

Canadian Society of Transplantation Allied Health Research Fund Allocation Guidelines

Mandate of the Allied Health Research Committee:

To support and promote research excellence among the Allied Health membership across Canada through leadership, funding opportunities and collaboration across disciplines and centers.

Objectives:

Research funding has been designated to support original research within the Allied Health membership of the Canadian Society of Transplantation (CST). The objectives of this research fund are:

1. To provide start-up funds in order to leverage peer reviewed and/or external grant opportunities
2. To provide a source of funding for transplant related research projects that improve and/or enhance patient care, patient/family satisfaction, and/or outcomes
3. To provide leadership and mentorship for novice researchers by providing funding and fostering the relationship between the novice researcher and an experienced researcher.

Funds Available:

Primary Grant - open for applications from any Allied Health member of CST; to a maximum of \$5000.

Allied Health Research Fund - Novice Researcher – open for applications from any Allied Health clinician new to research; to a maximum of \$1500 (see below).

Allied Health Research Fund - Novice Researcher: The goal of this Fund is to engage Allied Health members in fostering new and unique practice-based research while enhancing comfort and expertise with the research process. It will involve a facilitated relationship/mentorship with an experienced researcher in a similar area of practice. If the applicant has not identified a mentor, the CST Allied Health Research Committee will seek a mentor to participate in the project.

Application Process:

A Call for Applications will be posted on the CST website and will be e-mailed to the Allied Health membership each year. Applications must be submitted by the posted deadline. The applicant must declare any additional funding applied for and/or received for their project whether it is a new application, a request for continued funding or a previously denied application. The application must include the purpose of the project, its relevance to the practice of Allied Health members, outcome measures, time lines and metrics for success and a detailed budget. The application (including budget) should not exceed 3 pages in length.

Timelines:

Applications will be accepted until the posted deadline. Successful applicants will be informed within 8 weeks of the application deadline. Funding decisions will be announced at the CST Annual Scientific Conference each year with a formal presentation to awardees at that time. A maximum of one application per year will be accepted from any individual serving as the Principal Investigator (PI). However, a PI may be involved in other research projects as a co-investigator. Information about funding awards will be disseminated through the CST website.

Allocation of Funds:

Review Committee: Grant applications will be reviewed by the Allied Health Research Committee and a group of not less than three external reviewers appointed by the Committee for a two-year term. Committees will serve 2 year terms. A Conflict of Interest Policy will govern Committee members and external reviewers who may be excused from the review process for certain applications.

Review Process: A standardized rating system will be used to allow for scoring of applications. Those that demonstrate excellence with regards to study design, methodology and outcome measurement will be favored. Funds will be granted by a majority decision of the reviewers based on merit and prioritized by rating scores. The Committee will make the final decision on the amounts allocated to each successful applicant (which may vary from the amount requested). The Chair will report the Committee's recommendations to the applicants. Responses to unsuccessful applicants will include suggestions to improve their project and/or application for future consideration.

Progress Reports:

Funded applicants must submit a formal progress report including a detailed analysis of expenditures after a period of 12 months. Any funds not used in a particular year are not automatically transferred for use in the following year but must be formally requested and accounted for in the progress report. Successful applicants will be expected to submit an abstract to the following CST Annual Scientific Conference highlighting their research findings.

Measuring Impact:

The Allied Health Research Committee will measure its success by evaluating:

1. Knowledge translation, enhancement of evidence-based practice
2. Improved patient/family satisfaction, quality of life, and/or clinical outcomes
3. International peer recognition
4. Number of presentations by Allied Health members at annual meetings/conferences
5. Number of professional publications by Allied Health members
6. Impact on policies and practice at local, provincial or international levels
7. Evidence of enhanced collaborative practice
8. Projects that lead to successful applications for external funding