

Canadian Society for Transplantation Associate Membership Research Grant Allocation Guidelines

Mandate of the Associate Member's Research Committee:

To support and promote research excellence of the Associate 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 Associate Membership of the Canadian Society for Transplantation. The objectives of this research fund are:

- 1) To provide start-up funds in order to leverage peer reviewed/external grant opportunities; priority will be given to applications that have not yet received external, peer reviewed funding.
- 2) To provide a source of funding for transplant related research projects that improve and/or enhance patient care, patient/family satisfaction, and/or patient outcomes.

Who can apply?

Any Associate Member of the Canadian Society for Transplantation may apply for funding, up to a maximum of \$2500 per research project.

Application Process

A Call for Applications will be announced in December 2009 by posting on the Canadian Society for Transplantation website, and an email Call for Applications to the Associate Membership. The applicant must declare any additional funding that they have applied for and/or received for their project; whether it is a new application, a proposal for continued funding or a previously denied application. The purpose of the project and its relevance to the mandate of the Associate Membership, outcomes, time lines and metrics for success; and a detailed plan for use of requested funds is required.

Timelines

Applications will be submitted one time per year. Funding decisions will be announced at the annual Canadian Society for Transplantation meeting each year, and awardees will be notified in advance (e.g., grant deadline March 12, 2010; notification May 15, 2010; formal award presentation CST Aug 2010). There should be a maximum of 1 application per year by any individual serving as the Principal Investigator (PI), however, PI's may be involved in multiple

other research projects as co-investigator. Any funds not used for a particular year may not be transferred and used the following year.

Allocation of Funds

Proposals that demonstrate excellence with regards to study design, methods, and outcome measurement will be favored. A standardized rating system will be created to allow for scoring of proposals. Funds will be granted based on merit and upon approval of the majority of the quorum, and prioritized based on highest rating. The allocation committee is to make the final decision on the allocation amount which may be different from the amount requested. The Chair will report the committee's recommendations for funding to applicants.

Measuring Impact

Measurements for success can include: knowledge translation; peer recognition as world leaders; an increase in the number of yearly presentations; an increase in the number of yearly publications; changes in policy and practice at local, provincial or international levels; increased collaboration with partners; and work that leads to further outside funding. Impact must also be examined when changes have measurable outcomes that influence patient, family and staff satisfaction, morbidity and mortality, quality of life, or clinical outcomes. Potential study impact should be addressed in the application up to a maximum of one paragraph.

Reporting of Funds

Applicants will submit a formal progress report after a period of 12 months. Information about funding awards will be disseminated through the Canadian Society for Transplantation web site. Applicants will be expected to present findings from their research internally as well as at minimum in abstract format at a national/international transplant conference.

Review Committee Characteristics

The Research Funds Committee will be an advisory group consisting of 5 members of the Associate Member's Research Committee, and 2 CST members (non-Associate category). A conflict of interest policy will need to be established to govern committee members and applicants. In this case, it can be clearly delineated who should be excluded as a reviewer for certain proposals.