

HUMAN HEALTH AND POTENTIAL (HHP) MISSION STREAM 1 2026 FUNDING CALL INFORMATION SHEET

1. OVERVIEW

HHP MISSION is a newly established funding initiative under the Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) 2030 plan, focused on accelerating translational research in Biotech and MedTech. It is designed to bridge the gap between upstream discovery research and downstream development by supporting projects that address clearly defined challenges with strong potential for real-world, commercial impact within a 5–10 year horizon.

HHP MISSION Stream 1 supports focused, translationally anchored projects that advance sufficiently novel and differentiated approaches to improve upon the current standard of care in a specific biological or disease context, with the aim of generating tangible outputs and decision-enabling evidence within 2.5 to 3 years and an indicative funding envelope of up to S\$5 million (incl. 30% indirect costs).

HHP MISSION Stream 1 is not a conventional discovery grant. Applicants should make a case for why the proposed approach is worth pursuing now, what improvement it could enable over current standards or alternatives, and what decision-enabling evidence will be generated through the project.

The details of the 2026 Stream 1 funding call for HHP MISSION are as follows:

HHP MISSION Stream 1 Grant Call open	31 August 2026
Submission deadline	26 October 2026, 12pm (Singapore Standard Time)
Funding Quantum	Up to S\$5M (incl. 30% indirect costs)
Funding Duration	Up to 3 years
Funding Model	Grant

Applicants should clearly define:

- the novelty and differentiation of the approach over the current standard of care/practice;
- the tangible translational output(s) they expect to generate;
- the evidence required to justify further investment, development, or handoff; and
- the downstream pathway that could become possible if the project succeeds.

Proposals will be assessed on the scientific/clinical importance of the opportunity being addressed (*is this a genuine translational blocker, not an academic research gap?*), the strength of the translational thesis (*how likely is this to work?*), the credibility of the execution plan (*are the approach, team, milestones and budget realistic?*), the differentiation and value proposition of the proposal (*is the approach meaningfully better than existing standard of care/practice?*) and the ability of the project to generate evidence that supports a continue, pivot, stop, or handoff decision (*i.e. go/no-go decision points*).

Tangible outputs may include validated targets, enabling platforms, candidate assets, prototypes, assays, datasets, algorithms, commercialisable IP, or handoff-ready packages for downstream development.

2. ELIGIBILITY & FUNDING RULES FOR STREAM 1

- Applicants should ensure that they meet the eligibility criteria before applying. The Lead Investigator (Lead-I) should:
 - hold at least 0.7 FTE primary appointment in a Singapore publicly funded research organisation or institute of higher learning;
 - run a laboratory or research programme that carries out research in Singapore; and
 - have a track record of leadership in coordinating research programmes, mentoring research teams, and delivering productive research outcomes.
- Co-Investigators and Team Leads must hold an appointment in a Singapore publicly funded research organisation or Institute of Higher Learning (IHL).
- Funding will only be awarded to Singapore public sector research performers. Overseas institutions, industry partners, companies, or other external collaborators may participate as collaborators, but will not receive grant funding.
- Collaborators may contribute technology, expertise, manpower, data, samples, access, facilities, or other in-kind support where relevant.
- A total budget of up to S\$5M, inclusive of 30% indirect costs, may be requested. Budgets must be submitted in Singapore dollars.
- Exceptions to eligibility criteria may be considered on a case-by-case basis with submission of a waiver request. Applicants should write to the HHP MISSION Programme Office at least seven working days before the application deadline.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

HHP MISSION Stream 1 adopts a single written application submission and all Stream 1 written applications must be submitted using the prescribed application form template. The Host Institution's Office of Research (ORE) is responsible for submitting the final list of eligible proposals to the HHP MISSION Mailbox (connect@hhp-mission.sg) by **26 October 2026, Monday, 12pm (Singapore Standard Time)**. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

(A) GRANT CALL TIMELINE

Timeline for Stream 1:

Written Proposal Submission	
Grant Call Open	31 August 2026
Submission Deadline	26 October 2026, 12pm (SGT)
Technical review & Shortlisting	November – December 2026
Shortlisting & Pitches	Further details will be communicated to shortlisted applicants by December 2026.
Presentation (For shortlisted applicants only)	
Deadline for submission of Pitch Deck	January 2027
Presentation to HHP MISSION Steering Committee (In-person)*	22 February – 23 February 2027
Award process	
Issuance of In-Principle Approval (IPA) Letter to Stream 1 Projects	Target by end-March 2027
Execution of Project Agreement (<i>as part of STEMPA compliance</i>)	Within 4 months from date of IPA issuance ¹
Letter of Award (LOA) issuance by HHP MISSION	After receipt of the fully executed project agreement, HHP MISSION Programme Office will issue the LOA to the team.

