

The Disruptive Research Program Call for Letters of Intent LOI Guidelines and Submission Instructions

The deadline to submit the LOI package (Submission Form and relevant short biographies/CVs) to info@stemcellnetwork.ca is **Friday, August 23, 2019 at 11:59 PM Pacific Time**.

A confirmation email will be sent within 48 hours of SCN receiving the submitted LOI 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 LOI package has been received by SCN.

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

Context:

SCN is pleased to invite Letters of Intent (LOIs) under the Disruptive Research Program (DRP). This program will support the development of high impact ideas and approaches, including state-of-the-art technologies like AI, quantum computing and synthetic biology, that will seed novel research avenues, transform the conduct of stem cell and regenerative medicine research or yield innovative new stem cell-based therapies. The DRP is designed to enable transformative research that will have longer-term translation value.

\$800,000 has been allocated to fund the Disruptive Research Program. The term of the award is 25 months (January 1, 2020 – January 31, 2022). Budgets should realistically reflect the scope of the project. Applications with funding requests up to \$800,000 will be accepted.

The Disruptive Research Program Competition Timeline:

LOI submission deadline: Friday, August 23, 2019

LOI responses and invitations to submit full application issued: Friday, September 17, 2019

Full application deadline: Friday, November 8, 2019

Anticipated funding start date: January 1, 2020

The DRP Objectives:

- Support transformative ideas and approaches, including state-of-the-art technologies like AI and synthetic biology, that have the capacity to produce significant shifts in the way stem cell and regenerative medicine research is conducted or will yield new innovative stem cell-based therapies.
- Seed research avenues that will yield translational activity within 8-10 years.
- Enhance national collaborative networks.
- Integrate experts from non-traditional stem cell and regenerative medicine fields.
- Build international collaborations and contribute to Canada's positive reputation as a global leader in stem cell and regenerative medicine research.
- Support research that may not easily fit into conventional research funding programs.
- Build intellectual property (IP) that will seed Canadian translational or commercialization activity.

The DRP Project Requirements:

The full application for the Disruptive Research Award must meet the requirements listed below. The list below should be used to guide the drafting of the LOI submissions.

- Projects must be relevant to stem cells and regenerative medicine; applications that are focused on cancer must address the role and function of stem cells in the proposed problem, and/or be regenerative in nature.
- Projects must include a research component that addresses the ethical, policy, regulatory or legal implications of the research outputs.
- Projects must showcase Canadian research excellence, leadership and innovation.
- Projects must be distinct from those that can be funded through SCN's other funding programs (i.e. Accelerating Clinical Research, Fueling Biotechnology Partnerships Advancing Clinical Trials or Translation and Society).
- Projects must clearly describe the innovative nature and potential impact of the proposed research and how it will open new avenues that lead to health, economic and social benefits for Canadians.
- Projects must be driven by national, multidisciplinary teams drawn from at least three provinces with a track record of delivering innovation and excellence. Teams should be collaborative, diverse and reflective of Canadian society and all research career stages.
- Projects must have global relevance and, where appropriate, include international collaborators.

- Projects must include non-federal partners that are able to provide in-kind or cash support.
- Projects should outline a plan for the continuation of the research past the 25-month mark and anticipated funders for this work.
- Projects can use a portion of the project funds to offset costs for IP filings (up to \$50K) to protect innovations arising from the research.
- A trainee education plan must be submitted with funding applications.
- Knowledge mobilization and data-handling plans must be submitted with funding applications, and adhere to the [Tri-Council Open Access Policy](#) to ensure research results are made publicly accessible.
- Investigators requesting funds from SCN must be based at a Tri-Council eligible institution and must themselves be eligible to receive Tri-Council funding.

LOI Submission, Review and Evaluation:

- Completion of the LOI stage is **required** for applicants to be invited to submit a full application.
- LOIs will be evaluated for scientific merit and alignment with the specific objectives of the DRP by SCN's Research Management Committee (RMC). **Only selected LOIs that meet these criteria will be invited to submit a full application.**
- An applicant is limited to act as Principal Investigator on one LOI submission only.

LOI Submission Package:

- Completed LOI Submission Form
- Project Leader(s) CV(s) *or* short biography(ies)