

2020 Pathway to Patient-Oriented Research (P2P) Award

GUIDELINES

DEADLINE:
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**Program development and award administration support
for the P2P Awards provided by:**



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1. Preface

The BC SUPPORT (Support for People and Patient-Oriented Research and Trials) Unit is a multi-partner organization created to support, streamline and increase patient-oriented research across British Columbia (BC). The Unit does this by building capacity to conduct and implement high quality patient-oriented research in BC, increasing the quality and impact of patient-oriented research across BC and ensuring ongoing support for patient-oriented research in all regions of the province. Learn more at <http://bcsupportunit.ca/>.

The Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR), funded by the province of British Columbia, is BC's health research funding agency. MSFHR helps develop, retain and recruit the talented people whose research improves the health of British Columbians, addresses health system priorities, creates jobs and adds to the knowledge economy. Learn more at www.msfhr.org.

Drawing on its role as an expert funder, MSFHR is working with the BC SUPPORT Unit to provide continuing support in the development of the Pathway to Patient-Oriented Research (P2P) award program and award administration services (application receipt, peer review, and management of the award).

Patient-Oriented Research

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) defines patient-oriented research as a continuum of research that engages patients as partners, focuses on patient-identified priorities and improves patient outcomes. This research, conducted by multidisciplinary teams in partnership with relevant stakeholders, aims to apply the knowledge generated to improve health care systems and practices. For more information on CIHR's strategy on patient-oriented research, please visit <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/41204.html>.

More succinctly, the BC SUPPORT Unit defines patient-oriented research as research done in partnership with patients, answers research questions that matter to patients, and aims to improve health care.

2. Purpose

The BC SUPPORT Unit's Pathway to Patient-Oriented Research (P2P) Award seeks to support BC-based patient-oriented research (POR) teams in preparing for future substantive (e.g., federal or international funding competitions) POR grant applications. The expectation is that the POR team is already formed, and an important POR question has been identified. A key missing piece of this future major grant application is a strong demonstration of the feasibility and/or piloting of the research project. This will be the focus of the work supported by the P2P award.

3. Objectives

The primary objectives of the P2P Award are to:

- Support POR teams in strengthening a major grant application through pilot and/or feasibility work (see below for definitions).
 - The expectation is that the subsequent POR grant, when submitted to agencies such as CIHR, will be viewed more positively given that some foundational feasibility/pilot questions have been answered.
- Build and strengthen BC's capacity in POR by supporting BC based research teams and research projects.

Examples of research activities that are supported through the P2P award include, but are not limited to:

- Feasibility work to address challenges around patient recruitment
- Feasibility work to test data collection mechanisms and approaches
- Pilot work to assess resource requirements and challenges in conducting the proposed research

Note: The award funds may not be used for team building, question development, or for operating funds for a substantive POR project.

Definitions¹

Pilot studies are a version of the (future) main study that is run in miniature to test whether the components of the main study can work together. It is focused on ensuring that the processes of the main study (e.g. recruitment, randomization, treatment, and follow-up assessments) all run smoothly. It will therefore resemble the main study in many respects, including an assessment of the primary outcome. In some cases, this will be the first phase of the main study, and data from the pilot phase may contribute to the final analysis; this can be referred to as an internal pilot. Conversely, if at the end of the pilot study, the data is analyzed and set aside, this is considered an external pilot.

¹ Taken from NIHR. (2017) RfPB Guidance on Applying for Feasibility Studies. Available from https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-and-support/documents/funding-for-research-studies/research-programmes/RfPB/Guidance%20Documents/Guidance_on_feasibility_studies.pdf Last accessed July 16, 2019.

Feasibility studies are pieces of research done before a main study in order to answer the question: “Can this study be done?” They are used to estimate important parameters that are needed to design the (future) main study. The design of a feasibility study generally involves listing those parameters which are uncertain and describing the methods for improving their precision so that the main study will have a better chance of success. Feasibility studies do not evaluate the outcome of interest; that is left to the main study.

4. Award Amount and Duration

The budget envelope for this funding competition is \$100,000, enough to support at least 5 awards. P2P award amounts of up to **\$20,000** for a maximum of duration of **12 months** are available.

