



2024 CST T³ Grant Competition in Transplantation and Donation Terms of Reference

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I. Background

The Competition is designed to inspire and acknowledge Clinical Research projects with a focus on transplantation or donation. The entries will be evaluated by members of the Research and Grants and Awards Committees of the Canadian Society of Transplantation (CST) who will choose three finalists (defined below) in accordance with these Terms of Reference (“Terms”). The finalists will present their ideas at an event to be held during the 2024 Canadian Society of Transplantation Annual Scientific Meeting (the “Meeting”) on **October 15, 2024**. The finalists will be ranked and selected for funding awards by the live audience including CST and non-CST members. See below for the complete details.

Our co-sponsors: Paladin Labs Inc. and Astellas Pharma Canada Inc. will provide the funding for the Competition in the amount of \$100,000. The CST will provide the receipt, processing, evaluation, and decision-making infrastructure for the Competition and will distribute the funding awards.

Why the T3 Competition?

The treatment and care of transplant recipients has undergone vast changes during the past two decades. The success of organ transplantation is a consequence of the improvement in medical science but also the significant contribution of the people who work in the field, including the transplant physicians, coordinators, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, dieticians, and other healthcare professionals.

Celebrating these two decades includes looking back to the milestones in transplantation and donation in Canada, but also contemplating what lies in store for the future.

Paladin Labs Inc. and Astellas Pharma Canada Inc. would like to acknowledge the Canadian transplant community for all that they do in ensuring that Canada is, and continues to be, at the forefront of innovation in transplantation.

II. Key Dates Competition

Launch	May 22, 2024
Letter of Intent	June 14, 2024
Application deadline	July 18, 2024
Notification of Finalists	August 16, 2024
Presentation by Finalists	October 15, 2024

III. Objectives and Scope

The objective of this competition, entitled the **2024 CST T3 Grant Competition in Transplantation and Donation**, is to support clinical research studies aimed at improving patient outcomes and quality of life. Clinical research may include studies on treatment, prevention, diagnostics, natural history, behavioral studies, health economics, epidemiology, or quality improvement. Quantitative and qualitative methodologies are included. Proposals that emphasize a patient-centred approach¹ to research in their design, and/or include a patient partner in the study team are strongly encouraged.

¹ de Wit M, Cooper C, Reginster JY; WHO-ESCEO Working Group. Practical guidance for patient-centred health research. *Lancet*. 2019;393(10176):1095-1096. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(19)30034-0.

The primary focus of the Competition is to provide seed funding to novel research studies, that will lead to larger, national-level grant funding and research programs.

Using a “TedTalk” format within a dedicated session in the Meeting, funding will be awarded to three successful applicants.

After the presentations, the applicant who is ranked first by the audience at the Meeting will receive an award in the amount of \$50,000 CAD and the second and third ranked applicants will each receive an award in the amount of \$25,000 CAD.

The Research and Grants and Awards Committees members will form the adjudication panel that will receive and process the Letters of Intent and evaluate the submitted, full proposals. By submitting an application, the applicant expressly acknowledges and agrees to these Terms.

IV. Eligibility

A. Eligible Applicants

For an application to be considered for the Competition, the applicant must:

- be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant, of the age of majority of their province or territory of residence.
- be affiliated with a Canadian post-secondary institution and/or their affiliated institutions (including hospitals and research institutes).
- be an early career researcher (within 5 years of first academic appointment minus eligible leaves, such as parental leaves) or mid-career researcher (within 5-15 years of first academic appointment minus eligible leaves, such as parental leaves).
- be a CST Member in good standing from any membership group.
- be able to present at the Meeting on **October 15, 2024**, to present their proposal. Note, that it is not necessary to register for the CST conference to participate in the Competition; applicants who are not registered will be permitted entry to the Meeting for the Competition portion of the Meeting only.
- if ranked first, second, or third in the Competition, agree to have their application and personal information shared in confidence with Astellas and Paladin for internal documentation and auditing purposes.

B. Eligible Applications

Only one application per principal applicant will be accepted for judging. Eligible applications will be those limited to original clinical research studies.

This competition will be open to principal applicants who are at Canadian institutions and at early and mid-career levels only (see eligibility for details).

This competition is not intended to supplement other funding sources. The funding is intended for new studies that have not been previously funded. The proposals must be new, stand-alone studies.

