

The Translation and Society Program

Guidelines

SCN will provide up to \$75,000 to support ELSI projects that facilitate the translation of stem cell-based research for the benefit of society.

About the Stem Cell Network:

Supporting and building Canada's stem cell and regenerative medicine research sector has been the *raison d'être* of the Stem Cell Network (SCN) since its inception in 2001. Its work has been supported by the Government of Canada from the beginning, and most recently with an \$18 million commitment to fund research and training through 2019-22.

SCN's mandate is to act as a catalyst for the translation of stem cell research into clinical applications, commercial products and public policy. In just over 18 years SCN has forged a national community that has transformed stem cell research and moved it to the point where regenerative medicine is changing clinical practice. SCN has supported 170 research groups nationally; invested over \$100 million for translational research, leveraging nearly \$100M in partner contributions; catalyzed 19 clinical trials and 21 biotech start-ups. In addition, SCN established the annual Till & McCulloch Meetings and has provided training for more than 3,000 individual trainees.

The Translation and Society Program:

SCN is pleased to invite full proposals under the Translation and Society Program. The program will support ELSI (Ethical, Legal and Social Implications) research projects that focus on impediments to progress in the translation of innovative stem cell research. Topics may include but are not limited to: regulatory modernization, legal and policy challenges of emerging technologies, ethical governance, market access pathways, reimbursement, health system adoption, patient knowledge and engagement, privacy, data collection and usage, public education or awareness for consumers. Where appropriate, SCN encourages ELSI research projects to include wet lab investigators on project teams.

Awards of up to \$75,000 for 25 months will be available through this program. (January 1, 2020 – January 31, 2022). The application will require a strategic plan and a budget justification that corresponds with the plan. In addition, a separate detailed budget for the requested SCN funding is required. Partnerships with foundations, institutions, health charities or industry are an important and mandatory component of the project proposals. Partnerships and leveraged funding (in-kind and/or cash) will increase the application's ranking. All project applications will

be subject to peer review and assessment by the Stem Cell Network's Research Management Committee. Successful projects will provide the SCN office with project reports as requested and will be regularly monitored by SCN's Research Management Committee to ensure appropriate progress is being made.

Specific Criteria:

Projects must:

- Be forward-looking and address significant clinical translation challenges that may impede stem cell-based therapies and emerging technologies from moving from bench to bedside;
- Demonstrate strong potential for uptake and use of the research outputs by specific receptors;
- Enable Canada to compete within a global clinical R&D environment, or strengthen Canada's international leadership in ELSI research
- Build Canadian knowledge and strength in the clinical translation of stem cell research
- Include non-federal partnerships that provide in-kind and cash contributions.

General Requirements:

- Projects must be relevant to stem cells and regenerative medicine.
- Projects must demonstrate research excellence and innovation.
- Projects must be in the translational space through to early stage clinical trials.
- Projects should integrate sex and gender considerations into the research, when appropriate.
- Project milestones and deliverables must be realistic and reasonable based on the supporting budget.
- Projects should be collaborative in nature - supported by dynamic, multi-disciplinary teams that are diverse and reflective of Canadian society and of *all* research career stages. International collaboration is also encouraged to strengthen the research activity and potential global impact.
- A trainee education plan must be submitted with funding applications.
- A knowledge mobilization plan must be submitted with funding applications, and adhere to the [Tri-Council Open Access Policy](#) to ensure research results are made publicly accessible.

- Each Project must be distinct from any other application(s) submitted to SCN to avoid ‘double dipping’ across SCN’s research funding programs
- Investigators requesting funds from SCN must be based at a Tri-Council eligible institution and must themselves be eligible to receive Tri-Council funding

The full application package for the **Translation and Society** Program consists of:

1. The application form (document 1)
2. Investigator CVs (document 2)
3. Letters of support (document 3)
4. Project budget for requested SCN funds (document 4)
5. Institution and investigator signatures form (document 5)

The deadline to submit the full application package to info@stemcellnetwork.ca is **Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 11:59 PM Pacific Time**

A confirmation email will be sent within 48 hours of SCN receiving the submitted application package. If a confirmation email is **NOT** received from SCN within 48 hours of submission **it is the responsibility of the lead applicant** to contact SCN and ensure that the application package has been received by SCN.

Funding is dependent on the completion of SCN’s 2019-22 contribution agreement with the Government of Canada.