



**Stem Cell
Network**

Powering
Regenerative
Medicine



**Réseau de
Cellules Souches**

Propulsons
la médecine
régénératrice

Incubation Investment Award Program Informational Webinar

August 27, 2025

stemcellnetwork.ca
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 Stem-Cell-Network
 Stem Cell Network

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Ottawa, ON K1H 8L6

Webinar Overview

1. About SCN
2. Competition Overview, Timelines, Requirements, and Resources
3. Questions & Answers

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About Stem Cell Network

About the Stem Cell Network

SCN is a **national** not-for-profit that supports **four main objectives**:

- **Fund research** from development through to early-stage clinical trials
- **Train the next generation** of talent to take on the jobs of the future
- **Enhance knowledge mobilization efforts** to ensure the uptake of research produced in the field
- **Build a robust commercialization readiness program** that will allow for the translation of stem cell and RM discoveries from the lab to patients, to marketplace



Competition Overview, Timelines, Requirements, and Resources

Incubation Investment Award Overview

Why: To deliver economic and health benefits for Canadians by supporting the translation and commercialization of RM technologies.

What: SCN's new Incubation Investment Award (IIA) Program is designed to advance pre-seed and seed-staged Canadian regenerative medicine (RM) biotech companies by enabling the generation of critical data packages to attract third-party investment and accelerate company growth.

How: Provide company investment ranging from \$250,000 to \$1 million per company (via a SAFE mechanism).

When: Funds released in tranches over a two-to-three-year period, starting Spring 2026, contingent on the achievement of defined business and scientific milestones.

Defining 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.

Source: Nature.com (<https://www.nature.com/subjects/regenerative-medicine>)

Note: Research applications that are focused on cancer must be regenerative in nature and/or use stem cells for addressing the proposed problem.

SCN Eligible Projects

To be eligible for the SCN Incubation Investment Award, companies must be Canadian and developing regenerative medicine technologies that 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, tissue engineering technologies or biomaterials;
- 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.

Note: It is the responsibility of the applicant to clearly describe how their technology falls within the scope of eligible regenerative medicine projects

IIA Eligibility Criteria: All conditions must be met

1. **Be a Canadian For-Profit Entity** – The company must be incorporated in Canada.
2. **Be Canadian Controlled** – The company must be >51% Canadian owned.
3. **Focus on RM Innovation** – The company must be RM focused and be advancing a Canadian RM innovation.
4. **Hold Commercialization Rights** – The company must have filed IP and own the commercialization rights to it.
5. **Have Investment** – The company must have raised a minimum for \$250,000 CAD to advance company objectives (cumulative from all sources, including grants).
6. **Be Committed** – The company must have the equivalent of at least 1 (pre-seed) or 2 (seed-staged) full time employee(s) dedicated to advance the company.
7. **Technology Readiness Level (TRL) Between 3 and 6** – Eligible companies should be at a minimum TRL 3 (have defined lead asset/platform and in vitro proof of concept) and not beyond TRL 6 (phase 1 clinical trials).

IIA Program Award Sizes

Company Stage	Duration	Award Minimum*	Award Maximum*
Pre-seed	3 years	\$250,000	\$500,000
Seed	2 years	\$500,000	\$1,000,000

*Award amount to be disbursed in tranches over 2-3 years dependant on the stage of the company

