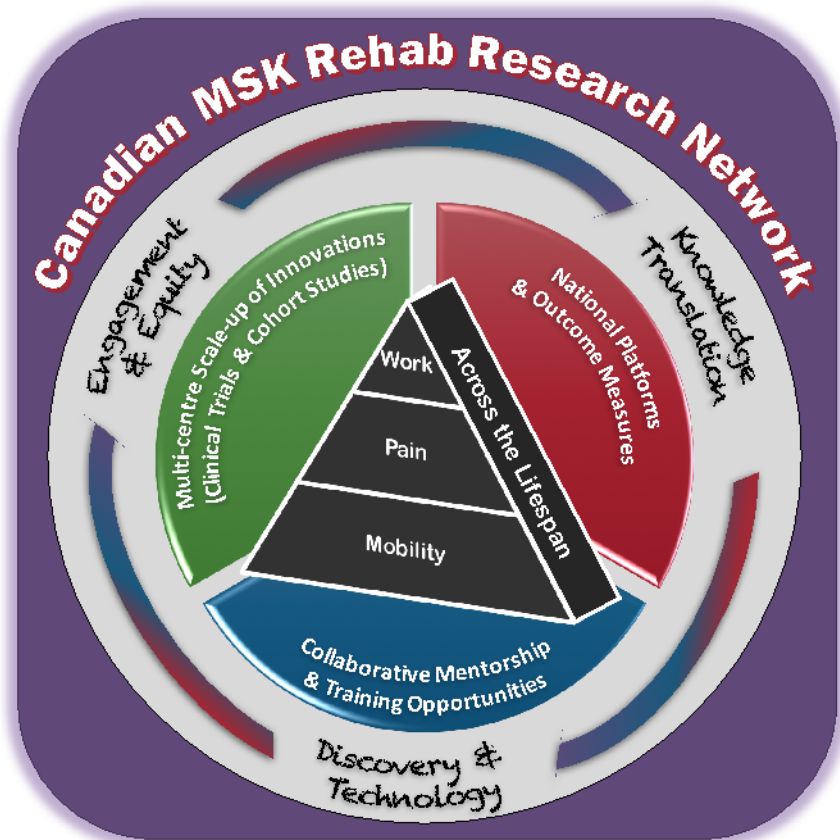

GUIDELINES & APPLICATION FORM

Pilot Grant Program

of the

Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network



**Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network
Pilot Grant Program**

Guidelines for Pilot Grant Program

OVERVIEW

It is a priority of the Canadian Musculoskeletal (MSK) Rehab Research Network to encourage new externally funded transdisciplinary research initiatives. Accordingly, up to \$40,000 of the CIHR funding, supporting the network, has been allocated each year for pilot (seed) funding to enable network members to initiate innovative, high-impact, and early-stage projects. This program will enable the Network to achieve its objectives of facilitating excellence in MSK research. Grants will be funded to a maximum of \$10,000/award.

Awarded pilot grants are intended to facilitate future success and to support new transdisciplinary research teams/projects that will attract external funding and address priority research questions in MSK rehabilitation. Funding will be targeted specifically to projects that meet the network objectives and have the potential to leverage future external funds. At least one grant awarded from CIHR funds will be allocated to each of the 3 network strategic priorities:

- pain;
- mobility; and
- work.

Preference will be given to applications that demonstrate alignment to the network's cross cutting themes:

- knowledge translation;
- discovery & technology; and
- engagement & equity

Additional grants may be awarded in each competition based on partner funding, and those grants may have additional criteria based on partner specifications.

DETAILS

The grants are for seed funding and are non-renewable. These awards provide money to initiate new projects and/or launch developmental work into a network collaboration. The proposed project is expected to be of short duration (up to 12 months), with plans outlined in the application for leveraging new, larger external support. Applications should provide a clear rationale for the proposed research, exhibit innovation, and contain a budget that justifies the planned expenditures.

Eligibility & Criteria: The nominated principal investigator (NPI) must be a network member. Applicants can apply for only one grant each year as a NPI. Applicants receiving grants as a NPI in one year may have lower priority in subsequent years than new applicants for receiving additional funds as a NPI. The NPI will handle administrative aspects of the grant (correspondence, finances, ethics approvals, etc.).

Each application it is expected to do the following:

1. address at least one of the three main MSK rehabilitation strategic priorities: pain, mobility, and work;
2. include two or more members of the Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network;
3. include at least one patient representative or lay investigator who is fully integrated in the research (explain the roles of the lay researcher);
4. include at least one young investigator (within 5 years of their first academic appointment);
5. include at least one trainee;

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6. include investigators from more than one province AND more than one discipline (transdisciplinary)
7. include a plan for how the funds will lead to larger future funding; and
8. describe how future research will increase capacity, advance knowledge, inform decision-making, or lead to MSK health and health system impacts, for example:
 - transformative scientific advances;
 - improved health and/or quality of life;
 - clinical applications and/or policy development;
 - commercialization.

These criteria are intended to optimize the leverage of the network for future large-scale success and, thus, the extent to which this is reflected in the pilot grant proposal will be an important consideration and prioritization. Preference may be given to projects that make use and/or expend/improve network research platforms developed in Year 1.

