RESEARCH PILLAR AWARDS
Department of Surgery

Call for proposals

Submission deadline is Wednesday October 31, 2018 by 11:59 PM

The Office of Surgical Research, the Department of Surgery and the Cumming School of Medicine are pleased to announce the call for applications for the Research Pillar Awards for 2018-2019. Two new Research Pillar Awards will be awarded to proposals for research programs within the Department of Surgery that fall within the OSR's four research pillars:

- Basic science
- Health systems
- Clinical research
- Education research

PURPOSE OF RESEARCH PILLAR AWARDS

The Research Pillar Awards will provide up to $25,000 per year for two years for currently unfunded research programs with a novel focus, hypothesis or question, to be submitted by any (i.e. new or established) investigators, and have plans for sustained inquiry, research personnel, multiple publications, and external grant applications.

Funds can be used to support the human resources, equipment and materials necessary to implement test and/or evaluate new concepts and modes of surgical care delivery. Funding may not be used for drug trials or cost of travel.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Proposal must be submitted by individuals with a primary appointment in the Department of Surgery.
2. A proposal must have the support from the Section Chair prior to the submission to the selection committee.
3. Initial eligibility criteria is (in first year): (i) plans for sustained inquiry and investigation; (ii) plans to hire research personnel; (iii) plans for greater than two publications; and (iv) plans to submit external grant applications.
4. All projects will be asked to submit a progress report to the OSR, after which year 2 funding will be approved if, in the judgement of the award selection committee significant progress has been made on the project to justify the awarding of year 2 funding. Year 2 funding may be withheld at the discretion of the committee.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Proposals must follow the attached template provided.
2. All proposals must be submitted as a single PDF file.
3. All submitted proposals will be evaluated through a competitive peer-reviewed process involving representatives from the Department of Surgery.
4. Up to two (2) new Research Pillar Awards will be made available annually.

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SELECTION COMMITTEE
1. The Director of the Office of Surgical Research, Department of Surgery;
2. Two members of the Office of Surgical Research committee;
3. Two additional members nominated by the Department of Surgery Office of Surgical Research.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The assessment of proposals by the peer-review committee will be based on the following criteria:
1. **External funding potential:** potential for obtaining external funding, and becoming a nationally and internationally recognized program of research.
2. **Relevance and impact:** potential impact of research program within and beyond the local institution and the academic community. In addition, the likely significance of the program in generating and transferring new knowledge and beneficial results beyond the research program's participants, as well as, potential to improve understanding in the research program's subject field: presence of a coherent knowledge translation strategy for exchanging information generated by the program.
3. **Team strengths:** experience and skills of the research program team, including: track record, historical productivity and impact, likelihood that this team can complete the proposal being proposed, time availability to commit to proposal, and, collaborative arrangements with colleagues, if applicable.
4. **Feasibility of proposal:** clarity and realism of the research proposal with respect to the objectives, timeframe, intended outcomes and outcome metrics, and resources available.

AWARDING PROCEDURES & FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS
1. Once the proposals have been reviewed by the selection committee, their recommendations will be forwarded to the Head of Department.
2. Once approved, individual project accounts will be set up with Research Accounting at the University of Calgary. All funds will be managed by the Principal Investigators through the University of Calgary and will be subject to University of Calgary policies and procedures. The financial year of the fund is from May 1 to April 30.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT

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PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

All submitted proposals must follow the template provided below. All proposals must be prepared using no smaller than 11 point font and must be submitted as a single PDF file. Please submit completed applications to the Office of Surgical Research, at osr@ucalgary.ca by Wednesday, October 31, 2018 (11:59 PM).

The proposal should contain:

1. Research Pillar category: Basic Science, Clinical Research, Health Systems or Education.
2. Research program title **(25 words maximum).**
3. Principal investigator(s) include all titles and institutional affiliations, and CV for each investigator (Canadian Common CV format preferred).
4. Plain language abstract (**200 words maximum**).
5. Background and rationale (can include one table/figure/illustration) **(500 words maximum**).
6. Overall aim, hypothesis and objectives of proposal (**300 words maximum**).
7. Methodology overview: (can include up to 2 tables/figures/illustrations **(800 words maximum)**).
8. Timeline/milestones (provide a target start date, the dates when each outcome/milestone will be completed and the target finishing date (**200 words maximum**)).
9. Team: names and affiliations of the team members, with a brief statement of their roles, experience, area(s) of expertise, time commitment and planned contributions **(300 words maximum).**
10. Budget in table format using headings: human resources, other, and total funds. Include any additional program funding (amounts and sources) required for successful completion of the project.
11. Relevance and impact of research program (**300 words maximum**).
12. Dissemination plan (**200 words maximum**).
13. Support/letters:
    15.1 From the Section Chair supporting the project (**mandatory**)
    15.2 Support/letters from partners (**if applicable**).
14. List of references (**30 references maximum**).