

Cumming School of Medicine Research Enhancement Program

In support of the Professional Development strategic priority at the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) and the University of Calgary, the Office of the Associate Dean Research (OADR) has created a **Research Enhancement Program**. The program is designed to increase the competitive edge of faculty who are in pursuit of submitting a future grant application.

Program

The OADR will provide up to \$5,000 / year for Principal Investigators (PI) or lab members to obtain training in new techniques and methodologies that will enhance their research endeavors. The aim is to keep our range of expertise at a world class level to increase the impact of published work and future grant applications. Proposals will be considered to support acquisition of advances to improve an identified future grant application or to rapidly respond to requests by reviewers of manuscripts currently close to publication, in a high impact journal (Impact Factor ≥ 8).

Application Process

Applicants are required to provide three separate items:

1.
 - a. For grant applications: A one-page summary of the proposed grant (ie. CIHR summary page) or a description of the work to be proposed in the context of the training being sought.
 - b. For manuscripts under review: If a manuscript under review at a major impact journal is returned with specific requests (i.e. experimental) not immediately available to the lab, provide a copy of the manuscript and reviewer comments and contact Dr. Ray W. Turner (rwturner@ucalgary.ca) for a meeting to speed discussion on potential avenues to satisfy reviewer comments.
2. A description of how an investment of up to \$5,000 / year by the CSM will allow a lab to acquire skills and technical advances that will boost the competitive nature of your next grant application or acceptance of a major publication.
3. A table identifying the budget breakdown of proposed expenses.

Applications should be submitted to [Jenna Slobozian](#), Research Facilitator, as a single document.

Annual budget: Requests will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis to a maximum of \$90,000 total available each year.

All requests will be considered according to the justification provided. Requests on the eligibility of a given proposal can be sent to [Jenna Slobozian](#).

Eligibility

Open to primary members of the CSM at all career stages to support training initiatives of the PI or suitable senior trainees in the lab according to the justification provided.

Not Eligible:

- PIs currently receiving Bridge Funding support, although they are welcome to use Bridge Funding support for this purpose
- Salary support for staff or trainees to maintain a given project in the lab (a case of Bridge funding)
- Top-up for existing grant funds or conventional Materials and supplies
- Attendance at scientific meetings

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- Upgrades or replacement of equipment

Examples of Previous Funding Provided:

- Canadian Light Microscopy course, Tuition for nine members of different labs
- Neuroscience School of Advanced Studies
- SMS Imaging Workshop
- SBI Exosome Training Course
- Training visit to another lab - Magnetic twisting cytometry
- Development - A novel transgenic animal
- Technical Application & Training - Constructs for applying DREADD technology \$5,000*
- Sending a postdoc for protein crystallography and high-through-put cloning training
- Purchase of a knockout mouse
- Trainee attending a bioinformatics workshop
- Travel to a lab in Copenhagen to learn new techniques
- Travel to an American institution to learn a new technique and explore future collaborations
- Cold Spring Harbor Course

*special case of supporting the acquisition of novel reagents beyond the funding scope of a lab to obtain local training by CSM colleagues in a new technique requested by a grant reviewer.

We welcome suggestions as to how you could best use these funds to enhance your lab research skills and techniques to increase your competitive edge. We are willing to see this program evolve in a manner that best accomplishes our intended goals of improving your success at acquiring tri-council funding.