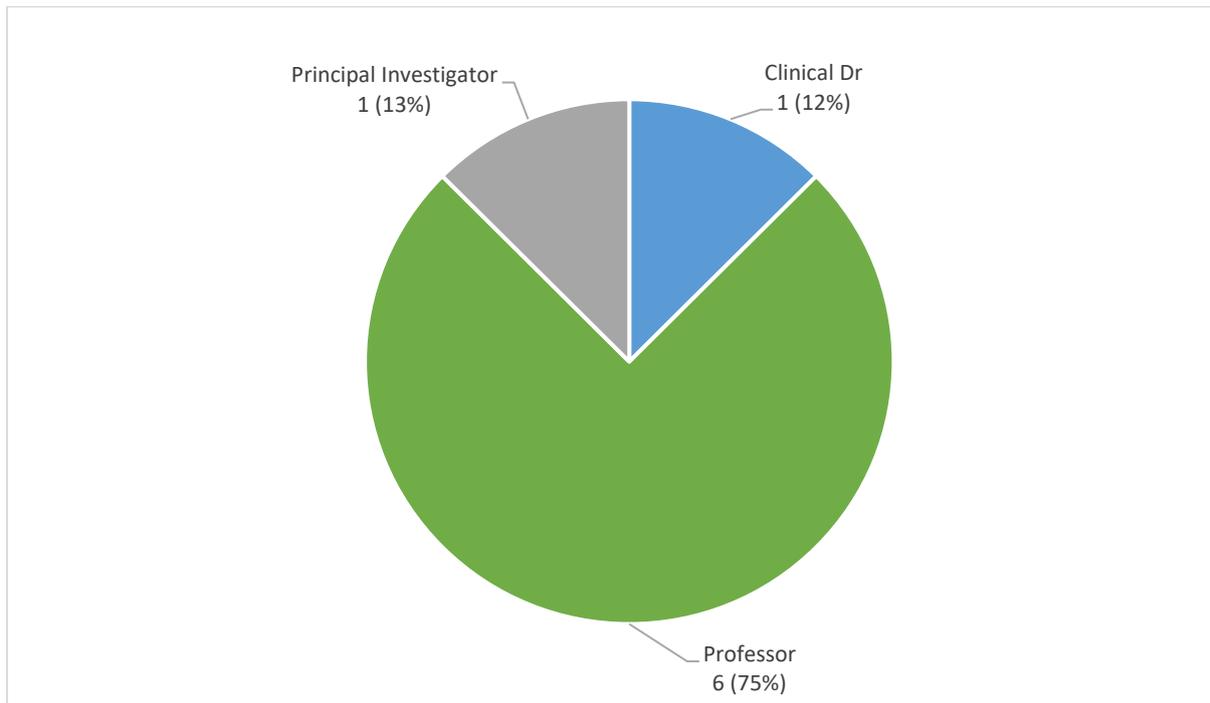


Advisory Panel reached the decision that eight applications were unsuitable for external review on the basis that they were not sufficiently competitive in the current cohort. The remaining three applications were shortlisted for external review. All applicants were advised of the outcome of the preliminary screening process.

In total, 46 national and international scientists were identified using the procedure described above. Of these, eight accepted the invitation to review an application. All assessors were international, and all were distinguished researchers in their field of medical research.

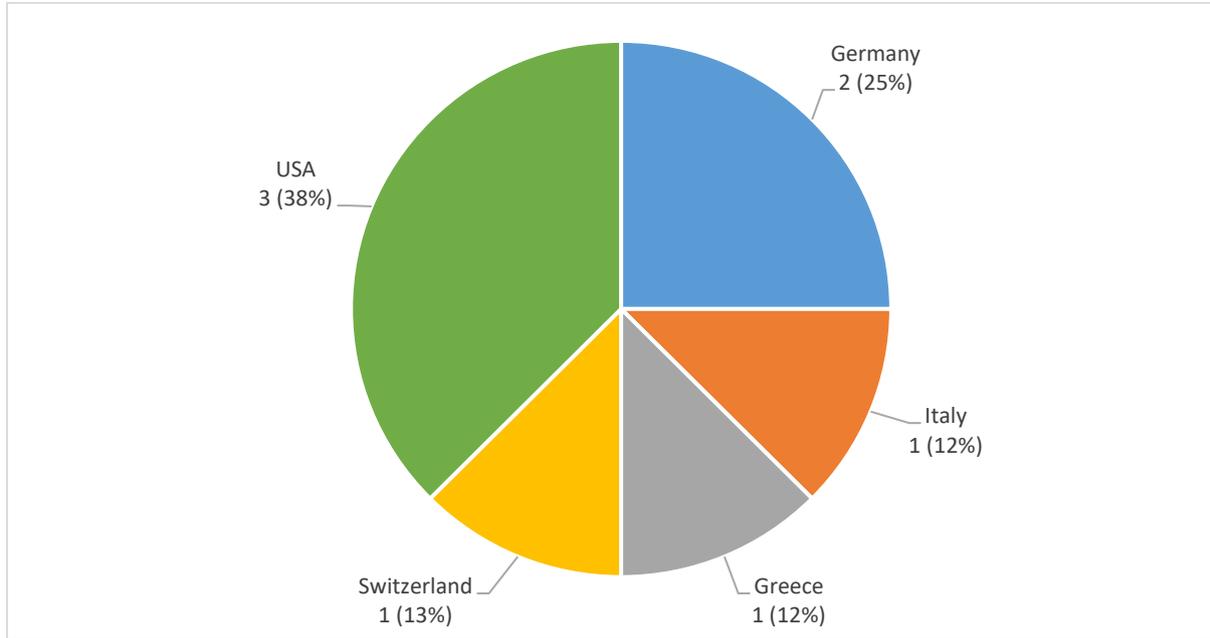
Of the three applications, one was assigned to two independent assessors and two were assigned to a third assessor. There were no Western Australia based reviewers appointed. Particular care was taken to honour the request of applicants who nominated a scientist/group that they would prefer were not approached.

