

GRANTS AWARDED AUGUST 2026

A total of 44 grants were awarded at the Heart Foundation's Scientific Committee meeting in August. The awards include 3 Senior Fellowships, 1 Māori Fellowship, 2 Pacific Research Fellowships, 4 Research Fellowships, 3 Overseas Training and Research Fellowships, 2 Nurse and Allied Health Clinical Professionals Grants, 10 Project Grants, 6 Small Project Grants, 2 Grant-in-Aid and 9 Rheumatic Heart Disease conference travel grants.

2 Summer Studentships were awarded to the Medical Schools at the University of Auckland and the University of Otago to cover 5 summer studentships.

FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Mrs Erina Korohina
Heart Foundation Senior Fellowship (3 years)
Department of Medicine at the University of Otago

Associate Professor Tom Kai Ming Wang
Heart Foundation Senior Fellowship (3 years)
Department of Cardiology at Te Whatu Ora Te Toka Tumai Auckland

Dr Sarah Appleby
Heart Foundation Senior Fellowship (3 years)
Department of Medicine at the University of Otago

Kaewa Savage
Heart Foundation Māori Fellowship (3 years)
Kaupapa Māori Research at Manawaora Integrated Health and Research

Jamie Iro
Heart Foundation Pacific Research Fellowship (3 years)
Kaupapa Māori Research at Manawaora Integrated Health and Research

Associate Professor Dion Enari
Heart Foundation Pacific Research Fellowship (10 months)
Unitec / Te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka

Dr Zoe Ward
Heart Foundation Research Fellowship (3 years)
Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland

Dr Debbie Zhao
Heart Foundation Research Fellowship (3 years)
Auckland Bioengineering Institute at the University of Auckland

Dr Prashanna Khwaounjoo
Heart Foundation Research Fellowship (3 years)
Auckland Bioengineering Institute at the University of Auckland

Dr Ryan Sixtus
Heart Foundation Research Fellowship (3 years)
Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Surgery at the University of Auckland

Dr Amy Colclough
Heart Foundation Overseas Training and Research Fellowship (1 year)
Multimodality cardiac imaging, University of Leeds

Dr Tim Oh
Heart Foundation Overseas Training and Research Fellowship (1 year)
Interventional structural heart program in Toronto General Hospital

Dr Rahul Gandhi
Heart Foundation Overseas Training and Research Fellowship (1 year)
cMRI and Cardiac CT fellowship at Mount Sinai Icahn School of Medicine

Mrs Amanda Scully
Heart Foundation Nurse and Allied Health Clinical Professionals Grant (2 years)
Te Puna Hauora—School of Health at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington

Mrs Folole Fai
Heart Foundation Nurse and Allied Health Clinical Professionals Grant (2 years)
School of Health Sciences at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington

PROJECT GRANTS

Dr Xin Shen
Department of Physiology at the University of Auckland
Pacemaker in a pill: targeting PIEZO1 to restore respiratory heart rate variability in heart failure
\$227,927 over 3 years

Dr Charlotte Greer
Department of Medicine at the University of Otago
Life course determinants of mid-life cardiovascular health in a 50-year New Zealand birth cohort
\$249,918 over 3 years

Dr Nicola Scott
Department of Medicine at the University of Otago
Advancing suPAR therapy to improve outcomes in heart failure
\$249,439 over 2 years

Dr Zoe Ward
Department of Molecular Medicine and Pathology at the University of Auckland
From undiagnosed to understood: transforming genetic diagnosis in inherited cardiovascular disease
\$250,000 over 3 years

Dr Sarah Appleby
Department of Medicine at the University of Otago
Can circulating mitochondrial DNA serve as a sensitive biomarker of energetic dysfunction in heart failure?
\$169,214 over 2 years

Dr Sergej Cicovic

ADHB Cardiology at Te Whatu Ora Te Toka Tumai Auckland

Nationwide randomised trial of prehospital vs in-Hospital heparin in STEMI patients - PREHEP Trial

\$250,000 over 3 years

Dr Nikki Earle

Department of Medicine at the University of Auckland

The MENZACS Cohort: Infrastructure for Precision Heart Health

\$ 116,243.00 over 3 years

Dr Lynley Lewis

Department of Medicine at the University of Otago

Relationship between PCKS6, neprilysin, natriuretic peptide pathway components and lowered NT-proBNP levels in Pacific Peoples and in patients that are obese

\$249,606 over 2 years

Dr Nicola Edwards

ADHB Cardiology at Te Whatu Ora Te Toka Tumai Auckland

Early screening for cardiac sarcoidosis (ESCaS Study)

\$174,434 over 3 years

Dr Prashanna Khwaounjoo

Auckland Bioengineering Institute at the University of Auckland

Beating heart disease: developing a non-invasive, contact-free diagnostic device for cardiovascular health in New Zealand

\$139,300 over 3 years

SMALL PROJECT GRANTS AND GRANT-IN-AID

Dr Anna Rolleston

Manawaora Integrated Health and Research

He Aronga Hou: reimaging early detection of heart risk for Māori

\$19,998 over 3 years

Dr Sean Coffey

Department of Medicine at the University of Otago

How does physical capacity affect quality of life in heart valve disease?

\$20,000 over 2 years

Miss Janny Lau

Department of Medicine at the University of Otago

Integrating monogenic testing and polygenic risk in familial cardiovascular disease

\$17,080 over 1 year

Dr Meredith Peddie

Department of Human Nutrition at the University of Otago

SHIFTing the health and lifestyle behaviours New Zealand truck drivers

\$18,890 over 1 year

Mr Andrew Lowry

Institute of Biomedical Technologies at the Auckland University of Technology

Kainga Manuia: co-designing a Pacific family nutrition and physical activity programme for heart health

\$16,649 over 4 months

Dr Daniel Cornfeild

Mātai Medical Research Institute

Assessing automated quantitative perfusion as a low cost, more accurate, diagnostic tool: towards improved healthcare delivery in Tairāwhiti

\$20,000 over 2 years and 6 months

Dr Julia Shanks

Department of Physiology at the University of Auckland

Developing a postmenopausal sheep model to unlock new treatments for women's heart failure

\$20,000 over 1 year

Mr Chao Yu Chuang

Auckland Bioengineering Institute at the University of Auckland

Heart Hackathon Manawa Mechanics' total artificial heart development

\$3,000 over 1 year