

Brain Canada-Huntington Society of Canada Creating HD Clinician-Scientist-to-Patient Virtual Networks Multi-Investigator Research Initiative (MIRI) Teleconference

December 22, 2016, 4:00pm EST

Introductory Remarks from the Huntington Society of Canada and Brain Canada

An overview of the Request for Applications was provided with an emphasis on the main objectives of this competition. Brain Canada and the Huntington Society of Canada have partnered to create this competition. The intent is to facilitate and expand networks. Recognizing that each project will be in varying stages across basic and clinical research, we emphasize that the Huntington's Disease (HD) community must be engaged in the research project and the engagement must be described in detail in applications. The mechanism by which the HD community is engaged must be indicated, and go beyond collecting biological samples from patients. Thus, the knowledge translation component of this grant is very crucial for all applications.

Any technical issues regarding the application can be directed to: programs@braincanada.ca.

This year, two additional components have been added to the competition. Applicants must indicate whether their research project submission considered sex and gender in the proposal. Moreover, applicants must describe any ethical, social and legal implications of their project. Please note that these components will not be evaluated independently as criteria, but will be considered by reviewers.

Below is the summary of the Question & Answer session on December 22, 2016.

Question: How many international collaborators can be included in the application?

Answer: The definition for the different team member types are on page 4 of the Request for Applications. An application may have more than 1 international collaborator, but *only one* international investigator listed on the project. For your application, please ensure that the role of each member is accurately designated in the Brain Canada online grants management system, and that a full description of each team member and their role in the project is provided.

Question: Regarding eligible expenses, can administrative personnel be listed for salary costs? Is travel for an international collaborator an eligible expense?

Answer: If an administrative personnel is deemed absolutely necessary for the project, the principal investigator must provide a detailed explanation of the exact role of the administrative personnel, and why this project could not be conducted without this specific individual.

Similarly, using travel costs for an international collaborator to come to Canada must be explicitly justified in the proposal. The investigator would have to prove that no other individual could provide the equivalent service/training as the international collaborator. Brain Canada and the Huntington Society of Canada encourage travel expenses to be incurred by lab members funded by the grant, and have team members travel to the site of the international collaborator.

Question: Can clarification be provided on the introductory remark “Clinicians should provide more than just biological samples from patients”

Answer: It is important to engage the HD community no matter what stage/pillar of research the project is in. Providing human samples to a project is not considered an active engagement in the project. The clinician involved in the project does not necessarily have to conduct research, but they should inform the project trajectory. The application must clearly describe how the clinician provides added value to the team. The clinician must have a co-investigator role and it must be clear how the HD community will be engaged beyond providing tissue samples. For example; How will the research team transfer information/knowledge to the HD community to keep them engaged in the research?

Concluding Remarks

If participants have not done so, we encourage the submission of a project summary to programs@braincanada.ca

The deadline for submission of Applications is February 2nd, 2017.

The release of results is anticipated to be in mid-April, 2017.

Additional Information

Brain Canada and the Huntington Society of Canada are pleased to announce that the funds available for the competition have been increased. The new overall envelope is now of \$950,000 over three years allowing to fund one multi-disciplinary grant.