5. Eligibility Requirements

For an application to be eligible for review:

- The proposed work must be truly patient-oriented, following the definitions indicated in **Section 1**.
- The team must include the following:
 - A minimum of one BC-based researcher² and one BC-based patient³ as the co-leads.
 - A minimum of one BC research or health professional trainee (e.g., undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral and clinical research fellows) included in a meaningful way to enhance their POR experience and skills. The trainee must be a current BC resident registered at a BC academic institution.

Note: The trainee can also fulfill the role of the patient co-lead, if applicable.

- The researcher co-lead that serves as the principal applicant must be based in BC and affiliated with a BC host institution that has a signed memorandum of understanding with MSFHR to administer award funds. (For a list of current eligible institutions, see www.msfhr.org/sites/default/files/MOU_List.pdf.)
- All award funds must be used in BC. The research must be conducted in BC.

² For the purposes of this funding opportunity, a researcher is defined as someone who holds an appointment at a BC host institution (an academic, health services or research institution that is responsible for approving and administering research awards) that allows them to engage in independent research activities that conform to the institutional requirements for the conduct of research, to hold peer reviewed funding, and to publish their research results.

³ A patient is defined as anyone who has personally lived the experience of a health issue as well as their informal caregivers, including family and friends. From *Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research – Patient engagement Framework at a Glance*, CIHR, <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/49232.html> [Accessed August 2018].

Notes:

i) Researcher co-leads are limited to one application per competition as a primary applicant, i.e., the individual who launches the application.

ii) Prior recipients of CIHR SPOR funding, and prior recipients of P2P award funding are not eligible to apply.

The BC SUPPORT Unit or MSFHR reserve the right to declare applications ineligible.

6. Review Process

P2P award applications will be screened for eligibility by BC SUPPORT Unit staff. Eligible applications will undergo review by an external review panel of relevant researchers and research users⁴ for funding recommendations.

Applications will be evaluated via a process that incorporates six principles of peer review: integrity, accountability, transparency, balance, confidentiality and impartiality.

The information presented in the **Evaluation Criteria** and **Rating Scale** sections below will be used for the peer review process. All applications will be assessed against a defined set of criteria in three categories: 1) quality and engagement of the team, 2) relevance and feasibility, and 3) potential impact. The overall score for an application will be sum of the scores for the three categories. To be considered for funding, the overall application score must receive a minimum score of 3.5.

6.1 Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the indicated criteria and weightings below:

Criterion	Weighting
Quality and engagement of the team	30%
Relevance and feasibility	50%
Potential impact	20%

⁴ Research users are the target audience(s) of research evidence. Research users are experts on their needs, environment and local context. Including research users as equal members of the research team will ideally result in more relevant research evidence and an increased likelihood of its use for the purpose of making informed decisions about health policies, programs and/or practices. A research user may include, but is not limited to, other researchers, policy makers, health care practitioners, decision makers, health care administrators, educators, patient user group, or health charity, and the public. Adapted from Canadian Institutes of Health Research's 'Guide to Knowledge Translation Planning at CIHR: Integrated and End-of-Grant Approaches'. www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/45321.html [Accessed August 2018].

A full description of the evaluation criteria can be found at <http://bcsupportunit.ca/p2p-awards/>.

6.2 Rating Scale

Descriptor	Range	Outcome
Outstanding	4.5 – 4.9	Might be funded
Excellent	4.0 – 4.4	
Very good	3.5 – 3.9	
Adequate	3.0 – 3.4	Not fundable
Less than adequate	0 – 2.9	

6.3 Funding Decision

Following peer review, the highest rated applications, by geographic region⁵, will be identified. Geographic region is determined by the location of the co-researcher’s primary organization where award funds will be held. The corresponding health authority region is then identified with the location of this organization. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the review process upon its completion. There is no appeal process.

Applicants will receive notification of the funding decision, as well as the summaries of reviewers’ comments. A list of successful applicants will be published on the BC SUPPORT Unit’s website.

7. Reporting Requirements

A final report is required thirty (30) days after the award end date. A financial statement of expenditures, signed by the award co-leads and an authorized financial officer of the host institution, is required within three (3) months following the award end date. Any unexpended funds must be returned to MSFHR.

