

The Fueling Biotechnology Partnerships Program

Guidelines

SCN will provide up to \$350,000 to support academic partnerships with Canadian regenerative medicine biotechnology companies to bring innovative technologies or therapies to the clinic or market.

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 Fueling Biotechnology Partnerships Program:

SCN is pleased to invite full proposals under Round 2 of the Fueling Biotechnology Partnerships Program. The program will support partnerships between Canadian academics and emerging/young Canadian regenerative medicine biotechnology companies to enable and accelerate translational development of innovative technologies or therapies into the market or the clinic. Projects principally focused on basic/discovery research are not eligible for funding.

Awards of up to \$350,000 for 18 months will be available through this program (August 1, 2020 – January 31, 2022). The application will require a development plan and a budget justification that corresponds with the development plan and commercialization assessment. These elements should provide a rationale for the expected value to be created with SCN funding. In addition, a separate detailed budget for the requested SCN funding is required. Partnerships with a Canadian

regenerative medicine biotech is a mandatory component of the project proposals; further partnering with foundations, institutions or health charities is encouraged, as 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 in the regenerative medicine space, be novel and competitively differentiated, and resolve a key translational question or bottle neck that will enable the technology or therapy to move into the clinic or market within five years.
- Be within the field of regenerative medicine, led by an academic at a Canadian institute and the partnering receptor company must be a Canadian SME in the field.
- Be focused on advancing a Canadian stem cell or regenerative medicine innovation that will have global relevance.
- Provide a project plan and commercialization assessment that clearly articulates a commercial pathway, competitive differentiation, and value-creating deliverables (see sections 3 and 4).

Note:

- Projects can use a portion of the project funds to offset costs for IP filings or for licensing agreements (up to \$50K for a max of 2 filings or licensing activities).

Note: A Canadian company is a commercial enterprise that is incorporated pursuant to the laws of Canada & has ongoing business activities in Canada. Eligible biotech companies must have fewer than 250 employees, and are non-subsidiary, independent firms.

SCN does not take a stake in intellectual property (IP) or companies. IP strategy & ownership are the responsibility of the academic, research institution and partnering biotech company.

General Requirements:

- Projects must be relevant to stem cells and regenerative medicine.
- Projects must demonstrate research excellence, Canadian leadership and innovation.

- Research applications that are focused on cancer must be regenerative in nature and/or use stem cells for addressing the proposed problem.
- 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(s) is also encouraged to strengthen the research activity and potential global impact.
- Where appropriate teams should include an Ethical, Legal and Social Implications (ELSI) expert who can address translational issues specific to the research (patient engagement, health economics, regulatory issues etc.)
- 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.
- A plan for data management must be described. The [Draft Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy](#) should be used as a guide for developing this plan.
- 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 Fueling Biotechnology Partnerships 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. Supporting documents such as an approved Animal Utilization Protocol, Stem Cell Oversight Committee (SCOC) approvals for the use of human cells and tissues, approval to use biohazard agents and provisional patent filing should be submitted if applicable (document 5)

6. Institution and investigator signatures form (document 6)

The deadline to submit the full application package to info@stemcellnetwork.ca is **Wednesday, April 1, 2020 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.