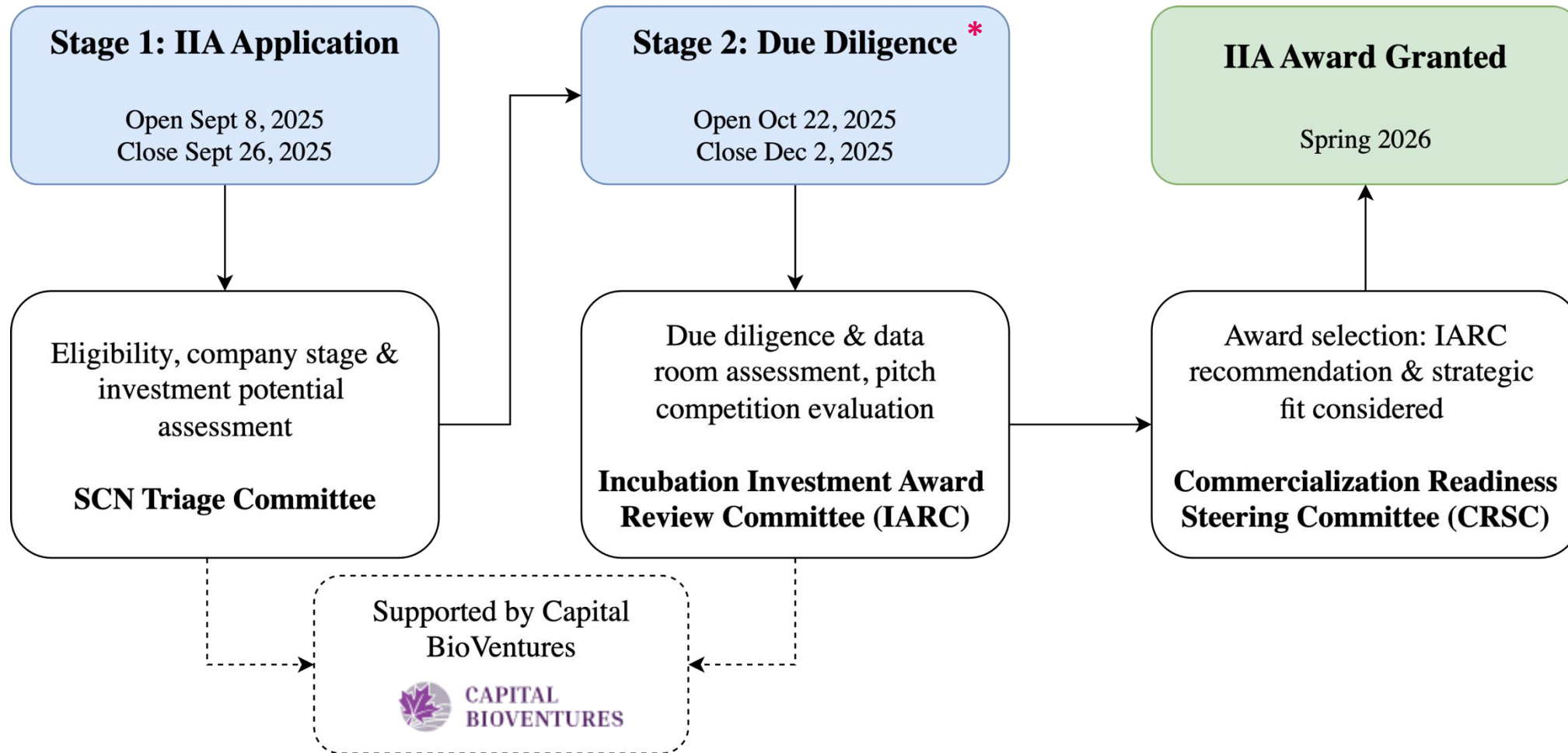
Pre-Alignment of SAFE Investment Terms

- The awards will be offered in the form **SAFE investments (Simple Agreement for Future Equity)**.
- The SCN SAFE terms are consistent with those expected for early-stage investments.

Note:

- Companies that are invited to Stage 2 of the application process will be asked to review the SAFE investment terms and must confirm their acceptance of SCN's standardized SAFE terms as part of the Stage 2 submission process.
- Companies that do not agree with the proposed terms may choose to decline the invitation to Stage 2 of the IIA Program application process.

SCN IIA Application and Award Process



* Only applicants making it to Stage 2 will receive reviewer feedback. No feedback will be provided for Stage 1 of the application process.

IIA Continual Review Process

- Annual project and financial reporting required for SCN and the IARC
- IARC evaluates milestone progress
- Project funding continuance based on IARC recommendation
- Funding may be withheld or cut depending on milestone progress

IIA Competition Timeline

Stage	Event	Date
Stage 1: Application (non-confidential)	Application submissions open	Sept 8, 2025
	Application submission deadline (11:59PM PT)	Sept 26, 2025
	Applicants notified whether they are moving on to Stage 2	Oct 22, 2025
Stage 2: Due Diligence (confidential)	Application instruction email sent out to selected applicants	Oct 22, 2025
	Application submission deadline (11:59PM PT)	Dec 2, 2025
	Applicants notified whether they are moving on to the pitch event	Feb 2, 2026
	Pitch event (virtual)	Feb 9-10, 2026
	Notification of competition outcome	Mar 31, 2026
Award Stage	Award start date	Spring 2026
	Mid-term progress & financial reporting	April 2027*
	Final progress & financial reporting	April 2028*

***2-year award shown; 3-year awards will perform 2nd mid-term reporting in 2028 and final reporting in 2029**

IIA Application Format

Stage 1, IIA Application:

- A link to submit your Stage 1 Application through Jotform will be available on SCN's website from Sept 8, 2025, to Sept 26, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. PT
- A completed Stage 1 submission includes the Jotform online submission which includes submission of the company non-confidential corporate pitch deck

Stage 2, IIA Due Diligence:

- Applicants invited to proceed to Stage 2 will receive an email from researchSCN@stemcellnetwork.ca by October 22, 2025. This email will include:
 - Instructions on how to access Stage 2-specific reference materials and how to submit the Stage 2 materials
 - A copy of a 1-way non-disclosure agreement
 - A copy of the SCN SAFE terms
- Reference materials: application instructions (including data room requirements and pitch deck requirements), due diligence questionnaire and word document fillable form, and budget template
- A completed Stage 2 submission includes the signed NDA, reviewed SAFE terms, and uploaded data room

Stage 2 Pitch Event

Format

- Companies invited to deliver a pitch, at the Pitch Event will be asked to prepare a pitch presentation to be delivered virtually **Feb 9-10, 2026**.
- Pitch requirements will be included in the Stage 2 submission instructions.
- Companies will pitch to the IARC for 20 minutes, followed by a 10-minute Q&A period.

Evaluation

- Company pitches will be evaluated by the Incubation Investment Award Review Committee (IARC):
 - Pitch Deck: maturity, completeness, clarity and coherence.
 - Presenter: ability to command a room, depth and breadth of knowledge on the science and business, and executive presence.

Research Security Guidelines and Assessment

- Regenerative medicine is a **Sensitive Technology Research Area**, so federal research security requirements apply.
- Companies must meet the **federal research security guidelines*** and complete required research security documentation as part of their Stage 2 application submission.
- Companies that are invited to deliver a pitch presentation as part of Stage 2 of the application process, will be asked to complete a **research security assessment**.

* [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern](#) (STRAC Policy) and the [National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships](#) (NSGRP).

Resources:

SCN Website

- **In the coming days:**
 - IIA Program Guidelines & FAQs available
 - Webinar slides and recording available
- **September 8th:** Stage 1 Application Instructions and online Application Form available
- Companies may email us at researchSCN@stemcellnetwork.ca and expect a response within 48 business hours



Questions & Answers

Join us at the 2025 Till & McCulloch Meetings!

RÉUNIONS
TMM
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MEETINGS

OTTAWA

Connect. Train. Lead.

The Westin Hotel

REGISTER TODAY

November 3-5, 2025

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Thank you!