Note: Applicants must ensure their availability for the meeting marked with an asterisk () above.

(B) INSTITUTIONAL QUOTA

To support a focused and competitive evaluation process, there will be an institutional application quota imposed on each institute, as appended below. Institutions are encouraged to align their internal review and selection processes to support institutional prioritisation and adherence to the quota prior to submission.

Institution	Max. No. of Applications
National University of Singapore (NUS)	5
Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	5
Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)	5
All other public research institutes in Singapore	2

¹ Once IPA is issued, the STEMPA timeline begins. In-scope project agreements (PAs) are expected to be submitted within four months for the Letter of Award (LOA) to be issued and funding to flow. For more information/resources, please refer to [STEMPA Resources And Tools - STEMPA](#) or contact the STEMPA Secretariat at stempa_secretariat@stempa.sg.

(C) SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be submitted in English, using Arial font, size 10, with single-line spacing, and the prescribed HHP MISSION Stream 1 Application Form and Proposal Budget Template (Excel), with all relevant sections listed (1-19) completed. All documents must be submitted in Word or PDF format. Scanned PDFs are allowed only for documents requiring signatures. Completed applications must be submitted to connect@hhp-mission.sg by the specified deadline.

The main proposal must not exceed 10 pages, excluding the proposal summary and required supporting information. The proposal summary may be used for screening, reviewer assignment, conflict-of-interest checks, double-dipping checks, and award communications. Grey italic guidance text should be removed before submission.

Projects involving Singapore public sector institutions or multi-institutional clinical research are subject to the Shorten Time to Execute Multi-party Project Agreements (STEMPA) initiative. Project teams should refer to the STEMPA Guidebook available on [Multiparty Research Agreements - STEMPA](#) before submission.

Relevant privileged or confidential information should be disclosed where necessary to provide a clearer understanding of the project. Such information should be clearly marked in the proposal.

4. HHP MISSION STREAM 1 – FIRST WAVE FOCUS AREA

For this call, the thematic focus area is **immune homeostasis, immune dysregulation and inflammation as drivers of disease**. The illustrative challenge areas below show the expected scope and ambition for Stream 1 proposals:

Challenge 1	Challenge 2	Challenge 3
Uncover disease-driving pathways and cell states	Reset immunity without broadly suppressing it	Make dysregulation actionable immune clinically
What if we could identify the dysregulated pathways and cell states that drive disease, and reveal precise opportunities to restore immune homeostasis?	What if we could selectively reprogramme dysregulated immunity to deliver deeper and more durable responses while preserving protective immune function?	What if clinicians could identify and track immune dysregulation early enough to change treatment decisions and prevent irreversible damage?

The three challenge statements and examples are illustrative rather than prescriptive. Applicants do not need to address all three and may propose different scientifically credible approaches, provided they are strongly aligned with the overarching thematic focus and MISSION's translational objectives.

Proposals may address either one or multiple disease context(s) where immune homeostasis, immune dysregulation or inflammation is a meaningful driver of disease.

These examples illustrate the types of projects that could be supported under Stream 1:

Example #1

Using human cell/tissue-derived systems that capture complex, integrated disease states, apply cutting-edge technologies, including artificial intelligence, to uncover and validate dysregulated pathways or cell states that drive disease persistence, relapse, progression or tissue injury.

Example #2

Establish proof-of-concept for a targeted approach to modulate a defined pathway or cell state in a specific tissue context, with the potential to modulate/reset dysregulated immune responses or restore tissue homeostasis while reducing reliance on broad systemic immunosuppression.