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the requirements set forth in Section V.

By submitting an application, the applicant represents that the application is an original, unpublished work that does not contain, incorporate, or otherwise use any content, material, or element that is owned by or subject to any rights of a third party or entity. The application will not contain any content, element, or material that violates a third party's publicity, privacy, or intellectual property rights, nor that violates any applicable federal, provincial, or local law.

An applicant will be disqualified from the Competition if their application does not meet the requirements of these Terms.

As a condition of participation in the Competition, each applicant grants CST, Paladin, and Astellas, and their respective subsidiaries, agents, and partner companies, a perpetual, irrevocable, worldwide, royalty-free, and non-exclusive license to use, reproduce, adapt, modify, publish, distribute, publicly perform, create a derivative work from, and publicly displays the applicant's application: (1) for the purposes of allowing CST/Astellas/Paladin and the judges to evaluate the application for purposes of the Competition, and (2) in connection with advertising and promotion of the Competition via communication to the public or other groups, including, but not limited to, the right to make screenshots, animations, and video clips available for advertising and promotional purposes.

C. Non-Eligible Submissions

Proposals including or related to the following subject matter will not be considered eligible for the Competition:

- No previous finalists of the T3 competitions from last year (2023) will be considered eligible
- Discovery and pharmaceutical research involving the scientific investigation of the etiology mechanisms, or treatment of human disease using human subjects, populations, or materials of human origin
- Clinical drug/treatment trials
- Basic bench/animal research
- Translational research
- Research evaluating clinical, economic, and humanistic aspects of pharmaceutical products, services, and programs to provide health care decision makers (e.g. Public Payers) with information for optimal allocation of healthcare resources
- Research that is unrelated to transplantation and/or donation
- Previously completed studies or studies that have received funding from another source (including government or industry sponsors)

V. Review Criteria

Letters of Intent (LOI) will be reviewed and assessed by a panel from the Research and Grants & Awards Committees and applicants will be notified by **June 21, 2024**, that they have been selected to move to the full application.

LOIs will be evaluated for:

- 1) Fit with the call for applications
- 2) Originality of the idea
- 3) Impact

Applications that are selected from the LOI stage to move to the submission of full applications will be reviewed and assessed by the Research and Grants & Awards

Committees (**July 22 to August 12, 2024**), and the Committees will select the three finalists who will present at the Meeting.

Full Applications will be scored from 0 to 5 using the scale below:

Descriptor	Range	Definition
Outstanding	4.5 – 5.0	The application excels in most or all relevant aspects. Any shortcomings are minimal.
Excellent	4.0 – 4.4	The application excels in many relevant aspects, and reasonably addresses all others. Certain improvements are possible.
Good	3.5 – 3.9	The application excels in some relevant respects, and reasonably addresses all others. Some improvements are necessary.
Fair	3.0 – 3.4	The application broadly addresses relevant aspects. Major revisions are required.
Poor	0.0 – 2.9	The application fails to provide convincing information and/or has serious inherent flaws or gaps.

The following criteria will be used for evaluation and scoring:

- 1) Methodology, including feasibility, and patient-centered approach
- 2) Originality of the idea
- 3) Research team, including description of patient partner(s)
- 4) Impact on patient outcomes, quality of life, field of transplantation or donation

The successful application must have the potential to improve the outcome and lives of transplant recipients in the immediate future. The chances of being selected as a finalist will depend on the number of eligible applications that are received, and the quality of the submissions.

VI. Review Process and Selection of Finalists and Winners

The review committee will evaluate each eligible application and attribute a score of 1 to 5 for each of the above-listed review criteria. The reviewers will be members of the Research and Grants and Awards Committees.

The three applicants that receive the highest overall scores will be selected as potential finalists. In the event of a tie, the applicant that received the higher score from the judges in the category of “Methodology” (criteria #1) will be selected as a potential finalist. If there is still a tie, the applicant that received the higher score from the judges in the category of “Originality” (criteria #2) will be selected.

The three finalists will be notified by email on the week of **August 16, 2024**, that their application has been selected. The notification email shall contain instructions for

confirming acceptance as a finalist, including a requirement that the applicant sign and return a Declaration of Eligibility and Liability and Publicity Release within 5 days, as required in Section VI.

