

**The AusME is proudly supported by the Mason Foundation*

APPLICATION FORM

Emerge Australia is committed to supporting Australian researchers working to uncover the underlying causes of myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) and long COVID, as well as those developing effective diagnostics and treatments. We also welcome projects that aim to better understand the lived experience and impact of these conditions on patients.

This application form is designed to inform the AusME Access Committee (AusMEAC) about your research project and the type of support you're seeking from Emerge Australia.

If you are applying for support as part of a funding application and are working within tight timelines, Emerge Australia's Research Team can conduct an initial review and, where appropriate, provide a provisional letter of support. However, in accordance with our governance process, a formal review and approval by the AusMEAC will still be required for full endorsement.

Please complete all sections and return the form with accompanying documentation to:

Michelle.Tavoletti@emerge.org.au

PERSONNEL DETAILS AND PURPOSE OF APPLICATION	
Date of application	
Chief Investigators Name (note Qualifications, Supporting Inst/Org/Co. and role in Inst/Org/Co) Please attach CV of lead investigator	
Other Chief/Associate Investigators (note Qualifications, Supporting Inst/Org/Co. and role in Inst/Org/Co)	
Contact phone number	
Contact email address	
Is this application intended to support an existing project or to request a support letter for grant funding?	☐ Support request for existing research project ☐ For study promotion only ☐ For study promotion and AusME access ☐ For AusME access only ☐ Support letter for grant funding application

Thank you for seeking support from Emerge Australia to assist in facilitating your ME/CFS and/or long COVID research. We truly appreciate your commitment to advancing high-quality research in this important field and look forward to working together to deepen understanding and drive progress.

For projects approved or supported by Emerge Australia, we kindly ask that you acknowledge our contribution, and the valuable participation of our community, in all resulting publications, as outlined below:

Publication Acknowledgment

"This research was supported by Emerge Australia, along with the AusME Registry and Biobank. We gratefully acknowledge the ME/CFS and long COVID communities, whose involvement and contributions were essential to this study."

Should you have questions regarding this application or require assistance with study design, please do not hesitate to contact Emerge Australia's Research Manager (Michelle.Tavoletti@emerge.org.au).

RESEARCH PROJECT DETAILS	
Project title	
What is the primary research question, and how does it aim to fill key knowledge gaps in ME/CFS and/or long COVID? (500 words max)	
Scientific rational and background (500 words max)	
Specific aims (300 words max)	
Study methodology (500 words max) (Please also include: (i) the processes for recording adverse effects to patients, such as post-exertional malaise, (ii) Have you consulted with the NINDS database for ME/CFS CDEs)	
Expected Outcomes (500 words max)	
Summary of Key Supporting Data (300 Words Max; include justification/power calculation for study numbers)	
Please describe your timeline and milestone to be achieved (500 Words Max)	
Please disclose any commercial interests or other potential conflicts of interest related to the research, if applicable. (300 Words Max)	
Literature References	

Please detail the type of support required of Emerge Australia to facilitate your research study?
What opportunities exist for collaboration with Emerge Australia, and how can the study complement existing research initiatives or datasets?

STUDY DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS FOR ME/CFS AND LONG COVID
Are the methodologies ethically and practically feasible for participants with ME/CFS and long COVID, considering vulnerabilities such as fatigue, PEM, and cognitive challenges? Please explain.
How does the study minimise risks to participants?
Does the study have provisions for participant withdrawal without compromising data integrity?
How does your study measure post exertional malaise in participants (particularly for those with long COVID) to differentiate those with/without PEM?
What diagnostic criteria(s) will study participants need to satisfy for your study and how do you plan to assess this – will you require the assistance of the AusME registry algorithm for this? (The AusME algorithm identifies individuals who fulfill the Canadian Consensus Criteria for diagnosing ME/CFS)
Will your study include consumer engagement? If yes, please elaborate.



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How will the outcomes of your study benefit those living with ME/CFS and/or long COVID?

Please provide any additional details that may be relevant or useful for the AusMEAC in reviewing your study.