Guiding principles for Example #1 and #2:

- Proposals should improve upon the current standard of care, e.g. enhancing efficacy, addressing inadequate depth or durability of response, or widening the therapeutic index. This could include targeting pathogenic cell states, resetting dysregulated biological responses, restoring tissue homeostasis or achieving tissue-specific modulation.
- Proposals should be grounded in human data or biologically relevant human systems, rather than relying primarily on conventional animal models or studies of isolated cell populations. They should generate convincing evidence that the proposed intervention can modulate the identified pathway or cell state and produce a meaningful disease-modifying impact, coupled with a tractable path towards therapeutic development.

Example #3

Develop medical devices or clinically actionable tests (e.g. immunodiagnostic, molecular-diagnostics, imaging or AI-driven diagnostics) that improve the diagnosis or management of immune dysregulation in a defined high-value disease context.

Guiding principles for Example #3:

- Proposals should focus on a specific decision point where current clinical classification is inadequate, such as identifying high-risk patients, distinguishing active inflammatory disease from irreversible tissue damage, predicting relapse or progression, or selecting patients for targeted immune-modulating therapies.
- Proposals should generate early evidence linking the proposed technology to a clinically meaningful decision point or outcome, and a feasible diagnostic, companion diagnostic or medical device product path.

5. EVALUATION PROCESS

All Stream 1 written application submissions will be subject to an external technical review. Shortlisted applicants will subsequently be invited to prepare a pitch deck and present their proposal to the Steering Committee as part of the evaluation process. As the decisions are final, we are unable to consider any appeals.

The HHP MISSION Programme Office will put in place appropriate confidentiality safeguards for the review and evaluation process to protect confidential, commercially sensitive and

potentially patentable information disclosed in grant applications. All reviewers and panel members involved in the HHP MISSION evaluation process are bound by confidentiality clauses under legally binding agreements. They are also required to declare any actual or perceived potential **Conflict of Interest (COI)** at the point of appointment based on a non-confidential abstract, before receiving the proposal materials. The Programme Office will not assign applications to reviewers where a relevant conflict has been declared.

6. POST-AWARD MANAGEMENT

HHP MISSION Stream 1 will be administered in accordance with the A*STAR Grants Terms & Conditions and Guidelines. Projects will be managed against clearly defined and tightly scoped milestones, deliverables, timelines, and performance expectations, with progress against these requirements subject to active and periodic review by the HHP MISSION Programme Office. The outcomes of these reviews may inform funding and project continuation decisions, including decisions to continue, pause, redirect, pivot or terminate the project, where appropriate.

Upon successful award of a HHP MISSION Stream 1 proposal, the project will be created in iGrants. Thereafter, claims should be submitted separately by the Host Institution and Partner Institution, respectively, via iGrants.

CONTACT US

For further information and enquiries, please contact the HHP MISSION Programme Office at connect@hhp-mission.sg.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Programme Overview		
1.	Who is the Implementing Agency for HHP MISSION?	A*STAR is the Implementing Agency (IA) for HHP MISSION. HHP MISSION operates as a National Platform hosted by A*STAR.
2.	How does HHP MISSION Stream 1 differ from HHP IAF-PP?	HHP MISSION has a thematically defined, actively managed and problem-driven approach that places greater emphasis on generating outcomes such as commercialisable IP that merit downstream development. MISSION shifts away from traditional grant KPIs such as publications and Industry R&D Spending (IRS).
3.	What should applicants expect under HHP MISSION's active programme management approach?	HHP MISSION adopts an active programme management model inspired by ARPA-H and Wellcome Leap. Rather than operating as a traditional grant, projects will be actively supported through regular milestone reviews, strategic engagement with the Portfolio Director, and portfolio-level coordination to accelerate translation. The Portfolio Director may also help teams identify synergies, emerging risks and potential downstream handoff opportunities. Projects are expected to meet their milestones; where challenges arise, teams should flag them early so that corrective actions, milestone revisions or portfolio decisions can be considered.
4.	What is the difference between HHP MISSION Stream 1 and 2? Is Stream 2 a continuation of Stream 1?	Stream 2 is not intended to serve as a continuation or extension of Stream 1 projects. The two streams are designed to address different types of gaps. Stream 1 supports the de-risking and validation of emerging ideas through discrete projects, while Stream 2 supports integrated, larger scale programmes. Further details on Stream 2 will be shared in due course.
Scope of Stream 1 Funding Scheme		
5.	How many projects will be funded in the first funding call?	The final number is not fixed and will depend on proposal quality, portfolio balance, funding requirements and the recommendations of the Steering Committee.