The BC SUPPORT Unit reserves the right to contact award recipients after the end date of the award to determine the short and mid-term outcomes and/or impacts of the work.

The final report should include the following:

- A description of how the proposed objectives as identified in the application were met.

⁵ The BC SUPPORT Unit’s Vancouver hub serves as the first province-wide point of contact for stakeholders, and is one of five regional centres in British Columbia along with the Fraser, Interior, Northern and Island centres. From *Regional Centres*, BC Support Unit website, <http://bcsupportunit.ca/locating-your-regional-centre/> [Accessed August 2018].

- Plans for next steps, taking into account the outcomes and/or outputs of the proposed work and/or developments in the field.
- Activity-specific deliverables such as a grant application, etc.
- If relevant, a list of stakeholders outside of the team who were consulted and/or involved in the funded work.

Additionally, to inform evaluation and continued improvement of our award programs, award recipients will be invited to provide feedback to BC SUPPORT Unit staff to determine areas of improvement for this funding opportunity.

The BC SUPPORT Unit will provide reporting materials for these purposes.

8. Award Start Date

The P2P award begins April 1, 2020. Successful applicants must confirm their acceptance of the award within the stipulated time indicated in the award notification package. Deferrals will not be accepted.

9. Key Competition Dates

Action	Target Date
LOI Phase Launch	August 12, 2019
LOI Phase deadline	September 6, 2019
Applicants notified	September 13, 2019
Competition launch	September 16, 2019
Competition deadline	October 31, 2019
Anticipated notice of funding decision	Mid-March 2020
Anticipated start of funding	April 1, 2020

10. How to Apply

Note: The application process is supported by MSFHR and hosted on the MSFHR ApplyNet grants management system.

The application process for the BC SUPPORT Unit's P2P Award is comprised of two steps:

1. **Eligibility Quiz**
2. **Application**

- **Deadline date: October 31, 2019, 4:30 p.m. PT**
- Consists of:
 - Proposed work plan
 - Budget template
 - Canadian Common CV – MSFHR Full Version for researcher co-lead(s) (last five years only)
 - List of Publications, Patents & Intellectual Property Rights uploaded as an attachment to CCV
 - Written statement from Patient Co-lead
 - Letters of collaboration⁶ (if applicable)

To complete your application, follow the instructions as stated in the **Application Instructions**, which can be found at <http://bcsupportunit.ca/p2p-awards/>.

Please note that the principal applicant, i.e. the one who submits the full application, should be the researcher co-lead.

Please ensure that applications are complete and submitted by the application deadline. Incomplete or late applications cannot be considered.

Note: Each host institution has its own internal deadline that is earlier than that of funding competition. Please check with your host institution for more information.

10.1 Submission Requirements

- All steps of the application must be submitted using MSFHR [ApplyNet](#), the MSFHR's online application submission system.
- All documents uploaded onto MSFHR ApplyNet must be in .pdf format. No other formats will be accepted.
- As an applicant, you will be able to access a .pdf copy of the application to review the information you have entered.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to review the .pdf copy of the application prior to submission to ensure that all data entered are complete and accurate. Once an application is submitted, it cannot be modified in any way.

⁶ A collaborator is an individual who participates at some point in the research project and may make a significant contribution to the intellectual direction of the research or research-related activity, and who may play a significant role in the conduct of the research or research-related activities.

All primary applicants and co-leads using the MSFHR ApplyNet for the first time will be required to register and create a system account and password in order to apply. Additional information on MSFHR ApplyNet can be found in [MSFHR's ApplyNet FAQ](#) document.

11. Contact Information

For questions regarding eligibility and program objectives of this funding opportunity, please contact:

Primary Contact

Dr. Larry Mróz
Research Navigator
BC SUPPORT Unit
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lmroz@bcsupportunit.ca

Secondary Contact

Dr. John Ward
Performance Measurement Lead
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236-521-2070
jward@bcsupportunit.ca

For information about the MSFHR ApplyNet system or help with login information, and the application and submission process, please contact:

MSFHR Help Desk

604.714.6609
helpdesk@msfhr.org