ETHICS & FUNDING INFORMATION

Is the project funded?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Funding status	☐ Fully funded	☐ Application pending
Funding source	☐ NHMRC	☐ Internal funding/grant
	☐ Other	
Funding details		
Does the project have HREC approval?	☐ Yes	☐ No
HREC status	☐ Approved	☐ No ethics
	☐ Application under review	☐ Pending amendment
Name of HREC approval site/institution		
HREC Application Number		
HREC Approval Date		
HREC Expiration Date		
HREC Project title		
Principal investigator		
Project location(s) and affiliated institution(s)		

Please attach a copy of the HREC-approved protocol and the approval letter.
Note: If ethics approval and/or funding has not yet been granted, the Biobank Access Committee may issue a letter of intent, indicating provisional approval for Biobank access, subject to the conditions outlined.



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AusME ACCESS				
AusME BIOBANK				
Details the type and size of the dataset/biosamples required				
☐ AusME Biosamples and Data (researcher provided with pathology results and any other AusME Registry data requested [§])		☐ AusME Registry Data only ☐ All of AusME Registry ☐ Selected AusME Registry data ([§] provide these details below)		
-- Please enter biosample details below --				
If collecting your own blood from study participants, would you also consider collecting for the AusME Biobank?				
☐ Yes ☐ No				
-- Please enter biosample request details below --				
Biosample	aliquot volumes	ME/CFS	long COVID	"Healthy Control"
☐ PBMC (Lithium Heparin)	5x10 ⁶ cells/mL	# aliquots	# aliquots	# aliquots
☐ PBMC (EDTA)	5x10 ⁶ cells/mL	# aliquots	# aliquots	# aliquots
☐ Whole Blood (EDTA)	500µL	# aliquots	# aliquots	# aliquots
☐ Plasma (Lithium Heparin)	500µL	# aliquots	# aliquots	# aliquots
☐ Plasma (EDTA)	500µL	# aliquots	# aliquots	# aliquots
☐ Serum (SST)	200µL	# aliquots	# aliquots	# aliquots

Unprocessed blood (participating lab only)	ME/CFS	long COVID	"Healthy Control"
☐ Lithium Heparin	Volume (µl) x # donors	Volume (µl) x # donors	Volume (µl) x # donors
☐ EDTA	Volume (µl) x # donors	Volume (µl) x # donors	Volume (µl) x # donors
☐ SST	Volume (µl) x # donors	Volume (µl) x # donors	Volume (µl) x # donors
☐ Self-supplied tubes	Volume (µl) x # donors	Volume (µl) x # donors	Volume (µl) x # donors
Tube details:	If tubes self-supplied, please list the types and volumes		

AusME REGISTRY
[§] If your study requires access to AusME Registry data, please outline the specific data requirements (ie: targeted patient subsets, defined cohorts, specific questionnaires, etc) and any other useful information you require:



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Click or tap here to enter text.

BILLING INFORMATION FOR INVOICE (if applicable)	
Institution account name	
Address	Address Line 1
	Address Line 2
	Suburb
	State
	Country
	Postcode
ABN	
Contact person name	
Contact phone no.	
Contact email	

COURIER DETAILS FOR BIOSAMPLE DISPATCH	
Name of contact person	
Phone number	
Email address	
Delivery address	Address Line 1
	Address Line 2
	Suburb
	State
	Country
	Postcode



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CHECKLIST FOR APPLICATION

- ☐ Fully complete application form
- ☐ Chief investigator CV
- ☐ HREC approval letter (if applicable)
- ☐ HREC approved protocol (if applicable)
- ☐ Email all of the above as attachments to: michelle.tavoletti@emerge.org.au

ACCESS COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Application Number	<<Access committee to enter>>	
Chief Investigator Name		
Project Title		
Submission Date	<<Access committee to enter>>	
Review Decision	<<Access committee to enter>>	
Date of Decision	<<Access committee to enter>>	
Date of Access Expiry	<<Access committee to enter>>	
Partnering laboratory?	<<Access committee to enter>>	
Nature of Request	☐ EA support only (for study promotion or grant letter support)	☐ EA Support and AusME Access (for study promotion and access to AusME data or AusME data and biosamples)