



**Stem Cell
Network**

Powering
Regenerative
Medicine

**Réseau de
Cellules Souches**

Propulsons
la médecine
régénératrice



BUDGET GUIDE

Research Funding Programs

2025-2029



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1. DEFINITIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Budget Definition: The budget is a detailed financial plan that outlines how financial support provided by the funder(s) of an award will be allocated and spent over the duration of the research project.

- The award duration for Round 2 is **22-months**. Awards commence April 1, 2027, and end January 31, 2029.
- The Budget Period Detail (Section 12) should **only** include eligible expenses that will be paid by the funder (SCN or, for Joint-Funded Awards, also the joint-funding organization).

Note: Matching partner contributions (cash or in-kind) should **not** be listed in the Budget Period Detail section and instead must be described in the “Partner Details Excel Form”.

Note: The affiliation for the lead investigator or each co-investigator **must match the institution that will receive the project funding**.

BUDGET CATEGORIES

All expenses must be eligible and fall into permitted budget categories, which are:

Personnel costs:

- **Eligible:** Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) stipends & salaries (e.g., technician, undergraduate, graduate student, postdoctoral fellow and research associate)
- **Ineligible:** Indirect costs and Investigator salaries*

Non-personnel costs:

- **Consumables** (e.g., tissue culture plasticware, media, reagents)
- **Services** (e.g., costs arising from sequencing, imaging or animal experimentation at dedicated facilities)
- **Travel** (e.g., meetings or conference attendance directly related to the project)
- **Other** (e.g., knowledge mobilization costs, including IP filing, licensing, publication costs)

*Although Principal Investigator salaries and Indirect Costs are not eligible SCN budget expenditures, they must be listed as in-kind institutional/salary support (PI salaries at 10% and indirect costs at 40%), under the Direct Partnering Support Section of the Partner Details Form.



2. ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

SCN funds: To be eligible, all budget expenditures must follow the "[Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration](#)."

Joint-Funded Awards: The following budget eligibility requirements apply for each organization's joint-funding contribution:

- **Azrieli Foundation:** Expenditures must follow the "[Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration](#)"
- **The Breakthrough T1D:** budget allocation must adhere to the [Breakthrough T1D eligible expenditures policy](#).

Consult SCN's Program and Joint-Funding Guidelines for links and more details

ELIGIBLE FUNDING RECIPIENTS

The ability to receive and manage funds in the budget is determined by the role of each team member:

Roles **eligible to receive and manage funds:**

- Lead-investigators
- Co-investigators

Roles **NOT eligible to receive and manage funds:**

- Collaborators
- HQP (e.g., technicians, undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and research associates)
- Any other team member role

REQUIREMENTS & CRITERIA

- Investigators requesting SCN funds **must** be based at a Canadian Tri-Agency eligible institution and themselves be eligible to receive Tri-Agency funding.
- SCN funds **cannot** be used to support research outside of Canada.
- For **Joint-Funded Awards with Breakthrough T1D ONLY**: 20% of the Breakthrough T1D budget allocation can be used to support research outside of Canada.

A male scientist with a beard, wearing a white lab coat, safety glasses, and a black hairnet, is working in a laboratory. He is wearing blue nitrile gloves and using a pipette to transfer liquid into a multi-well plate. In the background, another person in a lab coat is visible, and various laboratory equipment and supplies are on the counter.

3. JUSTIFICATION

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

The budget justification **must**:

- Describe the budget expenditures, organized as follows:
 - Personnel Costs – positions, salaries and % effort, including vacant positions
 - Non-Personnel Costs – equipment, consumables, services, travel (maximum \$10,000) and other
- Connect each expenditure to a project aim, milestone or deliverable

The justification should provide **sufficient detail** for the reviewers to understand:

1. The nature of the expenditure
2. How/where the expenditure will be utilized in the project
3. The breakdown of the expenditure
4. How the totals for significant expenditures were calculated

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION EXAMPLE

Example budget justification entries

Dr. Acme's lab:

Personnel costs:

- Jane Smith (0.5 FTE; Period 1: \$20,000, Period 2: \$20,000) – Jane is a 3rd year PhD student supervised by Dr. Acme who has expertise in stem cell culture and gene editing, and who will carry out the transgenic cell line creation and analysis for Aims 1 and 2.

