

CCS COVID-19
Challenge for Canada Initiative
(CCS-C³I)

Call for Proposals

LAUNCH: April 27, 2020
PROPOSALS DUE: May 5, 2020 Noon EST





The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting millions world-wide with over 40,000 Canadians affected. The prevalence and outcomes of cardiovascular complications of COVID-19 are poorly understood and remain uncharacterized.

The government of Canada has committed to investing nearly \$400 million on medical countermeasures against COVID-19, only a fraction of which has been deployed. No federal funds to date have been focused on cardiovascular complications of COVID-19.

As the national voice for leading cardiovascular health and care excellence, the Canadian Cardiovascular Society (CCS) is launching the **CCS COVID 19 Challenges for Canada Initiative (CCS- C³I)**.

The aim of this initiative is to empower the CCS clinician-scientist community to be prepared to harness emerging large-scale funds. By fostering multisite cardiovascular research across Canada, our CV community will be at the forefront of readiness for large-scale, CVD-related COVID-19 disease initiatives. This effort will inform health policy in Canada relative to health services delivery for CV patients in this time of crisis.

Details of the C³I Call for Proposals are provided below. We are excited to catalyze research excellence and impact in the cardiovascular domain and in the context of this pandemic.

We look forward to working with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Marelli", written in a cursive style.

Ariane Marelli MD, MPH, FRCPC, FACC,
FAHA
Professor of Medicine,
Director of Cardiovascular Research, McGill
University Health Center,
President, Canadian Adult Congenital Heart
Network

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Krahn", written in a cursive style.

Andrew Krahn, MD, FRCPC, FHRS, FCCS
President, Canadian Cardiovascular Society
Professor of Medicine
Head UBC Division of Cardiology
Paul Brunes UBC Professorship in Heart
Rhythm Disorders

SCOPE AND DESCRIPTION

We are seeking innovative approaches that will provide answers in the following categories of clinical science inquiry:

1. *Impact of CVD health services* restrictions to meet the COVID-19 needs on patient outcomes
2. *Data-driven modeling* of projected CVD complications of COVID-19 in the near and long term
3. *Patient-centered approaches* to enhancing digital and telehealth communications for patients with CVD during the COVID-19 epidemic

The CCS-C³I will support research proposals that will deliver results within 6-12 months.

National COVID-19 CVD Patient Outcomes Database

As a separate component of the CCS- C³I, CCS will establish a national COVID-19 cardiovascular registry in collaboration with existing provincial registries. The aim of this will be to generate and aggregate data in real-time and on a national scale to enable tracking and reporting of cardiovascular patient outcomes for COVID-19. These data would be used to seed larger grants.

Data will be available to basic and clinician scientists and partners according to terms of reference to be established by the CCS C³I Research Steering Committee

ELIGIBILITY AND TEAM COMPOSITION

The Principal Investigators (PIs) **must be CCS members**.

The funds must be held in a Canadian university or affiliated research institute. Collaboration between a minimum of two (2) Canadian institutions is required.

The applicant teams must meet the following criteria:

- A **CCS Member Trainee is the Lead Principal Investigator (PI)**

or

- A **CCS Member who is Junior Faculty** (<5 years since faculty appointment) **is the Lead PI.**

At least one award will be allocated to each of these team compositions.

- Two collaborating institutions at a minimum, preferably from different provinces.

Teams that include multidisciplinary co-investigators are also encouraged.

All research teams should address the CCS “3G” principle in team composition (representation across geography, gender and generations).

FUNDS

Phase I: May 2020

Up to three (3) awards of \$15,000 will be granted.

Each award must be matched in cash (for a total of at least \$30,000 in funding) by the collaborating institution(s). Therefore, teams with two or more collaborating institutions will have incrementally more total funds.

CCS funds will be dispensed in 1 instalment.

Phase II: September 2020

At the six-month mark, teams holding awards will submit progress reports and a proposal for expanding their project. Based on progress and potential for enhanced impact, peer reviewers will select one project to receive an additional \$25,000 to further advance their work.

KEY DATES

April 27, 2020: Launch

May 5, 2020 (noon Eastern): Submission deadline*

May 10, 2020: Awards announced, (in time to apply to CIHR on May 11th with support from CCS)

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

A progress report of scientific activities will be requested at the end of 6 months.

The *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* (CJC) aims to develop a Focus Issue including original papers resulting from this work, as well as invited articles in the area.

CJC will expedite the editorial handling of any papers related to this initiative.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

a) Project details: 4 pages total

- i. Synopsis (1/2 page), summarizing the project in abstract form
- ii. Project background (1/2 page), articulating the specific knowledge gap related to COVID-19 to be addressed.
- iii. Research activities (1 page, 3 paragraphs), outlining methods, time-line and specific deliverables
- iv. References (1 page)
- v. Figures and/or tables (1 page)

Note: Project descriptions exceeding the maximum page limit it will not be reviewed.

b) CVs (maximum 5 pages)

The CVs of PI and co-PIs from all collaborating institutions using the CIHR format (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)

c) Budget (1 page)

For the total amount including the matched institutional funds

Note: At time of proposal submission, letters of commitment for matching funds from partner institutions would strengthen applications. If these are not included at time of submission, funds flowing to awardee institutions would be contingent upon confirmation, in writing, of matching funds.

d) Submission format

All documents, including CVs, must adhere to the following format:

- Page size: 8½ x 11 inches
- Margins: no less than 2.54 cm (1 inch) on all sides
- Font: Times New Roman (no smaller than 12 pt) or Arial (no smaller than 11 pt).
- The Project details must be submitted as a single PDF with numbered pages

e) Email your submission to researchawards@ccs.ca by May 5, 2020 at noon, Eastern. Late submissions will not be accepted.

PEER REVIEW

Submissions will be reviewed by a sub-committee of members from the CCS affiliates. Any potential review committee member who has any conflict of interest related to any single proposal will be excluded from the review panel.

Proposals will be scored and evaluated based on feasibility and impact.



PROGRESS REPORT

A progress report will be requested at 1 year.

Consideration will be given to further funding extension at that time.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If additional information is required, contact researchawards@ccs.ca

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