



Impact Research Agreement Program: Commercialization Impact Research Agreement

Up to \$100K grant partnered research with high commercialization potential

Impact Research Program Overview

Funded by the Government of Canada, the mission of the Stem Cell Network (SCN) is to act as a catalyst for enabling translation of stem cell research into clinical applications, commercial products, or public policy. The *Impact Research Agreement Program* is aimed at funding research projects for up to one year, that are partnered and that have high potential for translational impact while addressing the Network's mission.

Commercialization Impact Research Agreement

Commercialization Impact Research Agreements are aimed at projects that generate novel technologies and intellectual property (IP) that have commercial value in the stem cell research or therapeutics markets.

It is anticipated that the **Commercialization Impact Research Agreement** program will principally support projects under two categories as outlined below. Please note that in all cases, the scope of the proposed work must be feasible within the term of the grant and the proposed budget (limited to \$100,000 from the SCN).

Category 1: The development of stem cell-related products or services for the research market to the point where they will be ready for commercial license by an industry partner at the completion of the term of the grant. **The application must set out a coherent product research and development plan and be accompanied by a strong letter of support from an industry partner** to the Network outlining why the technology is important to them, and a description of their involvement in the project (i.e. cash, staff involvement, time commitment, or other in-kind support) including any conditions attached to that support. The letter must identify the specific project deliverables of interest to the partner, and clearly describe the anticipated commercial value of the technology/IP including: target market with preliminary market projections, the competitive advantage of the technology relative to competing products, the potential for protection through patenting or trade secrets, and existence of overlapping patents covering the technology or components. Finally, the letter of support should provide an indication of any further time and investment that will be required beyond the end of the project by the industry partner prior to market release.

OR

Category 2: The generation of data to support the further development of IP between the filing of a provisional patent application and first filing of the complete patent application. To that end, proof of filing a provisional patent application within six months prior to the grant application date and a letter of support from a third party are necessary conditions of the award. **The letter of support from a third party (such as the researcher's Technology Transfer Office, legal council, or industry partner) must support the novelty of the provisional patent application claims through evidence of a prior art search.** Comments on why the invention would not appear obvious to one familiar with the field of science would further support the application. Although a letter of support from an industry partner is not mandatory for this category, it would strengthen the application.

Total SCN funds that may be requested for a *Commercialization Impact Research Agreement* is \$100,000.

Eligibility Criteria

- The applicant must be eligible to receive grant funding from CIHR, NSERC, or SSHRC.
- The application must include a letter of support from an industry partner as described above (category 1) OR a copy of the relevant provisional patent application and a letter of support from a third party (category 2).
- In order to receive the award, successful applicants must execute a Standard SCN Agreement (through which they will become a member of the Stem Cell Network), and take on all of the associated rights and obligations. These obligations include the requirement to provide SCN office with project updates and reports as requested.

Application and Review Process

1. Download the budget template and Commercialization Impact Research Agreement Application Form from <http://www.stemcellnetwork.ca/index.php/funding/>.
2. Deliver completed proposal by e-mail to info@stemcellnetwork.ca **by midnight on the due date** (see table below for competition schedule).

Application due*	Funding starts 1 st of
June 15, 2016	September 2016

3. Reviews of each application will be undertaken by the SCN Research Management Committee (RMC). The RMC will make their final funding recommendations to the SCN Board of Directors for approval.
4. The Network expects to announce awards within two months of application and funding of projects is expected to start within one month of announcement.

For further information, please contact info@stemcellnetwork.ca.

Application Outline

The *Commercialization Impact Research Agreement* proposal consists of **four sections**, as outlined below, plus supporting documentation (letters of support, budget spreadsheet, and investigator CVs). The complete application package may be downloaded from <http://www.stemcellnetwork.ca/index.php/funding/>.

Section 1: Project Overview

Date of Submission –

Non-disclosing Project Title (max. 15 words) - Capture the essence of what is to be done/found.

Project Leader - Identify **one** Investigator who will be responsible for managing the project and for progress reporting to the Network.

Project Summary (max. 200 words) - Provide an Executive Summary **in lay terms** of the proposal, highlighting project objectives and deliverables, demonstrating how the proposal fits within the *Commercialization Impact Program*. Clearly indicate the potential impact of your proposed research on Canadians and how partner(s) will help you further your goals. (Note: This summary will be evaluated by lay representatives. Please note that successful Commercialization Impact grant will only be identified on the SCN web site by their non-disclosing title, project members and amount of funding).

Project Short-term Deliverables (max. 3 key deliverables) – Using bullet format, provide a list of the deliverables for the proposed project including expected time of completion within the term of the grant.

Research Long-term Translational Plan and Value of Technology (max. one paragraph) – Provide a brief and clear description of your long-term commercialization plan for the proposed research including how the proposed impact grant will further the long-term goals and the value of the technology to be developed.

Project Team - Identify principal investigators and personnel/trainees who will be directly involved in the proposed project (name, institution, position, role in project and contact information).

Section 2: Research Proposal

Please note: Up to 30 references may be included **in addition** to the 3-page limit for this section. Appendices will **not** be reviewed.

Background & Preliminary Findings (max. 1 page including tables and figures) – Describe the background and rationale for the proposed research including any relevant preliminary findings. If the proposed research is to generate data to support the further development of intellectual property between provisional and first patent filing, please provide a copy of the provisional filing.

Proposed Research (max. 2 pages including tables and figures) – Outline the proposed work to be undertaken over the term of the grant. Please identify the limitations of the methodologies used, if any, and explain how the team may overcome these issues.

Section 3: Partnerships and Letters of Support

For **Category 1 projects**, a **minimum of one industry partner is mandatory**. The letter from the partner to the Network **must** outline why the technology is important to the partner, and a description of the partner's involvement in the project (i.e. cash, staff involved, time commitment and other in-kind support) including any conditions attached to that support. The letter must identify the specific project deliverables of interest to the partner, and clearly describe the anticipated commercial value of the technology/IP including: target market with preliminary market projections, the competitive advantage of the technology relative to competing products, the potential for protection through patenting or trade secrets, and existence of overlapping patents covering the technology or components. Finally, the letter of support should provide an indication of any further time and investment that will be required beyond the end of the project by the industry partner prior to market release. **Applications that do not have a letter of support from an industry partner will not be reviewed**. The SCN office may provide support in identifying/securing a partner for a Commercialization Impact project; please contact info@stemcellnetwork.ca for assistance.

For **Category 2 projects**, a **letter from a third party is mandatory**. Applications that do not have a letter of support from a 3rd party will not be reviewed. The letter of support from a third party (such as the researcher's Technology Transfer Office, legal council, or industry partner) must support the novelty of the provisional patent application claims through evidence of a prior art search. Comments on why the invention would not appear obvious to one familiar with the field of science would further support the application. A letter of support from an industry partner would strengthen the application but is not mandatory.

List each partner that will participate in the project, their **specific role** in the project, and their anticipated cash and in-kind contribution. Where a researcher has a "financial interest" (as defined by SCN Conflict of Interest Guidelines, available on the SCN website at URL) in a partner the potential conflict of interest should be declared. This does not preclude the partnership in any way, but provides transparency to the review process.

**Section 4: Budget
Justifications and Comments**

Provide justification for/comments on your budget, as necessary. Identify budget items by noting the accompanying Excel spreadsheet row number relevant to the item. Note that all Stem Cell Network research grants must adhere to CIHR funding guidelines unless specific written permission has been received to apply NSERC or SSHRC guidelines instead. CHIR guidelines can be found at <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/805.html>