Funds and use of funds: Applicants will be asked to provide a brief rationale for how funds will be used. The optimal allocation of funds to achieve the grant objectives will be the responsibility of the research team. Applicants are required to expend the funds in a manner that is consistent with CIHR guidelines.

Reporting: If possible, successful applicants are encouraged to present their findings at the annual network meeting. A final report, detailing the research accomplished and outcomes, is required within 1 year of receiving the funds. All publications and presentations arising from research funded in whole or in part by a Pilot Grant must include acknowledgment of support from the *Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network - and its funding partner(s) if applicable*. The Network will contact recipients to determine if funds have been leveraged as a follow-up to the grant report.

Review procedures: Proposals will be adjudicated by a review committee. The review committee will be composed of 3-5 of the Network PIs, a Network co-investigator, and 1-2 patients/consumers. The committee will be chaired by the Network co-ordinator. Each member of the committee will be asked to declare conflicts of interest. If any conflicts are identified, they will be dealt with appropriately. Each proposal will be reviewed by at least 1 Network co-PI, 1 Network co-I, 1 content expert external to the Network, and 1 patient. The review criteria include:

- alignment with the criteria described in the guidelines
- scientific/technical merit (clarity and focus of research objective, novelty, feasibility, appropriateness of work plan)
- transdisciplinary, capacity enhancement
- potential for high impact (transformative scientific advances, commercialization, improved health or quality of life, policy development or clinical application)
- potential to leverage future external funds

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2018 CALL for PROPOSALS

The 2018 Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network's Pilot Grant Program will be divided into two competitions.

In this first competition, up to \$50,000 in total will be awarded to up to 5 grants valued at up to \$10,000 each. **The above guidelines are applicable to all proposals.** Additionally, partner contributions enable the following.

- Up to 1 grant may be awarded to a proposal where one of the PIs is a Network member from Quebec.
- Up to 1 grant may be awarded to a proposal aimed at improving MSK rehab practices to improve mobility of children.

Application submission and deadlines: Please send your completed application form in a single PDF file to rehabnet@uwo.ca. The deadline for submission is: **March 16, 2018 at midnight EST.**

A second round of competition for 2018 Pilot Grants will be held in conjunction with the 2018 Canadian Bone & Joint Conference held in London, Ontario May 11-12, 2018. More information on the conference can be found here: <http://boneandjoint.uwo.ca/events/cbjc/index.html>

In the second round of competition, up to \$40,000 in total will be awarded to up to 4 grants valued at up to \$10,000 each. In addition to the above guidelines which are applicable to all proposals, these projects will also be required to demonstrate their alignment with research priorities that are outlined at the conference.

Competition details and timeline will be announced at the conference. All Network members are strongly encouraged to attend the conference to provide input on Network initiatives and to be eligible for this second round of Pilot Grant Competition.

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The Application Format

Applicants	Name	Affiliation	New Investigator (NI) or Trainee (T)?
Nominated applicant			
Other applicant(s) <i>Add additional rows as necessary</i>			

Title of project	
Amount requested (max \$10,000)	

Themes (project must be relevant to MSK health and to at least 2 themes)

Theme	Theme description	Check (v) if relevant
1	Pain	
2	Mobility	
3	Work	

Ethics	No	Yes	Pending
Human subjects			
Animals			
Biohazards			

Signature of NPI

Date

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1 – LAY ABSTRACT

Maximum 250 words

In terms that can be understood by a lay person, please describe the research project. Include the reason for the study, and the projected outcomes of the study. The patient representative or lay investigator should be involved in the development of the abstract.

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2 – RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Maximum 4 pages (12 point, single spaced, 1-inch margins)

Describe the research project using the following subheading (up to 3 additional pages containing references, tables, figures etc. can be added as an appendix)

A) OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH *(including its potential significance & impact)*

B) ALIGNMENT WITH NETWORK PRIORITIES *(clearly show fit with network foci and cross cutting themes)*

C) SCIENTIFIC/CLINICAL BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

D) OBJECTIVES AND/OR HYPOTHESES

E) RESEARCH METHODS/EXPERIMENTAL PLAN *(include expected results as appropriate, possible pitfalls & alternatives)*

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3 –COLLABORATION – CAPACITY BUILDING

Maximum 1 page (12 point, single spaced, 1-inch margins)

Describe what new collaborations are being developed. Describe the different expertise of team members. Include the value added by combining the disciplines.

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4 – BUDGET		Maximum 2 pages	
<i>Present a list of proposed costs. Provide a brief justification.</i>			
	Description	Cost per unit	Total Cost
Salaries			
Supplies			
Animals			
Services			
Equipment			
Other-			
Other -			
			TOTAL

DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION:

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5 – PLAN TO LEVERAGE FUTURE RESEARCH FUNDS

Describe plans for external funding that this pilot grant will be used to leverage.

CVs

Please append a CIHR Academic CCV (<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/47567.html>) for each applicant.

SUBMISSION

DEADLINE: March 16, 2018

Please ensure all sections are completed and application is signed.

Assemble entire application as a single PDF and send to rehabnet@uwo.ca.

The nominated applicant will receive an email acknowledging receipt of the application.

If you have any questions, please email rehabnet@uwo.ca.