6.	Are multidisciplinary or multi-institutional collaborations required or supported under HHP MISSION Stream 1?	Multi-institutional participation is not mandatory. However, new multidisciplinary and cross-institutional collaborations are encouraged where they bring together complementary expertise and capabilities needed to address the proposed translational challenge. Project teams should be structured according to what is necessary to deliver the intended outcomes, with all participating investigators and institutions meeting the relevant eligibility criteria and application requirements for the Stream 1 funding call. As HHP MISSION funding supports public-sector research conducted in Singapore, grant funding cannot be provided to overseas collaborators or used to support R&D activities conducted outside Singapore.
7.	What level of maturity is expected for projects to be considered suitable for HHP MISSION Stream 1?	Stream 1 is intended to support translationally anchored research that addresses a discrete, unresolved scientific or technical bottleneck and generates decision-enabling evidence within three years, with strong potential to unlock commercial value within a 5–10 year timeframe. There is no prescribed Technology Readiness Level (TRL) requirement.
Eligibility Criteria		
8.	Who is eligible to lead a HHP MISSION Stream 1 project? Does MISSION Stream 1 need a Programme Director?	<i>The Lead Investigator (Lead-I)</i> must meet the stated eligibility criteria for the Stream 1 funding call. The Programme Director (PD) role is specific to HHP MISSION Stream 2 and does not apply to Stream 1. Eligibility Criteria – Lead Investigator should: • hold at least 0.7 FTE primary appointment in a Singapore publicly funded research organisation or institute of higher learning; • run a laboratory or research programme that carries out research in Singapore; and • have a track record of leadership in coordinating research programmes, mentoring research teams, and delivering productive research outcomes.
9.	Are applicants from public healthcare institutions and non-faculty appointments eligible to serve as Lead Investigators (Lead-Is)?	Yes. Applicants from public healthcare institutions and non-faculty appointments may serve as Lead Investigators (Lead-Is), provided they meet the stated eligibility criteria for the HHP MISSION Stream 1 funding call. In general, non-faculty staff,

		such as postdoctoral researchers, senior research scientists or research fellows, and clinicians from public healthcare institutions under National Healthcare Group (NHG), National University Health System (NUHS) and Singapore Health Services (SingHealth) may be considered for the Lead Investigator role provided they meet the stated eligibility criteria for HHP MISSION Stream 1 funding call. The institutions must confirm that the applicants will remain employed and fulfil the required FTE commitment throughout the grant period and should ensure that separate salary support is in place, as Lead-I salaries are non-fundable under the grant. The institution should also ensure that the staff member is suitably qualified to lead and deliver the project, with the necessary institutional support.
10.	Can exceptions be granted for applicants who do not meet the stated eligibility criteria (e.g., overseas faculty members)?	Requests for waiver of eligibility may be considered on a case-by-case basis, and will be subject to alignment with the objectives and requirements of HHP MISSION. Institutions seeking waiver for the stated eligibility criteria are encouraged to write to the HHP MISSION Programme Office at connect@hhp-mission.sg with the specific appointment details for clarification.
Application Process		
11.	How often will Stream 1 funding calls be held?	The inaugural Stream 1 call will open on 31 August 2026 and remain open for eight weeks. The specific timing and focus of each subsequent call will remain subject to portfolio needs, programme review and funding availability.
12.	Can applicants submit an abstract for pre-assessment before applying?	To maintain fairness and consistency across applicants, the Programme Office will not formally pre-assess or endorse proposal abstracts before submission. Applicants may send specific clarification questions on the published scope to connect@hhp-mission.sg and should also engage their institutional research office as part of the internal prioritisation process.