Non-Personnel costs:

• Consumables:

- **Genome editing** (Period 1: \$7,100 , Period 2:\$5,450): primers, enzymes and transfection kits for stem cell genome editing experiments described in Aim 1 and 2.
- **Tissue culture** (Period 1:\$22,500, Period 2:\$25,300): stem cell growth media, serum and basal media for differentiation (P1: \$10,400, P2: \$12,300), growth factors (inc. bFGF, Activin-A; P1: \$4,500, P2: \$4,700), tissue culture plasticware (inc. 6-well plates, T25 flasks, pipettes; P1: \$4,000, P2: \$4,500), growth substrates and enzymes (Matrigel, fibronectin, Acutase, trypsin; P1: \$3,600, P2: \$3,800) for Aim 1 and Aim 2.

Services:

- **Flow cytometry** (Period 2: \$1,200): To validate gene editing and analyze the phenotype of edited cells as per Aim 2, FACS will be performed using a BD LSRII at the University of Canada flow facility. It is estimated that 24 hours of FACS time will be required over the course of period 2 at a cost of \$50/hour. 24 hours x \$50/hr = \$1,200.



4. INFORMATION & ENTRY

MAXIMUM BUDGET AMOUNTS FOR STANDARD OR JOINT-FUNDED AWARDS

The total funds requested must **NOT** exceed the maximum total budget allowed for a program

Program	SCN Standard Award – Max Budget	Joint-Funded Award – Max Budget	Joint-Funding Organizations
Impact	\$290,000	\$348,000	Azrieli Foundation or Breakthrough T1D
ECR Jump Start	\$270,000	\$324,000	Azrieli Foundation
Accelerating Clinical Translation	\$700,000	\$840,000	Azrieli Foundation or Breakthrough T1D
Impact: ELSI & HE Stream	\$215,000	\$258,000	Azrieli Foundation or Breakthrough T1D

BUDGET PERIODS FOR PROGRAMS

Each program has specific budget periods that must be completed. The periods depend on award duration. The table summarizes the periods that need to be completed for each program.

Program	Duration	Period 1	Period 2
Impact	22 months	April 1, 2027 – March 31, 2028	April 1, 2028 – January 31, 2029
ECR Jump Start	22 months	April 1, 2027 – March 31, 2028	April 1, 2028 – January 31, 2029
Accelerating Clinical Translation	22 months	April 1, 2027 – March 31, 2028	April 1, 2028 – January 31, 2029
Impact: ELSI & HE Stream	22 months	April 1, 2027 – March 31, 2028	April 1, 2028 – January 31, 2029

ENTERING BUDGET INFORMATION IN THE FULL APPLICATION

Budget Period Detail (Section 12)

1. Enter the start and end dates for the budget periods for the program.
2. Enter each expenditure under the appropriate category and assign each expenditure to the relevant lead- or co-investigator.
3. Ensure the total funds requested does not exceed the maximum for the award program.

NOTE: If you are applying for a Joint-Funded Award, the total budget requested in this section will be split equally between SCN and the relevant joint-funding organization. This will be done automatically by SCN, and the joint-funding organization should an application be successful.

Budget and Partner Summary (Section 13)

1. Provide a written justification for all budget expenditures listed in the Budget Period Detail (Section 12), as directed.
2. Ensure the values stated in the justification accurately mirror those stated in Section 12.

A photograph of three scientists in a laboratory setting. On the left, a man with glasses and a white lab coat. In the center, a woman with dark hair, also in a white lab coat, wearing a lanyard that says "CHRI Children's Health Research Institute". On the right, a woman with blonde hair, partially visible, also in a white lab coat. They are all looking towards the right. The background shows shelves with various lab equipment and supplies.

5. EVALUATION

EVALUATION OF THE BUDGET

Pre-Award:

- The budget **will be evaluated** during SCN's 2-stage peer review process.
- The budget allocation and justification will be used by reviewers to understand the **feasibility** and **financial planning** of the proposed research project.
- Project **overlap**, including budgetary, with any other currently funded or applied for awards will be considered.

Post-Award:

- The project budget **will be tracked** (via institutional financial statements) and **evaluated** as part of SCN's continual review process for funded awards.

6. QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP?

DIFFERENTIATE
YOURSELF

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LET'S
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QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP?

SCN is offering **Budget & Partnering Question Sessions over Zoom**, where lead-investigators can sign up for a 10-minute slot to ask their budget or partnering questions directly to SCN staff.

Four help sessions are offered between **1:30–3:00pm (Eastern Time)** on the following dates:

- Tuesday, **October 27**, 2026
- Wednesday, **October 28**, 2026
- Tuesday, **November 3**, 2026
- Thursday, **November 5**, 2026

All 10-minute help session slots are offered on a first-come, first-served basis; attendees must be punctual for their slot. One slot is offered per lead investigator. Click this [link](#) to sign up for a slot – a link to join the Zoom call will be emailed to signs-ups for each session 2-hours before the call starts.

SCN will also answer questions by email: researchSCN@stemcellnetwork.ca