**Innovation Fund - Strategic Grant Competition**

**1. Background**

**Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research**

The Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research represents a unique collaborative venture among the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), University Health Network (UHN) and University of Toronto (UofT) to transform prevention and management of heart disease – in particular, [heart failure](http://tedrogersresearch.ca/for-researchers/funding/define-hf/). The Centre’s mission includes children and adults, with an over-arching goal of addressing **heart failure across the entire lifespan**. For more information see [www.tedrogersresearch.ca](http://www.tedrogersresearch.ca/).

**Strategic Grants**

The Ted Rogers Centre Innovation Fund is intended to support the most promising work at both early and late stages, as well as the clinical assessment of emergent technologies within the field. The fund will accelerate the discovery, development and implementation of next-generation therapies and approaches to address heart failure. Its goal is to empower efforts that result in clinical impact.

Eligible projects must represent a *bona fide* collaboration with at least two of the three partner institutions (SickKids, UHN, UofT). Projects may encompass the full spectrum of biomedical research but must aim to have clinical impact. Funding will flow to the Centre partners involved (SickKids, UHN, UofT). Project teams can include national and international experts. Demonstration of leverage (matching funds) will be considered a strength of the proposal. Continued funding (Years 2-3) will be dependent on demonstration of progress.

Selection of successful applications will be heavily weighted to those with the potential to transform our understanding or approach to heart failure and improve outcomes for patients and/or cost-effectiveness of the health care system. Provision of concrete deliverables, with potential for translation into effective treatment, tools, health care practices and policies are strongly recommended. Applicants will be encouraged to provide an assessment of the value of the deliverables in a health delivery context.

Measures of success will focus on three main areas: *Academic* (publications, citations, commentaries, presentations, awards); *Commercialization* (disclosures of new intellectual property, potential for licenses and patents, creation of new start-up or spin-off companies); *Clinical* (Knowledge translation – medical or patient education, change in practice, improvement in outcomes).

The number of awards will depend on the quality of applications received. We anticipate up to 2 strategic grants will be funded. Funding may begin as early as December 2017. For application forms and related documents see

<http://tedrogersresearch.ca/for-researchers/funding/innovation-fund/>

**2. Application Process**

The strategic grant application process begins with a Letter of Intent (LOI). Selected LOI applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

**Important Dates**

***Letter of Intent: Due date extended to July 28, 2017……Estimated LOI Notice of Decision: September 15, 2017***

***Full Application: Due date is October 27, 2017…………….Estimated Notice of Decision: Nov 24, 2017***

***Funding: Funding to begin December, 2017***

**Letter of Intent Submission**

Email your LOI submission by Friday, July 28, 5pm EST to: Linda Donovan, Planning & Operations Manager, Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research, linda.donovan@TedRogersResearch.ca. All complete submissions will be reviewed and adjudicated by a panel of investigators constituted to ensure adequate expertise for the full breadth of applications received.

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| **1. Funding*** Team grants of up to $1,000,000 over three years funded by the Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research Innovation Fund.
* Up to 2 awards are planned to begin as early as December 2017
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| **2. Eligibility*** Principal applicants must hold a full-time appointment at SickKids, UHN, or UofT (including any UofT affiliated academic health sciences centre, hospital or research centre)
* Projects: a) must focus on the Centre’s stated objective of making an impact on [heart failure](http://tedrogersresearch.ca/for-researchers/funding/define-hf/);