### Status of Assessors





## Country of Origin



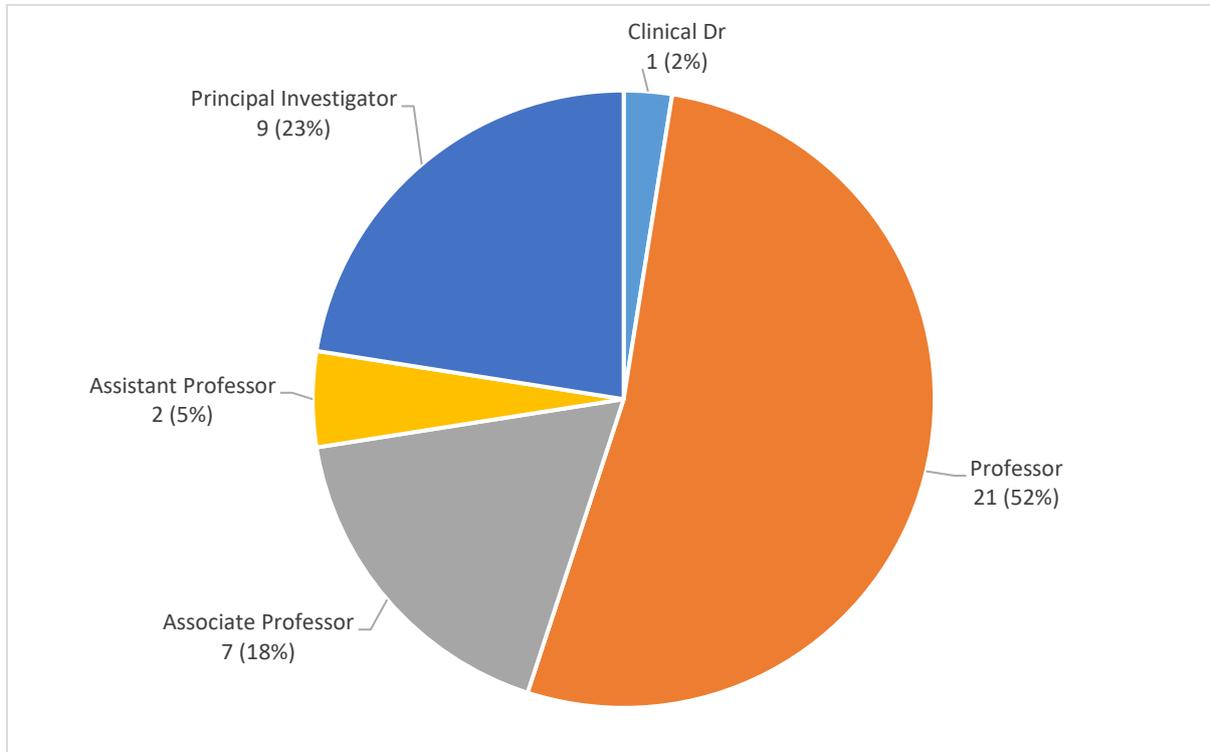
### Raine Priming Grants (2020 Application Round)

A total of 53 applications were received for a Raine Priming Grant to commence in 2021. There were two applications that did not meet the eligibility criteria and were excluded. The Research Committee identified 37 applications where it was considered the application was 'premature' and/or uncompetitive in the current cohort. These applicants were advised accordingly. A total of 14 applications were shortlisted for external review. One shortlisted application was later withdrawn, leaving 13 shortlisted applications for external review.

In total, 201 national and international scientists were identified using the procedure described above. Of these, 40 accepted the invitation to review an application. Of the 13 applications, one was assigned two independent assessors, 10 were assigned three independent assessors, and two were assigned to four assessors. There were no Western Australia based reviewers appointed. Particular care was taken to honour the request of candidates who nominated a scientist/group that they would prefer were not approached.



## Status of Assessors



## Country of Origin

