

ARTHRITIS NZ MATEPONAPONA AOTEAROA 2025/2026 ANNUAL RESEARCH FUNDING ROUND – NOW OPEN



Arthritis NZ Mateponapona Aotearoa aims to improve the life of every person affected by arthritis. We are a national charity that provides information, advice and support to people diagnosed with any of the more than 140 forms of arthritis. Arthritis affects more than 750,000 New Zealanders and is a leading cause of disability. In addition to advocating for people with arthritis through our understanding of their lived experience, Arthritis NZ also funds research, contributes to health policy and collaborates with healthcare professionals.

Our organisation has an annual pool of funding available to contribute to research projects that are clearly related to arthritis with the precise topic to be determined by applicants. Research projects should aim to be translational in nature and clearly align with Arthritis NZ's key research objectives and Research Action Plan for 2021-2025 (please note our Research Action Plan is currently being updated). Studies are usually conducted over a one or two-year period **with a maximum budget of up to \$80,000.**

This year we are delighted to announce that we are introducing a new research funding stream to our annual Grants round. Our new **Rheumatoid Arthritis Research Fund** has been made available due to a generous bequest from a late supporter's estate to provide funding specifically for research that has the potential to alleviate the symptoms and impact of rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

The application process for External Research Grants and the Rheumatoid Arthritis Research Fund is comprised of a two-stage process. Applicants are invited to first submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) anytime from **Tuesday 2nd December 2025 to Friday 27th February 2026.** Those invited to progress to stage two will subsequently need to complete a full application and this will be due by **5pm on Friday 8th May 2026.**

Key details to note about the annual Arthritis NZ research funding programme are as follows:

- Researchers working in the area of rheumatoid arthritis must submit an EOI and CV using our newly developed RA Research Fund templates: all other applicants must complete the standard **three-page** Arthritis NZ External Research Grants EOI as they have done in previous years.
- A combined Arthritis NZ External Research Grants and Rheumatoid Arthritis Research Fund Information and Conditions Form is available to help you prepare your EOI, and if invited, a full application.
- All applicants must also provide a separate copy of their CV with their EOI using the standard New Zealand RS&T Curriculum Vitae template.
- A new section has been added to our EOI template that invites applicants to comment on the potential research impact of their proposed project and how they might engage in "knowledge mobilisation" to make their findings even more accessible and available to people who have arthritis and the stakeholders who support them.
- All External Research Grant and RA Research Fund EOI and CVs must be addressed to Dr Richard Griffiths and submitted to our organisation's research@arthritis.org.nz email address by **5pm Friday 27th February 2026.**
- All applicants will be notified via email of the outcome of the EOI evaluations by the end of **March 2026.**

Please direct any questions you may have about our annual research funding round and the addition of the new RA Research Fund to:

Dr. Richard Griffiths
Research Manager
Arthritis NZ Mateponapona Aotearoa
P.O. Box 10-020, Wellington 6143
Phone: 027 293 6709
richard.griffiths@arthritis.org.nz