b) are to produce concrete deliverables with real impact on heart failure; c) exclusively exploratory or discovery focused projects are not eligible* Topic areas: Projects are to address any of the following five areas:
	+ Next generation mHealth/eHealth application(s)—includes systems biology, patient- and diagnosis-customized algorithms, artificial intelligence (AI), and or machine learning to improve heart failure outcomes and reduce hospitalizations
	+ Mechanistic studies of cardiotoxicity to inform clinical trials for earlier and better diagnosis and prevention of this cause of heart failure
	+ A bench-to-bedside clinically oriented program targeting cardiac fibrosis in heart failure
	+ Prevention and/or treatment of heart failure through regenerative medicine
	+ A genomics oriented program focused on curing an inherited cardiomyopathy
* A Principal applicant can only submit one LOI; but can be co-applicant on other LOIs
* Teams may involve national or international experts. However, funding will flow to the Ted Rogers Centre partner (SickKids, UHN, UofT including any UofT affiliated academic health sciences centre, hospital or research centre). Ted Rogers Centre partners can fund collaboration elsewhere as necessary.
* Applicants must agree to and support the rapid sharing of research work products and deliverables
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| **3. Mandatory Requirements*** Evidence of collaboration between 2 or more [partner institutions](http://tedrogersresearch.ca/our-team/partner-institutions/) (SickKids, UHN, UofT)
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| **4. Evaluation Criteria and weights (out of a maximum score of 100)*** 15 - Originality, significance, quality and innovation of the project and its alignment with the Mission of the Ted Rogers [Centre](http://tedrogersresearch.ca/about-us/vision-and-mission/)
* 15 - Scientific rigour & feasibility of the planned milestones
* 25 - Addresses a clinical issue/problem related to heart failure
* 15 - Leverages other sources of funding and resources (matching funds)
* 10 - Provides defined deliverables, and an assessment of the value of those deliverables in a health delivery context
* 10 - Provides a translation plan to change practice and improve patient outcomes and identifies any anticipated intellectual property development and a plan for commercialization
* 10 - Applicants’ accomplishments (record of publications, grants, trainees, and commercialization)
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| **5. Eligible expenses*** All supplies and services relating to the research project are considered eligible
* Funds for trainee support (post-doctoral, graduate, undergraduate) are considered eligible
* Purchase or lease of equipment up to $100,000 (over the 3-year grant period) is eligible if clearly justified and matched 1:1 with other resources
* Funds for investigator salaries are NOT eligible
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| **6. Terms*** Applicants are required to inform the Centre of any related support currently held or applied for from other funding sources and to what extent such support overlaps with their LOI
* **Funds will not be released until all appropriate ethical, biosafety and regulatory approvals have been obtained. This includes but is not limited to approval by the Stem Cell Oversight Committee for use of human pluripotent stem cells as per CIHR guidelines.**
* Support from the Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research Innovation Fund must be acknowledged in all publications, presentations, or other communications that arise from this award
* Formal presentation of the project and progress will be required at specific conferences and workshops
* Subsequent years’ funding is dependent on demonstration of progress during prior year
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| **7. Reporting Requirements*** Awardees are required to provide a financial statement from the institution’s finance department itemizing all expenses and showing the balance at the end of each funding year. Reporting must include status of matching funding as outlined in proposal.
* Awardees are to provide a detailed written report within 3 months of the end of the funding period, which outlines: a) description of project results to date; b) list of publications resulting from the funded research; c) list of personnel involved, level of involvement and their roles, and nature of associated collaborations; d) a letter to the Rogers Family describing results and impact
* A final report will be required within 6 months of the final funding year
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| **8. Application submission*** Adhere to the guidelines provided in the LOI form. Provide requested content only. Optional sections include i) Section IV.1 Other: provides space for diagrams, preliminary data, etc.—content of this nature should only be provided in Section IV.1; ii IV.2 – Citation list; IV.3 – Matching funds description. Append related matching funds commitment letters.
* Follow font requirements; do not adjust margins or layout.
* Content that exceeds defined text limits or does not comply with guidelines will not be reviewed.
* Provide a CIHR Common CV or a NIH biosketch for the Principal applicant and co-applicants—focusing on the last 5 years only
* Submit your LOI as a PDF document plus the principal/co- applicants’ CVs or NIH biosketches as a second PDF document by email to linda.donovan@tedrogersresearch.ca. LOI **must be email sent time-stamped by 17:00 (5:00 PM) EST on July 28, 2017.**
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| I.1 Applicant Information – Principal Applicant |
| i) Name | Position | Institution  |
| Mailing Address | Telephone no. | Sex [ ]  Female  [ ]  Male |
| City | Province | Postal Code | Email  |
| Appointment | [ ]  SickKids | [ ]  UHN  |  [ ] UofT  |  [ ]  Other UofT Affiliated site (Specify)  |
| [ ]  Other (Specify)  |  |
| \*This project has been submitted to other competitions [ ]  N/A [ ]  OIRM [ ]  HSF [ ]  CIHR [ ]  NSERC [ ]  Other If Other, please specify:  |
| \*This project has received funding from another source [ ]  Yes [ ]  No If Yes, specify source & amount:  |
| I.2 Co-applicants (If more than 5, add one additional page) |
| i) Name | Position | Role in Grant |
| Institution | Department | Email Address |
| ii) Name | Position | Role in Grant |
| Institution | Department | Email Address |
| iii) Name | Position | Role in Grant |
| Institution | Department | Email Address |
| iv) Name | Position | Role in Grant |
| Institution | Department | Email Address |
| v) Name | Position | Role in Grant |
| Institution | Department | Email Address |
| I.3 Funding Requested($1,000,000 maximum) | Yr 1 ($350,000 max) | Yr 2 ($350,000 max) | Yr 3 ($300,000 max) |
| **I.4 Matching Funds** *Optional: Provide details in section IV.3 & append commitment letter(s)* | Yr 1 | Yr 2 | Yr 3 |

