



**Stem Cell  
Network**

Powering  
Regenerative  
Medicine

**Réseau de  
Cellules Souches**

Propulsons  
la médecine  
régénératrice



## **Impact Award - Program Guidelines**

*SCN will provide up to \$250,000 to support proof-of-principle experiments, including novel therapeutic or technical approach development that will drive regenerative medicine therapies forward.*

### **Timeline:**

- Letter of Intent submissions open on Thursday, September 1, 2022.
- Letter of Intent submission deadline is Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific.
- Full application submission will be opened to eligible LOI submitters on Tuesday, September 27, 2022.
- Full application submission deadline is Thursday, December 1, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. ET (2:00 p.m. PT)

**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.

### **About the Stem Cell Network:**

Formed more than 20 years ago, 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 \$139M, has benefitted over 200 world-class research groups and 5,000 trainees and has catalyzed more than 25 clinical trials. Powering research for better health.

### **The Impact Awards Program:**

SCN is pleased to invite proposals under the Impact Awards Program. Funding through this program will support early-stage translational projects that have the potential to develop novel therapeutic approaches for regenerative medicine. Proposals must clearly identify the translational "bench to bedside" path of the research and where the proposed research stands along the path. Projects that may be funded within this program can involve proof-of-principle experiments for gene and/or cell therapy development, development of new models, and expression and epigenetic studies to understand behavior of stem and progenitor cells in disease relevant settings. Projects may also involve identification and characterization of compounds/drugs that target stem cell differentiation/proliferation with the aim to develop novel regenerative medicine therapeutic approaches. Supportive preliminary data is an important component for all applications submitted to the Impact Awards Program. To be eligible for funding, proposed research projects must describe the translational pathway for the work. Projects can support the work of individual research groups but should include collaborators from outside of the Lead Investigator's institution to further the Network and research impact.

Impact Awards are for up to \$250,000 each for 22 months (award term is April 1, 2023 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. Principal Investigator salaries and indirect costs can be listed as in-kind institutional support (PI salaries at 10% and indirect costs at 40%). In addition, applications that include collaborations with other Canadian-based investigators and have multidisciplinary expertise will also be ranked more highly.

### **Specific Criteria:**

Projects must:

- Focus on proof-of-principle experiments or the development of novel therapeutic or technical approaches that will drive regenerative medicine therapies towards the clinic or commercialization.
- Clearly identify the translational “bench to bedside” path of the research and where the proposed research stands along the path.
- Seed research avenues or build intellectual property (IP) that will yield Canadian translational or commercialization activity.
- 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 demonstrate research excellence, Canadian leadership, and innovation.
- Clearly describe the potential impact of the proposed research and how it will open new avenues that lead to health, economic or social benefits for Canadians.
- Project milestones and deliverables must be realistic and reasonable based on the supporting budget.

- International collaboration is also encouraged to strengthen the research activity and potential global impact.
- Projects must include a robust Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) training plan that integrates trainees and facilitates meaningful exposure and development across the spectrum of project disciplines.
- Projects must include a knowledge mobilization 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 description of the best practices and measures that will be adopted to ensure robust, unbiased, and reproducible results, including any laboratory/project management, data governance, good documentation practices and how sex and gender considerations are integration into the research. Note: All proposed research should be conducted in accordance with the [Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research](#).
- All applications must include a plan that describes the project Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) considerations for hiring/team composition, training, and scientific methodologies.
- Sex and Gender in Research Training: Applicants must have completed and obtained certificates for the three courses comprising the CIHR [Online Training Modules: Integrating Sex and Gender in Health Research](#).
- Research Security Training: Applicants must have attended SCN's in-person July 20, 2022 IGNITE Research Day OR be familiar with the [Safeguarding Your Research](#) Portal and completed the following training courses and obtained certificates: [Introduction to Research Security](#), [Dual-Use in Life Science Research](#) and [Insider and Outsider Threats](#).
- 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.
- To receive funding, successful applicants must execute a standard SCN Agreement, and take on all 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.

### **General information about SCN's Round 2 competition:**

Regenerative medicine projects that are eligible for SCN funding centre on one or more of the following topics: 1) Developing or testing therapeutic approaches that are regenerative in nature, including cell and/or gene therapies; 2) Addressing the role and function of stem cells in a tissue or disease; 3) Using stem cells as a necessary component for the generation of functional cell types; or 4) Investigating a small molecule or biologic that acts on or is dependent on endogenous stem cells for its therapeutic effect.

SCN values the individual differences, lived experiences, expertise, and knowledge of those in the community regardless of age, ancestry, culture, physical ability, gender identity, race, religion, and sexual orientation. All applications must include a plan that describes the project Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) considerations for hiring/team composition, training, and scientific methodologies.

All applications to SCN funding competitions are treated as new applications. If a project was submitted to a previous SCN funding round, it is at the applicant's discretion to address any issues raised in prior peer review feedback. Peer reviewers will not be provided access to prior peer review feedback for any previous version of an application.

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. More details regarding SCN's peer and strategic review process can be found [here](#).

### **Submission process for the Impact 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 Tuesday, September 27, 2022.

LOI and full application-related questions should be addressed to Jon Draper ([jdraper@stemcellnetwork.ca](mailto:jdraper@stemcellnetwork.ca)).