

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUND

Terms of Reference

The Collaborative Research and Innovation Fund (CRIF, the Fund) is a fund earmarked for collaborative research among faculty members in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry (the Department). This fund is intended to promote collaborative research between the basic science and clinical sides of the Department in pursuit of our shared academic mission.

1. The CRIF will support:

- (a) Direct research costs and project related publication fees if, applicable.
- (b) Salary/fellowship support for undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars.
- (c) Supplies and consumables.

2. The CRIF will not support:

- (a) Purchases of equipment and/or maintenance costs associated with equipment.
- (b) Travel expenses.
- (c) Monthly phone or photocopier charges.
- (d) Costs associated with scheduling meetings and networking.
- (e) Research costs of existing projects and collaborations.
- (f) Payment to faculty members at Western University or affiliates.
- (g) Projects funded through the Pathology Research and Innovation Fund (PRIF).

3. Eligibility and Award Value

- (a) CRIF is open to all faculty members with a primary appointment in the Department.
- (b) Research projects must be developed jointly by two co-PIs:
 - 1. Basic Scientist primarily appointed in PaLM;
 - 2. Clinical Scientist (PhD) or Clinical Academic (MD or equivalent) at LHSC.
- (c) The value of the award is up to \$15,000 and up to two awards may be granted per year.
- (d) The PaLM Awards Committee may elect to not award funding in any competition cycle.

4. Application Process

- (a) Application for the award must be submitted to the Department, using the web-based form provided.
- (b) Applications will be considered once a year with a deadline of May 15.
- (c) Applications will be reviewed by the PaLM Awards Committee. Applications will be scored based on the following criteria:
 - i. Project Rationale and Experimental Design
 - ii. Feasibility of Research Project
 - iii. Applicants and Expertise
 - iv. Appropriateness of Budget
 - v. Potential for External Funding

- (d) If the successful research project requires human or nonmedical research ethics approval or animal use protocol approval, funding will be held pending full approval of these certifications.
- (e) For successful CRIF applications, funds will be transferred to a new research account at Western.

5. Award Duration

- (a) Funds must be utilized within 24 months from the date of speedcode activation. Requests to carryforward unspent funds for up to 12 months will be considered. Unspent funds after 36 months must be returned to the Department.

6. Report and Acknowledgement

- (a) Awardees must acknowledge CRIF in all publications or presentations generated as a result of research funded by CRIF.
- (b) The two PIs on the funded research should be listed as equal authors (for example, co-senior or co-corresponding authors) on resulting publications and conference abstracts and presentations.
- (c) The Department will request a final report on the outcome of the project and may request a seminar as part of the Dr. Robert Zhong Seminar Series.

Revised November 2024