



## **Interdisciplinary Canadian Collaborative Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ICanCME) Research Network**

### **Call for Proposals: 2021/22 New Frontier ME Discovery Grant Program**

## **Background**

The Interdisciplinary Canadian Collaborative Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ICanCME) Research Network is a national research network funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Our mandate is focused on *initiating, supporting, and sustaining innovative and collaborative myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) research in Canada*. The network is committed to a patient-centred research program from discovery to implementation science, with the ultimate goal of finding the cause(s) and possible treatments for ME, thereby reducing the impact of ME on the health of Canadians.

The ICanCME Research Network is announcing a call for applications for the **2021/22 New Frontier ME Discovery Grant Program**.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the **New Frontier ME Discovery Grants** are to:

- promote the development of new interdisciplinary collaborative ME research teams;
- foster research excellence; and
- provide a stimulating environment for research training.

## **Scope**

The focus of **discovery grant projects** will be on ‘novel, innovative and interdisciplinary approaches’. Projects should focus on one of the following key ME research priority areas:

**Theme 1:** Etiology, disease mechanisms and discovery of actionable targets

**Theme 2:** Discovery of biomarkers for diagnosis and sub typing of patients

**Theme 3:** Clinical science and health services research

This opportunity is meant to focus on research applicable to Canadian settings.

## **Funds Available**

- The budget available for the **2021/22 New Frontier ME Discovery Grant Program** is \$150,000 for 6 discovery grant awards.
- The maximum amount per discovery grant is **\$25,000 for one year**.
- The number of funded projects may vary based on maximum amount of funds requested per project and budget available.

Funds are available to sponsor research and knowledge translation activities for one year. Funds should be used to generate preliminary results, produce evidence-based data, finalize a proof-of-concept, or facilitate the implementation of new clinical tools or interventions in the field of myalgic



encephalomyelitis (ME) scientific research. The ICanCME research network will provide all of the video conferencing support to facilitate the organization of virtual meetings between the team members.

## Eligibility

The overarching goal of this competition is to promote excellence in ME research by developing and sustaining collaborative research amongst Canadian researchers coming from different fields of research. Therefore, grant proposals must be submitted by a new team of researchers who represent at **least three (3)** Canadian institutions. The application must identify **all** research team members, including a Nominated Principal Applicant\*, and at least one applicant from each category: a clinician, a mid-career or senior researcher, a junior researcher, a research trainee, and an ME patient/caregiver/representative of an ME organization. The team members will share leadership and project management responsibilities for each project funded.

\* The Nominated Principal Applicant must hold an academic appointment as a Researcher, Clinician or as Clinical-Scientist at a Canadian University or Research Institute.

**It is strongly encouraged to include a junior investigator as Co-Principal Applicant. All applicants must register with the National Network Coordinator to become members of the ICanCME Research Network prior to submission of the application.**

**Application Deadline:** Proposals must be submitted by **11:59 pm Atlantic Daylight Time, Thursday July 15, 2021.**

**Anticipated Decision Date: August 23, 2021**

**Grant Starting Date: September 1, 2021**

## How to Apply

Applicants are expected to submit a proposal (3 to 4 pages; Font 12 pt, Margins 2 cm) and a curriculum vitae of the Nominated Principal Applicant. Applications are to be submitted by email to Iona Worden-Driscoll ([info@icancme.ca](mailto:info@icancme.ca)). Applicants may submit the application and required attachments in either English or French.

The proposal is to include:

- Title of the proposal
- Name of the Nominated Principal Applicant, and Co-Principal Applicants (if any) and the hosting institution. A letter of support from the Associate Dean Research or Director of Research, if from a Research Institute or Center, is required.
- Identification of the selected theme (priority research areas 1 to 3) must be completed using the Strategic Theme Form (mandatory). **In absence of theme selection and/or pre-justification, the application will be automatically rejected.**
- A description of how the research proposal will fulfill the objective of the program and contribute to a better understanding and treatment of ME. This may include the following:
  1. Potential to generate new knowledge, intellectual properties, and/or patent applications,



2. Strategic positioning to apply for national and international research funding,
  3. Potential for collaboration between investigators, especially new researchers,
  4. Potential for use of new methodologies and/or technologies, and the potential to increase research capacity locally and nationally.
- Names, affiliations, area of expertise and anticipated contributions of team members.
  - Details on whether ethics, animal and/or biohazard certificates will be required.

*Funds will only be released to successful applicants if all the relevant certificates are provided and no later than 6 months after the selection of the project. Beyond that period, the project will be terminated and funds transferred to the next competition.*

- A budget table. Eligible expenses are as per CIHR Grants and Awards Guide, Appendix: Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration, Part 2: Use of grant funds (available online: [https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/InterAgency-Interorganismes/TAFA-AFTO/guide-guide\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/InterAgency-Interorganismes/TAFA-AFTO/guide-guide_eng.asp)).
- A justification for the items listed in the budget table. Budgets exceeding \$25,000 must include a plan for obtaining the additional funds (e.g., Foundations, Faculties). Note that funds cannot be used to purchase equipment. It is noted that an exception will be made for small equipment with a total value below \$500 if well justified.

## Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Does the proposal address an important ME health issue and/or address unmet ME health needs of Canadians? (10%)
- Does the proposal identify the quality of the team, access to resources, and how the team is new and why an interdisciplinary team is necessary? (20%)
- Is there potential to build capacity and foster talent development in ME health research? (10%)
- Does the proposal identify a project rationale, innovation potential, and an appropriate experimental design and methodology? (40%)
- Does the proposal identify tangible outputs resulting from the discovery grant? (10%)
- Does the proposal identify a knowledge and dissemination plan toward ME communities and the population? (10%)

## Reporting

The successful Nominated Principal Applicant will be expected to submit a summary report within 3 months of the end of the project. ICanCME Research Network and CIHR support should be acknowledged on any publication, report and /or presentation resulting from the funded project.

## Contact

Questions regarding this call may be directed to,

Ms. Iona Worden-Driscoll, National Network Coordinator  
Interdisciplinary Canadian Collaborative Myalgic Encephalomyelitis  
Email: [info@icancme.ca](mailto:info@icancme.ca)