
GUIDELINES & APPLICATION FORM
**New Project Collaboration Grants: Stimulating
Current Priorities in Rehabilitation Research**

of the
Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network



**CANADIAN MUSCULOSKELETAL
REHAB RESEARCH NETWORK**

Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network Pilot Grant Program Guidelines

OVERVIEW

It is a priority of the Canadian Musculoskeletal (MSK) Rehab Research Network to encourage new externally funded transdisciplinary research initiatives. Accordingly, a significant portion of our annual CIHR funding is allocated to pilot (seed) funding to enable network members to initiate innovative, high-impact, and early-stage projects. The Canadian MSK Rehabilitation Research Network is pleased to host its fourth annual Pilot Grant Competition, **awarding up to six projects across Canada a total of \$60,000 in seed funding (up to \$10,000 per project)**.

The landscape of healthcare and health research has shifted dramatically over the past few weeks through the COVID-19 pandemic. Changes in physical distancing, application of rehab techniques and data collection will have long-lasting effects in MSK health research field. The 2020 MSK Rehab Research Network Pilot Grant competition will focus on research efforts that address this changing healthcare environment. **This round of pilot grants will be open to projects utilizing online or remote data collection/interventions, and/or projects specifically targeting MSK mobility challenges related to COVID-19.** Such project may include, but are not limited to: remote rehabilitation, telehealth, novel data collection or wearable sensor techniques, or addressing mobility concerns for those who are isolated and living with MSK disorders.

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.

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 meet the following criteria:

- 1. Pilot projects that utilize online/remote data collection and evaluate interventions/tests that can be remotely implemented, and/or are focused on MSK challenges in the COVID-19 pandemic**
2. address at least one of the three main MSK rehabilitation strategic priorities: pain, mobility, and work;
3. include two or more members of the Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network;
4. include at least one patient representative or lay investigator who is fully integrated in the research (explain the roles of the lay researcher);

Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network Pilot Grant Program Guidelines

5. include investigators from more than one province. Preference will be given to research teams that also include investigators from more than one research discipline
6. preference will be given to research teams that include: at least one young investigator (within 5 years of their first academic appointment) and at least one trainee
7. include a plan for how the funds will lead to larger future funding; and
8. describe how this grant will support future network-level (sites or researchers) collaborative research; and the longer-term potential impacts on lead to MSK health and health system impacts. Examples include:
 - transformative scientific advances;
 - improved health and/or quality of life;
 - clinical applications and/or policy development;
 - commercialization.

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 at least 2 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

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

2020 CALL for PROPOSALS

Application submission and deadlines: Please send your completed application form in a single PDF file to rehabnet@uwo.ca. The deadline for submission is: **May 29st, 2020 at midnight Eastern Time**. Applications will be reviewed and expected to be awarded by June 12th, 2020.

Application Form

Applicants	Name	Affiliation	New Investigator (NI) or Trainee (T)?
Nominated applicant			
Patient Partner(s)			
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 1 theme)

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

Ethics	No	Yes	Pending
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**Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network
Pilot Grant Program Guidelines**

Human subjects			
Animals			
Biohazards			

Signature of NPI

Date

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

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.

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

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 *(MSK, 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)*

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

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.

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

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:

Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network
Pilot Grant Program Guidelines

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: May 29, 2020

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.