The Arthritis Society is pleased to announce the Young Investigator Operating Grant Competition for the 2017-18 granting year.

Description

The Young Investigator Operating (YIO) grant program is intended to promote creativity in all domains of arthritis-related research and are not restricted to any one strategic theme set out in the Society’s 2015-2020 research strategy. Applicants will be required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) prior to being invited to submit a full application. Applications (both letter of intent and full application) will be judged by a panel of peers that include members of SAC and arthritis consumers.

If the applicant receives a CIHR grant in the same year (October 2017-September 2018), the applicant is expected to accept the CIHR grant and turn down the TAS award.

Pending available funds, The Society aims to support a maximum of three (3) projects

Applicants are strongly advised to read all program documentation listed below as well as The Arthritis Society’s Research Strategy. If you have any questions, please contact the research department at research@arthritis.ca.

Eligibility

A Young Investigator is defined by The Society as an individual who:

- Is an Nominated Principal Investigator as defined by The Society;
- is within 4 years of their first academic appointment at the time of the application deadline; and
- has never previously been awarded an operating grant as the Nominated Principal Applicant or co-Principal Applicant (as defined by The Society) of more than $70,000 (in total, not per year) from The Society, CIHR, NSERC or other funding agencies.

The roles and responsibilities of the Principal Investigator and Collaborators are defined in the Society’s Research and Training Program Guidelines and Policies.

1. Award amount and term:

- The maximum award per application is $100,000 annually for terms up to three years

2. Competition timeline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Request for Applications published</td>
<td>Apr 3, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Grants Portal open</td>
<td>Apr 3, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letters of Intent (LOI) submission deadline</td>
<td>May 17, 2017, 3:00PM EST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notification of decision</td>
<td>Jul 3, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Grants Portal open</td>
<td>Jul 3, 2017</td>
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3. Letters of Intent (LOI)

LOIs must be submitted through The Society’s online research grants portal and include the following:

i. Application Cover Page, signed by the institution and applicant

ii. Project Team Description (NPI, CPI and Consumer Collaborators), including NPI and CPI education, employment, honours, and publications

iii. Letters of support from Consumer Collaborators

iv. Project proposal
   a. Scientific Summary, including approach (max. 700 words)
   b. Relevance of the proposal to the Society’s 2015-2020 Research Strategy and research theme(s) (max. 700 words)
   c. Lay Summary (max. 350 words)

LOI Review Process

All LOI submissions will be screened for eligibility and completeness. Applications that are incomplete or do not contain all the required information will be deemed ineligible and withdrawn from the competition process.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that applications are complete at the time of submission. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Eligible LOIs will reviewed by a panel of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) members, other scientific experts and arthritis consumers (patients).

• Quality of the Principal Investigator and research environment
• Quality of research project
• Relevance to the Society’s 2015-2020 Research Strategy and theme(s)

Each LOI will be scored out of a total of 10 points, plus on Relevance (High, Low)

Criteria 1: Quality of the Principal Investigator and research environment (5 points)

• Qualifications of the applicant, including training, experience and independence (relative to career stage).
• Experience of the applicant in the proposed area of research and with the proposed methodology.
• Expertise of the applicant as demonstrated by scientific productivity over the past five years (publications, books, grants held, etc.). Productivity should be considered in the context of the norms for the research area, applicant experience and total research funding of the applicant.
• Suitability of the research environment including collaborators, mentorship, partners (if appropriate), and institutional support.
• Evidence that the personnel, facilities and infrastructure required to conduct the research are available.

Criteria 2: Quality of project (5 points)
• Importance of the research question
• Strength of rationale for the research approach and methodology
• Potential for the creation of new knowledge.
• Originality of the proposed research, in terms of the hypotheses/research questions addressed, novel technology/methodology, and/or novel applications of current technology/methodology

Criteria 3: Relevance of the project to arthritis and to The Society’s 2015-2020 Research Strategy (Low, High)
• Strategic Theme I: Improving our understanding of arthritis and finding the cure
  Research under this theme will seek to improve our understanding of the causes of arthritis in order to develop new approaches to alleviate the pain, prevent and/or slow the progression of disease (including early diagnosis), restore joint function, and eventually cure those affected by arthritis.
• Strategic Theme II: Improving the care and management of arthritis
  Research under this theme will seek to uncover new knowledge that will inform better ways to optimize the health of people with arthritis through improved treatment, management and self-care strategies.
• Applicants are advised to make convincing arguments as to the relevance of the intended proposal to the Society’s research strategy(ies).

