



**Stem Cell
Network**

Powering
Regenerative
Medicine

**Réseau de
Cellules Souches**

Propulsons
la médecine
régénératrice



PARTNERING GUIDE

Research Funding Programs

2025-2029



PARTNERING GUIDE OVERVIEW

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

SCN RESEARCH PARTNERING: OVERVIEW

Stem Cell Network is **mandated** by the Government of Canada to include partner matching as a condition in the provision of research funding awards.

- Applications to all SCN research funding programs **MUST** include Direct Partnering Support.
- There is **no set minimum** for Direct Partnering Support for the majority of SCN's research funding programs, however partnering is a criteria used during the ranking of applications.

RESEARCH PARTNERING BENEFITS

Key partnering benefits include:

- **Bridging the gap between research and practice** – helps translate academic research into products and real-world applications.
- **Resource Sharing** – gives access to funds (cash or in-kind), technologies, data or specific populations or markets.
- **Expertise sharing** – broadens the expertise and knowledge available to academic teams.
- **Impact enhancement** – engages receptors and key stakeholders to facilitate knowledge mobilization and the uptake of research outputs.



2. DEFINITIONS AND TYPES

PARTNERING SOURCES – DEFINITIONS:

Direct Partnering Support: (Required)

Support from partners that directly funds project-specific work during the award period.

Contributions must be:

- Cash or in-kind,
- Clearly tied to the project's aims and term,
- Used for eligible project-specific activities or costs; and
- (Mandatory) Inclusive of in-kind institutional/salary support (equivalent to 40% of the total project value, plus 10% of the salary costs for each funded Principal Investigator (PI)). See slide 8.

Eligible sources include funds (cash or in-kind) from companies, non-profits, foundations, charities, research institutions, universities, hospitals, and provincial government bodies, but excludes federal funds, such as CFI and CIHR.

DIRECT PARTNERING SUPPORT: IN-KIND INSTITUTIONAL/SALARY SUPPORT

Principal investigator (PI) salaries and indirect costs can be listed as in-kind institutional/salary support.

Direct partnering support (PI salaries at 10% and indirect costs at 40%) – **this must be included for all lead and co-investigators.**

Example for an ECR Jump-Start Award application (e.g. award = \$270,000 over 22 months):

- **Salary in-kind contribution** (based on a single PI salary of \$100K/year):
 - 10% of annual \$100,000 salary = \$10,000 x 2 years* (*award duration rounded to nearest year*) = **\$20K**
- **Indirect costs contribution:**
 - 40% of the \$270,000 ECR award = **\$108K**

**Duration of award not prorated, for simplicity*

The **total** salary and indirect costs matching from the institution is \$20K + \$108K = **\$128K**

Each funded PI reports In-kind institutional/salary support

PARTNERING SOURCES – DEFINITIONS:

Leveraged Support: (Optional)

Support from partners that is related to the project but **does not** directly fund the proposed work.

Contributions must be:

- Cash or in-kind
- Related to the project and supportive of the broader research context (e.g., enables the work, improves capacity, contributes expertise/infrastructure)
- Not budgeted for specific eligible costs in this application

Eligible sources include universities, research institutions, hospitals, companies, non-profits, foundations, charities, and government bodies at any level, **including** federal funds.

JOINT-FUNDED AWARDS

Joint-Funding: (Opt-in) Equivalent cash contribution provided by one of the two joint-funding organizations (for Round 2: Azrieli Foundation or Breakthrough T1D) towards a Joint-Funded Award.

- Classified as eligible matching funds but the joint-funding organization contribution should **NOT** be entered in the Budget and Partnering Summary (Section 13).
- Joint-Funded Award applications **must also include additional Direct Partnering Support** (e.g., at a minimum the institutional salary and indirect costs matching for each funded PI).

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

3. REQUIREMENTS

PARTNERSHIP LETTERS OF SUPPORT – DIRECT PARTNERING SUPPORT

Letters of Support for Direct Partnering Support: A letter of support on partner-specific letterhead is **required** for each partnership.

The letter of support must:

- Describe the extent of the partner's collaboration,
- State the dollar value of any cash and/or in-kind contribution towards the project,
- Specifically reference the proposed project, and
- Identify any conditions associated with the contribution.

If a required letter of support is not available at the time of application, provide an explanation in the Partner Details Excel Form for that partner.

Note: A letter of support is **NOT** required for in-kind institutional/salary support.



4. INFORMATION ENTRY

ENTERING PARTNER INFORMATION IN THE FULL APPLICATION

1. Budget and Partner Summary (Section 13):

- Identify any private sector partner organizations involved in the project and indicate whether the partnership will involve the sharing, co-development, or transfer of intellectual property.

2. Partner Details Form (Excel template available to download in Section 3)

- Complete a row of the Excel sheet for each Direct Partnering Support or Leveraged Support partner – ensure that each field is filled out
 - Include the mandatory in-kind institutional/salary support under Direct Partnering.
- Provide a written overview of the partners and their contributions to the project.
- Upload a single completed Partner Details Form (Excel format – do not convert to PDF) per application in “Research Proposals and Other Attachments” (Section 15).
- Refer to the application instructions for specific details on filling out the Partner Details Form.

3. Partner Letters of Support

- Combine all partner letters of support, where required, into a single PDF, and upload in “Research Proposals and Other Attachments” (Section 15).



5. EVALUATION

EVALUATION OF PARTNERING

Pre-Award:

- Direct Partnering Support and Leveraged Support **will be evaluated** during SCN's 2-stage peer review process.
- Partnering will be used by reviewers to evaluate project **feasibility** and potential impact.
- Partnerships of higher quality, alignment and amount **will enhance an application's ranking**.
- The **research security risk assessment process** must be applied to private sector partners and will be reviewed by SCN Management during the award decision making process.

Post-Award:

- Direct Partnering Support contributions **will be tracked and evaluated** as part of SCN's continual review process for funded awards.

6. QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP?

DIFFERENTIATE
YOURSELF

Stem Cell
Network Réseau de
Cellules Souches

LET'S
CELL-EBRATE!



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-minutes 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