

Guidelines - Disease Team Research Agreements

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.

Disease Team Research Agreements will support projects that are developing novel cellular or stem cell-related therapeutic approaches to tissue repair and regeneration for specific diseases. Letters of Intent must describe the translational *bench to bedside* path of the research and identify where the proposed research stands along the path.

Commercialization and translation are an important component of this program. Depending on the technologies that are being developed, investigators will need to demonstrate that the following areas will be addressed:

- Patent and intellectual property progress
- Technology and manufacturing scale-up
- Regulatory and clinical trials expertise
- Industry receptors and/or out-licensing or company creation

The Letter of Intent (LOI) process will be open for four weeks starting on May 17th, 2016. All submissions are due by midnight EDT on June 15th, 2016. Submissions will be assessed for eligibility and a notice of invitation to submit a full proposal will be sent out for qualifying projects.

Please note investigators wishing to participate in this process must be eligible to receive CIHR funding. All applications must have a named lead Investigator and also include multiple investigators with different expertise appropriate to the project. Investigators based outside of Canada can be included as collaborators but will not be able to receive SCN funds. The lead investigator may not be named as the lead PI on more than one submission.

Disease Team Research Agreements are valued at \$500,000 over two fiscal years (December 1st, 2016 to December 31st, 2017). Although funding will be made available for over two fiscal years, the research agreement application will require a five-year strategic plan for the project, including a high-level, five-year budget. There is no guarantee of full five-year funding. It is expected that some teams that have not met targets will be discontinued and new teams will be funded in future years. The shortened time frame for the current funding period is required to synchronize the SCN grant-funding period with the fiscal year and to fulfill reporting requirements. Projects will need to be completed (and funds spent) within the two year period as indicated above.

Partnerships with foundations, institutions, health charities or industry are a mandatory component of the project. The number of partnerships and amount of leveraged funding (in-kind and/or cash) will increase the application's ranking.

Letter of Intent Requirements can be found [here](http://www.stemcellnetwork.ca/index.php/funding/). (http://www.stemcellnetwork.ca/index.php/funding/)

Potential applicants may wish to speak with SCN staff to confirm eligibility. This can be done by emailing: info@stemcellnetwork.ca