Eligible LOI applications will not be invited to submit a full application if it receives:
• A score of 3.4 or lower on either Criteria 1 (quality of NPI and the research team) or 2 (quality of project); OR
• A low score on Criteria 3 (relevance).

All applicants will be notified of the result of the LOI review by July 3, 2017. Successful applicants will then be invited to submit a full application.

4. Full Application

Full applications must be submitted using the online grant portal and include the following:

• Application Cover Page (signed by the institution and applicant).
• Description and role of all team members (NPI, CPI; Collaborators/Partners, Consumers Collaborators and Trainees)
• CIHR (Common Format) CV of the NPI and CPI(s)
• Project proposal
  o Research Proposal (max. 5,000 words)
  o List of References (max. 10,000 words)
  o Relevance (max. 700 words)
  o Timelines and Milestones (max. 500 words per year)
Knowledge Transfer Plan (max. 400 words)
Attachment: Timeline and milestones (max. 1 page, PDF)
Attachment: Appendix (max. 10 pages, PDF)

- Non-Confidential Lay Summary (max. 500 words)
- Budget (use template provided) and budget justification (max. 700 words)
- Letters of support from team members / collaborators / partners (one letter from each co-principal investigator, collaborator/partner and consumer collaborator)
- If the success of the research proposed depends on a critical agent/material from a third party, a letter of support must be included by this third party.

Full Application Review Process

All submissions will be screened for completeness and eligibility. Applications that are incomplete or do not contain all the required information will be deemed ineligible and withdrawn from the competition process.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that applications are complete at the time of submission. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Eligible applications will be reviewed by a panel of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) members, other scientific experts and arthritis consumers (patients).

- Quality of the Principal Investigator and research environment
- Quality of research project
- Relevance to the Society’s Research theme(s)

Each proposal will be scored out of a total of 20 points, plus Relevance (High, Low).

Criteria 1: Quality of the Principal Investigator and research environment (10 points)

- Qualifications of the applicant, including training, experience and independence (relative to career stage)
- Experience of the applicant in the proposed area of research and with the proposed methodology
- Expertise of the applicant, as demonstrated by scientific productivity over the past five years (publications, books, grants held, etc.). Productivity should be considered in the context of the norms for the research area, applicant experience and total research funding of the applicant.
- Suitability of the research environment including collaborators, mentorship, partners (if appropriate), and institutional support.
- Evidence that the personnel, facilities and infrastructure required to conduct the research are available.

Criteria 2: Quality of project (10 points)

- Importance of the research question
- Strength of the rationale for the research approach and methodology
- Potential of the project to create new knowledge
• Originality of the proposed research, in terms of the hypotheses/research questions addressed, novel technology/methodology, and/or novel applications of current technology/methodology

Criteria 3: Relevance of the proposal to arthritis and to the Society’s 2015-2020 Research Strategy (Low, High)

• Strategic Theme I: Improving our understanding of arthritis and finding the cure
  Research under this theme will seek to improve our understanding of the causes of arthritis in order to develop new approaches to alleviate the pain, prevent and/or slow the progression of disease (including early diagnosis), restore joint function, and eventually cure those affected by arthritis.

• Strategic Theme II: Improving the care and management of arthritis
  Research under this theme will seek to uncover new knowledge that will inform better ways to optimize the health of people with arthritis through improved treatment, management and self-care strategies.
  Applicants are advised that they must make a convincing argument as to the relevance of the intended proposal to the Society’s research strategy.

An application will not be considered for funding if it receives:

• A 6.9 or lower score on either of Criteria 1 (quality of NPI and research team) or Criteria 2 (quality of project); OR
• A “Low” on Criteria 3 (relevance).

Applicants will be notified of their results by December 15, 2017.

5. Research Program Guidelines

Applicants are expected to read and comply with The Society’s Research and Training Program Guidelines.

Contact Information

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