In the event that a finalist has not confirmed acceptance within 5 days following the date upon which the notification email is sent, or is disqualified for any reason, the application that received the next highest total score from the judges will be chosen as the potential finalist. Applicants acknowledge that judging of this kind is by its nature subjective.

The three finalists will be invited to present their idea at a live presentation on **October 15, 2024**, during the 2024 Canadian Society of Transplantation Annual Scientific Meeting. The finalists must be present at the Meeting to receive one of the three awards in the Competition. Each finalist will receive 15 minutes to present their idea, with 10 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for Question and Answer from the audience.

The award recipients will be selected by the audience, comprised of CST and non-CST members, who will be encouraged to rank the finalists based on the same review criteria described in Section V. The process for ranking/voting will be communicated to the audience at the Meeting. The top-ranked finalist will be awarded \$50,000 CAD and the second and third ranked finalists will each receive an award in the amount of \$25,000 CAD. The winners will be announced at the Meeting, shortly after the audience votes have been tallied.

By accepting an award, a finalist agrees that CST, Paladin, Astellas, and their respective affiliates and agencies may use their name and/or likeness for advertising and promotional purposes of the Competition without additional compensation.

VII. Requirements for Applications

Letter of Intent: maximum of 500 words, including the following:

- Study title
- Name of Principal Investigator and co-investigators
- Biosketch of the Principal Investigator (maximum 3 pages), which includes employment history and date of first appointment as an independent investigator
- Study purpose/objectives and/or description of the problem being addressed
- Brief overview of methodology and feasibility of the team conducting the project
- Impact on the field of transplantation or donation

Full Application

1. Each application shall include a maximum 1500-word proposal describing the study:
 - scope of the problem, study purpose/objectives
 - methodology and feasibility of the approach
 - impact/significance on patient outcomes/ transplantation or donation

- anticipated timeline
 - brief budget justification
2. The application should include the curriculum vitae of the primary applicant using Canadian Common CV – CIHR Biosketch format.
 3. The application together with all attachments, must be submitted in a single email, with all written portions of the application attached as one pdf file, and where a video is being submitted, please provide us with a link to your video file. Each file is to be named as the applicant’s last name.
 4. The applicant must use size 11 points or larger. Use at least 0.75-inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) and single line space for all pages. Applications that do not meet these specifications will not be reviewed. The name of the applicant must appear in the header of each page of the application.
 5. Applicants must submit their application electronically by email to admin@cst-transplant.ca. The Letter of Intent is to be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. EST on **June 14, 2024**, and all accepted completed applications must be received by the CST no later than 11:59 pm **July 18, 2024**.

Paladin, Astellas, and CST are not responsible for any malfunction or for any late, lost, damaged, misdirected, incomplete, undeliverable, or destroyed applications due to delivery or system errors.

Applications received after the submission deadline will not be submitted for review. The applicant is responsible for ensuring completeness of the application and incomplete applications will not be considered.

Grant Recipient Responsibilities

The following responsibilities must be assumed and carried out by the selected award recipients:

- Communication of progress updates to CST on the implementation of the proposal described in the award recipient’s application.
- Willingness to present outcomes/updates on the implementation of the proposal, 1 year following the Meeting (fall 2025) at a relevant conference/opportunity, with the specific timing/location to be determined by CST and the recipient.
- Recipients are responsible for the reporting and payment of any federal and provincial taxes that may be applicable to the receipt of the award.

Other Requirements and Conditions for Eligibility for the Competition

Each potential finalist will be required to sign and return a Declaration of Eligibility and

Liability and Publicity Release and provide any additional information that may be required to process and administer the award. Potential finalists must return all such required documents within five (5) days following attempted notification of being selected as a potential finalist, or such individual will be deemed to have forfeited the award.

Each applicant acknowledges and agrees that CST, Paladin and Astellas may collect, use store, share, and otherwise use any personally identifiable information provided to CST, Paladin, and Astellas throughout the Competition, including, but not limited to, name, mailing address, phone number, and email address, in order to administer the Competition and to publicize the awarding of the funding. Astellas will use this information in accordance with its Privacy Policy (<http://www.astellas.ca/privacy/>). Paladin using its Paladin Labs an Endo International Company entity will also use this information in accordance with its Privacy Policy: <https://www.endo.com/privacy-legal/privacy>. CST will use this information in accordance with its Privacy Policy (<http://www.cst-transplant.ca/privacy-statement.html>).