

Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research – Innovation Fund Seed Grant 2023/24

Background

The Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research (Ted Rogers Centre) focuses on transforming prevention and management of heart disease – in particular, heart failure. The Ted Rogers Centre’s focus includes children and adults, with an over-arching goal of addressing heart failure across its lifespan. The Ted Rogers Centre blends basic, translational, and clinical research, prioritizing collaborative research projects with strong potential for impact.

The objective of these Innovation Seed Grants is to generate new knowledge, promote innovation, and support interdisciplinary research and collaboration. In so doing, the Ted Rogers Centre supports impactful projects that possess the most promise in transforming how we prevent, diagnose, and treat heart failure and associated conditions.

Award

- This Ted Rogers Centre Seed Grant for 2023/24 awards up to \$100,000 for one year, and may be renewed once (dependent on progress) for a second year.
- There are three (3) awards available in addition to a concurrent grant opportunity, the MITO2i & Ted Rogers Centre Joint Innovation Fund Seed Grant 2023/24.
- In total, the Ted Rogers Centre will fund up to four (4) Innovation Seed Grants in 2023/24, at least one of which will encompass mitochondrial research.

The number of awards funded is dependant on the quality and scientific merit of applications received. The funding period runs March 1, 2023 – February 28, 2024.

Eligibility

- Principal applicants must:
 - a) Hold a faculty appointment at the University of Toronto (U of T); and
 - b) Be located physically on campus or at any U of T affiliated teaching hospital.
- The project must:
 - a) Involve collaboration between at least 2 of the 3 Ted Rogers Centre partner institutes (SickKids, University Health Network, and U of T).
 - b) Focus on the Ted Rogers Centre’s stated objectives of making an impact on heart failure
 - c) Consider translation/commercialization potential of the associated research.
 - Engage patients/caregivers – considered integral to the design of the proposed research ([see MITO2i video](#) and the [Ted Rogers Centre Transform HF video](#) for further context and information)
- Current recipients of a Ted Rogers Centre Innovation Fund are not eligible to be principal applicants on a Seed grant application

- Only one application per principal applicant is permitted.
- Applications that represent a new unfunded initiative for the applicant are preferred.

Application Process

The Seed Grant application process begins with a Letter of Intent (~1550 words or 3 pages). Select applicants will be invited to submit a full application (~7 pages).

- **August 12, 2022** – Application form posted at <https://tedrogersresearch.ca/innovation-fund>
- **October 14, 2022, 5pm EST** – Deadline for Letter of Intent (LOI)
- **Late-November 2022** – Notification of LOI outcome
- **December 23, 2022, 5pm EST** – Full application due
- **Early-February 2023** – Notification of final decision
- **March 1, 2023** – Funding period begins

Please direct questions to Purva Mehta, Coordinator, Planning & Operations at purva.mehta@uhnresearch.ca

LOI Application Outline & Evaluation

SECTION	REQUIREMENTS	WEIGHTING
Background and Rationale	Describe why this project is significant and innovative. (<200 words)	25%
Research Objectives and Approach	Describe the project deliverables and how they will be achieved with consideration to scientific rigour and feasibility. (<500 words)	35%
Organizational Alignment	Describe how this project aligns with the Ted Rogers Centre's mission and objectives. (<200 words)	10%
Collaboration	Describe how your project benefits from collaboration between partners of the Ted Rogers Centre. (<200 words)	10%
Patient Engagement	Describe how engagement with people affected by heart failure is integrated into the design of the proposed research. (<150 words)	5%
Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Considerations	Describe approaches taken to engage members of under-represented groups. This can include, but is not limited to, recruitment practices, mentorship, environment, and trainee development. (<150 words)	5%
Translation and/or Commercialization	Describe your plans/activities for translation/commercialization of the research findings (e.g., policy or systems change, clinical practice, IP). (<150 words)	5%
Applicants' Excellence	Applicants' CIHR Common academic CV (last five years only)	5%

Eligible Expenses

- Funds for trainee support (post-doctoral, graduate, undergraduate)
- All supplies and services relating to the research project
- Purchase or lease of equipment up to \$25,000 (if clearly justified)

Note: Funds for investigator salaries are not eligible

Funding Terms and Requirements

- Applicants are required to disclose any related support currently held or applied for from other funding sources and to what extent such support overlaps with their LOI
- Funds will be released after 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 must be acknowledged in all publications, presentations, or other communications connected to work funded through this award.
- Awardees are required to provide:
 1. Financial statements from the institution's finance department summarizing expenses and current balance every six months
 2. A written progress report as part of the renewal application (if applicable)
 3. A written final report within three months of the end of the final funding period, including:
 - a) a summary of project results to date;
 - b) a list of publications resulting from the funded research;
 - c) a list of personnel involved, level of involvement and their roles, and nature of associated collaborations; and
 - d) a letter to the Rogers family describing results and impact.
 4. Presentations on the project and progress at select Ted Rogers Centre events