13.	How are HHP MISSION Stream 1 proposals selected by institutions, and how should applications be submitted?	As institutional selection is managed by respective institutions, applicants are encouraged to engage their respective offices of research early regarding the institutional review process and associated timelines. All Stream 1 applications should be submitted through the HHP MISSION Mailbox connect@hhp-mission.sg via the respective offices of research.
14.	How should applicants manage confidential, commercially sensitive or potentially patentable information in their Stream 1 applications, and how will such information be protected during evaluation?	Applicants are encouraged to clearly identify any commercially sensitive, proprietary or confidential information and consult their institutional IP, innovation or technology transfer office on the appropriate protection and disclosure strategy before submission. While applicants may determine the level of detail they wish to disclose, proposals should provide sufficient information for reviewers to assess the scientific rationale, novelty, differentiation, feasibility and translational potential of the proposed work.
First Wave Thematic Focus Area & Illustrative Challenge Statements		
15.	What is the thematic focus area for the inaugural HHP MISSION Stream 1 funding call, and will additional thematic focus areas be introduced?	For this first Stream 1 call, the announced focus area is “Immune homeostasis, immune dysregulation and inflammation as drivers of disease”, and is not intended to represent the only area that HHP MISSION may support over the full RIE2030 period. HHP MISSION is intended to operate through selected thematic calls over RIE2030. The sequencing and timing of subsequent areas are still under development, and further details will be announced through the MISSION website when ready.
16.	How should applicants scope their proposal in relation to the thematic focus area and illustrative challenge statements?	The current Stream 1 funding call centres on a single overarching thematic focus area. The three challenge statements and examples are illustrative rather than prescriptive. Applicants do not need to address all three and may propose different scientifically credible approaches, provided they are strongly aligned with the overarching thematic focus and MISSION’s translational objectives. There are no specific disease-area exclusions nor is there a fixed requirement to address either a single disease or multiple diseases. However, proposals should remain sufficiently focused to deliver meaningful translational evidence within 2.5 to 3 years.

17.	Which types of projects fall within the scope of the inaugural HHP MISSION Stream 1 focus area?	Projects will be within scope where the proposed work is clearly anchored to the thematic focus of the call and is designed to generate a differentiated, translationally relevant output. For the current call, applicants would need to demonstrate a strong link to immune homeostasis, immune dysregulation or inflammation, together with a clear downstream development or commercial pathway.
Evaluation Criteria		
18.	How will Stream 1 proposals be evaluated, and what are the assessment criteria?	Stream 1 will involve a single-stage written application submission. Shortlisted applicants will subsequently be invited to prepare a pitch deck and present their proposal to the Steering Committee as part of the evaluation process. In general, successful proposals are expected to: • Address the thematic focus area identified by HHP MISSION • Propose a novel and differentiated scientific or technical approach that meaningfully improves upon the current standard of care with clear translational relevance • Demonstrate a clear line-of-sight to downstream development opportunities and potential commercial impact, informed by the existing and emerging treatment landscape. Applicants should also clearly articulate why the identified scientific or technical gap is worth addressing now, what translational option it unlocks, and what decision-enabling evidence will be generated through the project. Proposals should also demonstrate how the project will generate evidence that supports a continue, pivot, stop, or handoff decision. <i>Note: While priority will be given to proposals aligned with the thematic focus areas, exceptionally promising proposals outside these areas may also be considered where they demonstrate strong alignment with HHP MISSION's objectives and compelling translational potential.</i>
Project Level Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)		
19.	What are the project level KPIs/ expected outcomes for HHP MISSION Stream 1?	HHP MISSION Stream 1 projects are expected to articulate how they will contribute to the key objectives of MISSION: Generating tangible translational outputs (e.g., validated targets, enabling platforms, candidate assets, prototypes,

		assays, datasets, algorithms) and commercialisable IP that merits downstream development. HHP MISSION does not define commercial outcomes solely as products that are ready for clinical use or immediately profit-generating, but rather as outputs that credibly enable downstream translation and development beyond the 2.5 to 3 years of MISSION support.
20.	Are there any mandatory requirements for industry contributions?	No, there is no mandatory industry contribution for the HHP MISSION Stream 1 funding scheme.
Others		
21.	What are the intellectual property (IP) expectations and arrangements for HHP MISSION Stream 1 projects?	There is no requirement for an issued patent to be in place at the point of application. Applicants should describe relevant background IP, ownership or access arrangements, existing patent filings where applicable, and the new protectable or commercialisable IP expected from the project, with a credible path towards downstream development and value creation. Any IP arising from an awarded project is expected to remain with the respective institution(s), consistent with the prevailing public-sector competitive research grant IP arrangements. HHP MISSION will not own the foreground IP.