

2019 SCN Research Funding Program FAQs

Is this my only opportunity to apply for a Stem Cell Network award?

No. SCN anticipates that a second, smaller round of funding will be announced in early 2020. A total of \$11M will be available across the two rounds. More information about round two is available below. In addition, SCN has launched the Disruptive Research Program (DRP), valued at \$800K. This program will support national, multidisciplinary research projects that bring forward high-impact ideas and approaches to enable innovative and transformative research that will seed subsequent translation activity.

What are the value of the awards for SCN's four translational programs?

Award values vary across the four programs. Details can be found in the Guidelines for each program. The range starts at \$75,000 and goes up to \$1,000,000.

Do I have to be a former award recipient with SCN to apply for funding?

No. SCN welcomes applications from all stem cell and regenerative medicine researchers within Canada. All applicants must be eligible to receive funding from CIHR. Please refer to the program guidelines for specific information.

What opportunities exist for early career researchers?

We encourage applications from early-career researchers as lead investigators. All of the new SCN research programs have stated criteria for inclusion of researchers across the spectrum of career experiences. It is expected that research projects will be delivered by diverse, multi-disciplinary teams.

I submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) last year, will it be considered for this competition?

SCN is extremely grateful for the high volume of LOIs sent in 2018, which helped create a strong application to the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program. Unfortunately, the government has now cancelled the NCE program. As SCN's funding mechanisms have changed, the LOIs submitted to support the NCE application in 2018 will not be transferred into this new suite of funding programs. As such, investigators interested in applying to SCN for research support will need to prepare a full application to be submitted by the August 8, 2019 deadline.

How does basic research fit within SCN's new funding program?

SCN's new program reflects our translational mandate and provides additional support for early phase clinical trials and the emerging Canadian regenerative medicine sector. SCN will not be supporting early discovery research in this funding competition.

Will applications focused on cancer or CAR-T be considered?

Research applications must be regenerative in nature and/or use stem cells for addressing the proposed problem to be eligible for funding.

Will projects using small molecules/drugs be considered?

Yes, however, the proposed project must be regenerative in nature and/or use stem cells for addressing the proposed problem to be eligible for funding.

Can I submit an application for a project that is currently being funded by another agency or organization?

Yes, but the request to SCN must cover project work that is distinct and not supported by another agency or organization.

Does SCN accept applications from outside Canada?

No, however international collaborators are encouraged and welcome on a project led by a Canadian-based investigator.

Do I need matching funds to apply?

Yes. SCN-funded projects require partner support (in-kind or financial). Eligible partners include industry, not-for-profit organizations, foundations, research institutions, health charities and provincial governments. Please note, federal funders (e.g. CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, CFI, NCEs, Genome Canada, New Frontiers Research Fund, IRAP) are ineligible for matching.

Can industry partners be located outside Canada?

All SCN programs allow for matching funds from international partners. However, the Fueling Biotechnology Partnerships program requires the main receptor to be a Canadian biotechnology company. Please refer to the program guidelines for specific information.

When will SCN funding decisions be announced?

The deadline for applications is August 8, 2019. All complete applications will be reviewed through peer review and by SCN's Research Management Committee, which will make recommendations to SCN's Board of Directors for funding approval. SCN will notify all applicants of outcomes in December 2019.

ROUND TWO FUNDING

Will the same four research funding programs be offered in round two?

No. The Advancing Clinical Trials program will only be offered in round one. The remaining three programs – Accelerating Clinical Translation, Fueling Biotechnology Partnerships, and Translation and Society – will all be offered in round two, with a shorter award duration (17 months) and reduced funding amounts.

When will round two be announced?

SCN expects to issue a Call for Proposals for round two in early 2020.

Will I be able to apply for round two funding to continue or build on a project begun in round one?

Funded investigators from round one are welcome to apply for funding in round two. However, applications must address new aspects of research not covered in the round one funded project. Both round one and two have the same end date (January 31, 2022), therefore round two should not be viewed as an opportunity to extend round one research.

NEW: DISRUPTIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM

What is the Disruptive Research Program?

The DRP is a new research funding program that is being offered by SCN. It is designed to support a small number of innovative research projects that will bring forward high-impact ideas and approaches to enable innovative and transformative research that will seed subsequent translational activity. The program aims to support national, multidisciplinary research teams and enable the development of next generation technologies and/or therapies.

Can an investigator act as Principal Investigator on more than one Letter of Intent (LOI)?

Applicants are limited to act as Principal Investigator on one LOI submission only. However, a Principal Investigator can act as team member on other LOI applications.

Do projects submitted to the DRP have to be translational in nature?

The DRP is designed to support innovative, transformative research that will seed future translational activity in 8-10 years. This unique SCN offering aims to enable emerging activities that hold promise for moving the field forward.

Will there be a second round of the Disruptive Research Program?

The DRP will be offered as a stand-alone competition once in 2019; there are currently no plans for subsequent DRP competitions.

Is the LOI stage of the DRP mandatory or can an application be submitted directly to the full application stage of the DRP?

The LOI stage is mandatory, and only LOIs submitted by Friday, August 23, 2019 will be evaluated for scientific merit and alignment with the specific objectives of the DRP by SCN's Research Management Committee (RMC). Submissions to the full application stage of the DRP will be by invitation only.

What is the value of a DRP award and how long is it for?

The DRP has a funding envelope of \$800K. Funding will be allocated based on the quality of the applications and recommendations of SCN's Research Management Committee. Applicants can apply for up to \$800K. The length of the awards is 25 months, starting January 2020. For more information please review the [DRP Guidelines document](#).