



Program Guidelines

SCN will provide up to \$3,000,000 to fuel national multi-disciplinary teams focused on developing transformative technology solutions for tackling significant regenerative medicine challenges.

Timeline:

- Letter of Intent submissions open on Wednesday, September 1, 2021.
- Letter of Intent submission deadline is Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific.
- Full application submission will be opened to eligible LOI submitters on Friday, September 24, 2021.
- Full application submission deadline is Wednesday, December 1, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific.

The Letter of Intent and full application must be submitted using the ProposalCentral online submission platform.

Upon successful submission of an LOI and/or full application, a confirmation message will appear on the screen within ProposalCentral and a confirmation email from pcsupport@altum.com will be sent to the applicant. Add pcsupport@altum.com to the safe senders list to ensure receipt of submission confirmation.

If a confirmation email is NOT received from ProposalCentral 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 2022-25 contribution agreement with the Government of Canada.

About the Stem Cell Network:

Celebrating 20 years, the Stem Cell Network (SCN) is a national non-profit that supports stem cell and regenerative medicine research, training the next generation of highly qualified personnel, and delivering outreach activities across Canada. SCN's goal is to advance science from the lab to the clinic for the benefit of Canadians. SCN has been supported by the Government of Canada since inception in 2001. This strategic funding, valued at \$118M, has benefitted approximately 200 world-class research groups and 4,100 trainees and has catalyzed 24 clinical trials. Powering research for better health.

The Horizon Awards Program:

SCN is pleased to invite proposals under the Horizon Awards Program. Funding through this program will support innovative, transformative technology solutions for tackling significant regenerative medicine challenges. Projects should yield therapeutic outputs to Canadians within one decade. Examples may include challenges impeding the clinical advancement of gene and/or cell therapies, and advances in biomanufacturing or tissue engineering. Projects should include ethical, legal and social implications (ELSI) components that address social, economic, technological, regulatory, patient or ethical questions or challenges that are associated with the project focus. Successful projects will be driven by multi-disciplinary teams, drawn from three or more institutions across Canada, to develop regenerative medicine-based treatments for a specific disease or illness. The project teams should include investigators that are new to the Network or expertise in disciplines that are not traditional to the Network.

Horizon Awards are for up to \$3,000,000 each for 34 months (award term is April 1, 2022 to January 31, 2025). Full applications 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 companies/industry, not-for-profit organizations, foundations, charities, research institutions/hospitals/universities, and government bodies are a valuable component of project proposals. Partnerships and leveraged funding (in-kind and/or cash) will increase the application's ranking. In addition, applications that include collaborations with other Canadian-based investigators and have multidisciplinary expertise will also be ranked more highly. Those applications that are reflective of EDI considerations through hiring/team composition, training and scientific methodologies will also be given a higher ranking.

Eligible applications will be reviewed through an expert peer review process, comprised mainly of international reviewers. Projects will then be considered for strategic fit with SCN's mandate by the [Research Management Committee](#) (RMC), and funding decisions will be taken by the Board based on RMC recommendations. Successful applicants will provide the SCN office with project

reports as requested and will be regularly monitored by SCN's RMC to ensure appropriate progress is being made.

Specific Criteria:

Projects must:

- Fuel strategic areas of regenerative medicine where there is potential to realize health and economic benefits and deliver innovative, Made in Canada health solutions to Canadians within one decade.
- Include multi-disciplinary teams with investigators located in three or more institutions across Canada.
- Projects should be collaborative in nature and supported by dynamic teams that are diverse and reflective of Canadian society and of *all* research career stages. Early career researchers (ECRs) should be fully integrated and active members of the team.
- Be comprised of innovative, translational, and ethical/policy components.
- Seed research avenues and build intellectual property (IP) that will yield Canadian translational or commercialization activity within 10 years.
- Enhance national collaborative networks and integrate experts new to the Network, or disciplines that are not traditional to the Network (e.g., AI, material sciences, health economics etc.).
- Build international collaborations and contribute to Canada's positive reputation as a global leader in stem cell and regenerative medicine research.
- Include a robust Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) training plan that integrates trainees and facilitates meaningful exposure and development across the spectrum of project disciplines.
- Include an in-depth knowledge mobilization plan that will see the results of the research shared broadly with the community.
- Include non-federal partnerships that provide in-kind and cash contributions.

General Requirements:

- Projects must be relevant to regenerative medicine; regenerative medicine is the branch of medicine that develops methods to regrow, repair or replace damaged or diseased cells, organs or tissues. Regenerative medicine includes the generation and use of therapeutic stem cells, tissue engineering and the production of artificial organs. *Research applications that are focused on cancer must be regenerative in nature and/or use stem cells for addressing the proposed problem.*
- 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 or social benefits for Canadians.

- 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 and supported by dynamic teams that are diverse and reflective of Canadian society and of *all* research career stages.
- Projects should include an explanation of how an inclusive and diverse culture will be fostered and maintained within the team.
- International collaboration is also encouraged to strengthen the research activity and potential global impact.
- Projects must include a knowledge translation plan and describe how the research will be made accessible to knowledge users outside of academia. Please note it is expected that the [Tri-Council Open Access Policy](#) will be followed to ensure research results are made publicly accessible.
- Projects must include a data management plan, if relevant. The [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.
- An applicant is limited to act as Lead Investigator on only one LOI submission and project application per program.
- Investigators requesting funds from SCN must be based at a Tri-Council eligible institution and must themselves be eligible to receive Tri-Council funding.
- In order to receive funding, successful applicants must execute a standard SCN Agreement, and take on all of the associated rights and obligations. These obligations include the requirement to provide SCN office with project reports as requested, and recognition of SCN as a funder.

Submission process for the Horizon Awards program:

A Letter of Intent (LOI) submission is mandatory for this program. LOIs will be used to identify peer review requirements, gauge the level of interest in SCN's programs, and ensure projects fall within SCN's regenerative medicine mandate. Eligible LOIs will be invited to submit a full application on Friday, September 24, 2021.

LOI and full application-related questions should be addressed to Rebecca Cadwalader (rcadwalader@stemcellnetwork.ca) or Jon Draper (jdraper@stemcellnetwork.ca).