

VC² COVID-19 Research Seed Funding Grants



About the VC²

The Victorian COVID-19 Vaccinees Collection (VC²) is an open biobank of samples and limited clinical data from individuals who have received any COVID-19 vaccine.

Participants have been recruited from major vaccination centres around Melbourne, and have had plasma, serum, peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs), granulocytes and (in some cases) saliva taken before and after vaccination with follow-up continuing for 2 years.

Further details on the project can be found [on the study website](#).

Recruitment is ongoing, with the VC² biobank currently holding over 8,600 stored samples.

As of 16 August 2022, 219 participants have been recruited.

Of these, 121 participants have had at least 2 timepoints collected, and 55 participants have three timepoints.

About the VC² COVID-19 Research Seed Funding Grants

This seed funding scheme is to help support novel and impactful projects utilising stored samples from the VC² biobank.

Funding amount available: 4 awards of **up to \$50,000** each

Funding period: **12 months** from date of award

Eligibility: Applications are open to any Victorian based researcher. Preference will be given to Early and Mid-Career Researchers (up to 10 years post-PhD equivalent)

Application guidelines

Applicants will need to complete a maximum 2-page proposal detailing the following:

- Study title
- Principal Investigator details
- Associate Investigators
- The institution at which the analysis will take place
- Lay summary of the project (200 words max)
- Research Proposal (including Background, Aims/Hypothesis, Research Design, Outcomes and Significance)
- Brief Budget
- Samples required (number and type)

The principal investigator should also include a brief two-page curriculum vitae.

Applications must be submitted to vc2-biobank@unimelb.edu.au by 5pm AEST on Friday 16th September 2022

For enquiries, please contact Miranda Smith (miranda.smith@unimelb.edu.au)

Applications will be reviewed by the VC² Scientific Review Committee, with the final selection of recipients made by the VC² Executive.

Review criteria will include:

- Quality, novelty, and likely impact of the proposed research
- Feasibility with existing samples
- Track record of the study team (including prioritisation of applications from early/middle career researchers)