



**NETWORK FOR CANADIAN ORAL HEALTH RESEARCH  
CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
2020-2021 NEW FRONTIER SEED GRANT PROGRAM**

The Network for Canadian Oral Health Research (NCOHR) is seeking proposals for the 2020-2021 New Frontier Seed Grant Program.

**Objective**

The objective of the seed grant development program is to support the development of collaborations in research with emphasis placed on novel, innovative and interdisciplinary approaches for investigating the area of oral health.

**Scope**

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

- Theme 1:** Improving oral health care access and treatments
- Theme 2:** Aging and the inception/progression of degenerative and chronic diseases that affect the body, including the mouth
- Theme 3:** Role of the oral microbiome, saliva and/or oral infections in systemic diseases
- Theme 4:** COVID-19 and Oral Health
- Theme 5:** Novel research avenues with a strong potential for innovation and excellence

Applications focused on Theme 5 will only be considered if a high potential for innovation and research excellence is demonstrated and the scope of the research is on oral health.

One application cannot be considered for multiple priority areas. Therefore, Nominated Principal Applicants should identify a single specific topic and provide the appropriate rationale. A Nominated Principal Applicant cannot apply for more than one Priority Theme (including Theme 5); however, they can be a Co-Applicant and / or Contributor in multiple applications. There are no restrictions for co-applicants and collaborators; they can also be involved in several proposals.

Also note that this opportunity is meant to focus on research applicable to Canadian settings.

**Funds Available**

- The total amount available for the NCOHR 2020-2021 New Frontier Seed Grant Program is \$100,000.
- The maximum amount per grant is \$20,000 for up to 1 year. Applicants can request funding support for up to two years (maximum \$40,000) if they can justify such a request and upon recommendation by the NCOHR peer-review panel and subject to availability of funds.



Funds are available to sponsor research and knowledge translation activities for one year. Funds should be used to generate preliminary results, evidence-based data, finalize a proof-of-concept, or facilitate the implementation of new clinical tools or interventions in the field of oral health. NCOHR will provide all of the video conferencing support to facilitate the organization of virtual meetings between the team members.

### **Eligibility**

Grant proposals are to be submitted by a **new** team of researchers who represent at **least three (3)** Canadian institutions<sup>1</sup> (including at least one dental school, dental hygiene school, or dental assisting school). Ideally, the proposal will clearly demonstrate the importance of each institution to the proposed project.

The application must identify research team members, including a Nominated Principal Applicant\*, and at least one applicant from each category: a clinician<sup>2</sup>, a mid-career or senior researcher, a junior researcher, a research trainee, and an oral health professional<sup>3</sup> who is **not** a dentist. The requirement for representation from each category is to encourage collaborations in research. 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 a Research Institute.

**It is strongly encouraged to include a junior Faculty member as Co-Principal Applicant. All applicants must be a member of the Network for Canadian Oral Health Research at the time of the submission of the application.**

**Application Deadline:** Proposals must be submitted by **11:59 pm Atlantic Standard Time on Monday November 16, 2020.**

**Anticipated Decision Date:** Early February 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 ([iona.worden-driscoll@dal.ca](mailto:iona.worden-driscoll@dal.ca)).

The proposal (3 to 4 pages<sup>4</sup>) is to include:

- Title of the proposal

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<sup>1</sup> Institutions include universities, hospitals, colleges, research institutes, centres and other organizations. For more information see <http://www.cihir-irsc.gc.ca/e/34190.html#i>.

<sup>2</sup> A clinician can be a dentist or any other regulated health professional.

<sup>3</sup> An oral health professional is anyone interacting with patients in the field of oral health and can include a dental hygienist, dental assistant, dental therapist, and allied professionals such as a dietitian.

<sup>4</sup> The page limit includes figures and excludes references.



- Name of the Nominated Principal Applicant, and Co-Principal Applicants (if any) and the hosting Dental School/Dental Hygiene School/Dental Assisting School (a letter of support from the Dean or Associate Dean Research is required).
- Identification of the selected theme (priority research areas 1 to 5) 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 the evaluation criteria. 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.

*NCOHR 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 Financial Administration Guide, Use of Grant Funds (available online: [cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/805.html](http://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/805.html)).
- A justification for the items listed in the budget table. Budgets exceeding \$20,000 must include a plan for obtaining the additional funds (e.g., Foundations, Dental Schools). Note that funds cannot be used to purchase equipment. It is noted that small equipment with a total value below \$500 can be purchased if well justified. For further information, refer to the sections titled **Equipment and Supplies** and **Computers and Electronic Communications** (CIHR Grants and Awards Guide, Appendix: Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide, Use of Grant Funds: [cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/805.html](http://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/805.html))

### Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Does the proposal address an important oral health issue and/or address unmet oral health needs of Canadians? Will the research address at least one of the following CIHR strategic priorities? (20%)
  - Enhance patient-oriented care and improve clinical results through scientific and technological innovations
  - Support a high-quality accessible and sustainable health-care system
  - Reduce health inequities of Indigenous peoples and other vulnerable populations
  - Prepare for and respond to existing and emerging threats to health
  - Promote health and reduce the burden of chronic disease and mental illness
- Does the proposal explain how the team is new and why an interdisciplinary team is necessary? What is the quality of the applicants in terms of expertise, experience and resources? (20%)
- Is there potential to build research capacity and foster talent development in oral health? (20%)
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the methodology and experimental design? \* If applicable, have biological sex and gender considerations been addressed? Does the proposal identify tangible outputs resulting from the seed grant? (30%)



- Is the budget appropriate and reasonable? (10%)

The successful Nominated Principal Applicant will be expected to submit a summary report within 3 months of the end of the project. NCOHR 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 Coordinator, Network for Canadian Oral Health Research  
phone: 902-494-6038  
email: [iona.worden-driscoll@dal.ca](mailto:iona.worden-driscoll@dal.ca)