



PŪTAHI MANAWA

HEALTHY HEARTS FOR
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

2025 Integrated Research Modules: Call for Expressions of Interest

Background:

The mission of the Pūtahi Manawa | Healthy Hearts for Aotearoa New Zealand (HHANZ) Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE) is to improve equity in heart health for Māori, for Pacific Peoples and for women through research excellence and precision medicine. Pūtahi Manawa brings together research scientists, clinicians, educationalists and communities by comprehensively and collaboratively addressing issues around equity in heart health outcomes to support and complement the public health approach. We work in partnership with communities and researchers to create a vibrant world-class environment and network for heart research in Aotearoa New Zealand that is underpinned by evidenced based, multi-disciplinary collaborative research that delivers clinical benefits and heart health equity to patients. Being in the second phase of our CoRE, we wish to support translational research to improve heart health nationally.

About the Integrated Research Modules:

As Pūtahi Manawa enters its second phase, we are looking to fund a new tranche of integrated research modules (IRMs) that both capture Pūtahi Manawa's research principles and are fully translational. A unique feature of Pūtahi Manawa is the integration of numerous research disciplines to form a programme of work to address a common question in heart health. This award provides the opportunity to assemble "integrated research modules" that can comprise multi-disciplinary approaches (e.g. Kaupapa Māori, Pacific methodologies/epistemologies, epidemiology, epigenetics, physiology, bioengineering and clinical science).

IRM applications must not propose research that describes heart health problems but must plan interventional studies to address them. We are looking for highly focused translational projects that will yield high numbers of research outputs. We welcome applications from those currently involved with existing IRMs as well as new applications. Please note that for those applying who are already involved in current IRMs, applications must be based on new multidisciplinary research and, while they may incorporate findings from the initial IRM, must not be an extension of it. The previously proposed IRM research must have been completed. All applications should provide pilot data to support the proposed project and demonstrate how the research will deliver improved heart health equity and outcomes.

IRMs will be selected following an expressions of interest (EOI) round. IRMs must demonstrate a clear plan for how they will translate the work and/or implement it to inform policy to bring an improvement in heart health equity. Each IRM must also outline a plan for the implementation of the research.

The application process for an IRM will be a two-stage process: (i) an expression of interest will be reviewed by our Funding Panel and (ii) after a sifting process, a number of full applications will be invited and reviewed by our international advisory panel.

Grant duration and funding:

The IRMs support up to a three-year period but must be completed by 31/12/2028. Funding available will be up to \$1.5 million per IRM.

Eligibility:

- You do not have to be a New Zealand Citizen or Resident to be eligible, but you must have a right to work/hold a current visa to work in New Zealand. Lead investigators must be based in New Zealand but may undertake some of the research overseas.
- Applicants must be members of Pūtahi Manawa and can apply to join via our website at <https://www.putahimanawa.ac.nz/membership> before submitting an application.
- International co-investigators may be listed but they cannot receive funds as this is part of the TEC funding obligations.
- While no salaries can be paid for international academic staff, if non-academic work needs to be undertaken overseas that cannot be done in New Zealand, it is permitted to fund the cost of this work under a service agreement.
- All proposals should be aligned with our CoRE principles as outlined at the end of this document.
- Applicants must adhere to the guidelines and space limitations as detailed in the call for proposals and the application form, otherwise the application will be disqualified.

Key Dates:

Call for EOIs open: 10 March 2025
 EOI submissions close: 27 April 2025
 Invitations to submit full applications issued: Mid-May 2025
 Full applications submitted: 13 July 2025
 Results announced: Late September 2025

Integrated Research Modules:

The table below provides definitions of Pūtahi Manawa | HHANZ CoRE funding criteria and example questions that you might try to answer to show how your proposal meets each criterion.

	Definition
Scientific integrity	<i>Best practice or rules of professional practice in research</i> How robust is the science? How relevant is this topic to the aims of Pūtahi Manawa? Evidence of peer review on background work?
Equity	<i>Fairness and justice, distinct from equality</i> How does the proposal address /enhance equity/ intervene in inequity? How will this funding impact equity? What research is being included that will support equity?
Te Tiriti o Waitangi	<i>Acknowledgment and upholding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi</i> How does the proposal include a Te Tiriti o Waitangi focus? How is Māori partnership/leadership/governance included? Is data handling culturally-appropriate? (i.e.: is there a data governance strategy)
Community engagement and Co-Design	How will communities be involved in this research? What co-design methodology is incorporated - e.g. Kaupapa Māori, Pacific methodologies/classic co-design. Any project that is dependent on community engagement and/or co-design must have already established the necessary relationships and completed the bulk of the co-design process.
Translation	<i>Translation is the process of passing research findings along the research pathway to the next user and/or end user.</i> How will you translate your findings?

	<p>Make explicit how your research will improve heart health equity How will this project engage with the community and stakeholders and build capacity for Māori and Pacific researchers? How will dissemination of results to Māori and/or Pacific communities occur?</p>
<p>Multidisciplinary and Team Excellence</p>	<p><i>Tell us about your team.</i> Describe how your team is diverse. What direct experience do the Principal Investigator and Co-Leads have working with Maori and Pacific communities? Who are the key stakeholders? What research disciplines are involved? What is the track record, relative to opportunity, of the team?</p>

Proposal outline, scoring and weighting:

Please describe:

The three-year research plan (include a hypothesis) (1 page maximum, weighting 50%)

Background

Purpose Statement / hypotheses

Research Plan

Translation/implementation

CoRE funding criteria (1 page, 50%)

Scientific integrity

Te Tiriti

Equity

Co design / working with communities

Multi-disciplinarity and Team Excellence

References

CVs of leadership team

Conditions:

- The start date and end date of the IRM must be stated at full proposal stage
- Presentations or publications or media (eg, press releases), or patents resulting from the research will acknowledge Pūtahi Manawa's support and be submitted as part of regular reporting.
- The applicants' host institution will administer the award. If there are changes in details of the research project, a variation request will need to be submitted to the Pūtahi Manawa | HHANZ CoRE administration team.
- Yearly reporting will be required. If it is deemed that inadequate progress has been made, a review may be triggered. A final report will be required within 3 months of the IRM end date.
- A plan for community engagement and education is expected, including a commitment to supervising students from Pūtahi Manawa's Fatu Malosi and Kura Raumati summer research programmes.

How to apply:

Please send the completed application form, your budget and CVs to:

hhanzcoregrants@auckland.ac.nz unless your institution requires you to work with your local research office to submit on your behalf. For example, this applies to the University of Otago and the University of Auckland.



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CV format

Please use the CV template provided. The template provides options for two formats – MBIE’s Narrative CV template or the New Zealand RS&T template. You may use whichever format you prefer but your CV must be no longer than five pages. If you use the RS&T template, please complete all sections, including sections 2b, 2c and 2d.

Contact information:

hhanzcoregrants@auckland.ac.nz