\*We are interested in understanding where awards may overlap.

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| II. Proposed Research Project  |
| Project Title: (To be consistent with title used in application) (Arial 10 pt font, 75 character limit) |
| Lay Title: (Arial 10 pt font, 75 character limit) |
| II.1 Background & Rationale (Arial 10 pt, 30 lines max) *Originality, significance, quality*: *Consider* *(a) medical need/market for innovation, (b) competing technologies in use or development, (c) advantages of this innovation over current approaches.* |
| II.2 Objectives & Research Plan (Arial 10 pt, 62 lines max [12 here + 50 next pg]) *Scientific rigour & feasibility*. *Detail also here what the innovation will achieve, how, and by who (i.e. role of each applicant or sponsor).* |
| **II.2 Objectives & Research Plan (Cont’d)** (**Arial 10 pt font, 62 lines max [12 prior pg + 50 this pg]**)  |
| II.3 Relevance to [Heart Failure](http://tedrogersresearch.ca/for-researchers/funding/define-hf/) (Arial 10 pt font, 17 lines max) *What clinical need/problem does this innovation address?* |
| II.4 Deliverables & Timelines (Arial 10 pt font, 34 lines max) *Provide defined deliverables, and an assessment of the value of the deliverables in a health delivery context. Leverage (i.e. matching funds) may be discussed here or in Section IV-3*. |
| II.5 Commercialization or Translation Plan (Arial 10 pt font, 34 lines max) *Describe (a) anticipated intellectual property (IP), (b) processes to protect IP, (c) potential commercialization plan. Alternatively, describe a plan to translate your findings for medical or patient education, health care practices and policies, or achieve improved outcomes in heart failure.* |
| III. Principal Applicant Signature Block |
|  I certify to the best of my knowledge all information in this Letter of Intent is accurate. |
| Name (Please print) |
| Signature | Date (DD/MMM/YYYY) |
| **Send your completed documents by email to** **linda.donovan@tedrogersresearch.ca** **in the following format:****1. A single PDF file of your LOI; 2 A single PDF file of applicant CCV/biosketches, last 5 years only.** |
| **IV.1 Other** [***Optional*** *– May show figures, diagrams, preliminary data, etc.*](**Arial 10 pt, 50 lines/1 page max**) |
| **IV.2 Citation List** [***Optional*** *– Citation list for proposed project.*](**Arial 10 pt, 50 lines/1 page max**) |
| **IV.3 Matching Funds** [***Optional*** *– Describe matching funds & append letter(s) of commitment.*](**Arial 10 pt, 50 lines/1 page max**) |