



RRC Team-Building Grant

2023 Research Funding Opportunity

Background and Purpose

With the goal of a “discovery for healthy breathing” in mind, the Respiratory Research Centre (RRC) has established the **Team-Building Grant** to foster innovative research in the area of respiratory health.

This funding opportunity aims to encourage collaborative research by funding inter-disciplinary teams conducting human health and translational research projects. Applicants must be current RRC members in good standing.

Funding Available

The RRC has made **\$50,000** available for this competition. Each team may request up to **\$50,000**. Only one application per PI will be accepted. Funding provided is to support direct costs of the proposed research project. Allowable expenses are those necessary to carry out the proposed activities and not provided through other means. Funding provided is meant to support research activity in Saskatchewan. All policies outlined in the [University of Saskatchewan Guidelines and Procedures for Administration of Research funds](#) apply.

In addition:

- Major equipment (I.e. computers, laptops and other hardware, laboratory equipment, etc.) are not eligible expenses
- Patient travel and honoraria must follow University of Saskatchewan guidelines
- Travel to academic conferences is limited to \$2,500

Grant Requirements

All proposed research projects must:

- Address one or more of the following aims of the RRC:
 1. Build knowledge and understanding of respiratory health and well-being in one or more life span groups or at-risk groups, using patient/person, family, and population-health.
 2. Enable and undertake interdisciplinary and intersectoral research in the respiratory field addressing chronic respiratory conditions.
 3. Develop and evaluate innovative approaches to health care design and delivery for persons with respiratory illness and disease that also optimize health and well-being, are attentive to healthcare system expenditure and value, support quality improvement, and acknowledge public and professional educational needs and perspective.
 4. Build better understanding of the mechanisms of respiratory disease.
- Be inter-disciplinary, meaning including team members from across multiple academic units or disciplines
- Where appropriate, ensure meaningful application of research findings by using an integrated knowledge translation approach
- Position teams for success in obtaining external funding
- If the application is continuing/expanding a previously funded or ongoing project, provide justification of the need for additional funding



- Be completed in 24 months – A final report will be required at 24 months post-award
- Be in a field of human health research, defined broadly as encompassing biomedical science, clinical research, health services and systems research, or research on the cultural, social and environmental determinants of health
- **Note:** Recipients will be required to report to the RRC on the progress, outcomes and impacts of the funded project and also support RRC engagement and education efforts, such as speaking as a guest at research seminars or contributing to publications.

Eligibility

- Teams should be constituted to support the goals of the proposed research project. In addition, the inclusion of knowledge users, including policy makers and health care providers, is strongly encouraged, if appropriate for the proposed project
- Teams must consist of at least three members from at least two disciplines. In addition:
 - The principal applicant and at least one other team member must be based in Saskatchewan
 - The principal applicant and at least one other team member must have research duties as part of their appointment.
- Potential applicants must be RRC members in good standing. All team members/applicants will need to register as new members of the RRC, if not a current member, at time of application. Contact RRC Research Coordinator, Britney Duncan at britney.duncan@usask.ca for details.
- RRC Chair and Executive Committee members are eligible to apply.

Principal applicants must be:

- Current RRC members in good standing;
- Autonomous regarding their research activities;
- Able to hold peer-reviewed funds as a principal investigator and publish or patent research results;
- Based in Saskatchewan for the term of the funding;
- Affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan which will administer the funds as the host institution; and
- Obligated to conform to institutional regulations concerning the conduct of research, supervision of trainees (as applicable) and the employment conditions of staff paid with University funding.

Other team members (Co-applicants and collaborators) may be:

- At least one other member must be from Saskatchewan
- The remaining team members may be from Saskatchewan or elsewhere provided other criteria are met
- Researchers, patients, knowledge-users, health care providers or academic researchers provided other criteria are met

* **Collaborator(s)** are defined as an individual(s), participating in the initiative, who provide(s) a specific service (e.g. access to equipment, access to patient population) but do(es) not have an over-arching role in contributing to the initiative and is not an applicant.

***Co-applicant(s)** are defined as individual(s), contributing in a significant way to the initiative.



Multiple applications:

- As a principal applicant, an individual can submit only one application. However, there is no limit on the number of applications on which an individual can be listed as a co-applicant (in addition to an application in the role of principal applicant or collaborator).

Application Form and Submission

Registration

Potential applicants are first required to register their intent to apply by emailing britney.duncan@usask.ca by **October 2, 2023**. Provide the following draft information to the best of your knowledge at the time:

- 1) Project title
- 2) Principal applicant name and affiliation
- 3) List of other applicants (i.e. team members)
- 4) Lay description of the project (250 words maximum)
- 5) Specify how the proposed project addresses the aims of the RRC (100 words maximum)

Application

Following registration, applications must be completed and submitted by e-mail to britney.duncan@usask.ca by **January 5, 2024**. All team members are required to submit a current CV (*CIHR Academic CV for PI, and CIHR biosketch for the Co-Applicant(s)*) at the time of application.

Note: International/out-of-province co-applicants are permitted to submit their own CV (English language) and a template is available for team members from the community.

Review

Applications will be evaluated in a competitive, peer-review process by reviewers external to the RRC. External reviewer recommendations (See Appendix A for COI guidelines) will then be reviewed by RRC Executive Committee members (not in conflict) and/or the OVDR prior to final award decisions. Evaluation criteria will include: clarity of rationale and purpose/objectives; alignment with the goals of the RRC; appropriateness of research design, methods and analysis; expertise, track record and research environment; short and long-term goals. Scoring will be based on the CIHR scoring system (see page 4).



Descriptor	Range	Definition
Outstanding	4.5 – 4.9	The application excels in most or all relevant aspects. Any short-comings 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 aspects, 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.

Applications scoring less than 3.5 out of 5 will not be considered for funding. The names of at least 2 reviewers not in conflict of interest with your application must be submitted at the time of full application (See Appendix for COI statement). They *may* be approached for review of the grant.

Important Dates

Competition Launch	September 1, 2023
Application available on RRC website	September 1, 2023
Registration Deadline	October 2, 2023
Application Deadline	January 5, 2024
Funding Decisions	February 23, 2024
Funding Start Date	March 15, 2024

More Information

- ✓ Read about the RRC here: <https://medicine.usask.ca/respiratoryresearch>

Contact

Britney Duncan, Research Coordinator
Respiratory Research Centre
(306) 966-6230 or britney.duncan@usask.ca



Appendix A

Conflict of Interest Definition for Suggested Reviewers

A conflict of interest may be deemed to exist or perceived as such when peer reviewers or observers:

- are applicants within the competition and have ability to bias or influence the process to the benefit of their application.
- are a relative or close friend, or have a personal relationship with an applicant;
- are in a position to gain or lose financially/materially from the funding of an application;
- have had long-standing scientific or personal differences with an applicant;
- are currently affiliated with an applicant's institution, organization or company—including research hospitals and research institutes;
- are closely professionally affiliated with an applicant, as a result of having in the last six years:
 - frequent and regular interactions with an applicant in the course of their duties at their department, institution, organization or company;
 - been a supervisor or a trainee of an applicant;
 - collaborated, published or shared funding with an applicant, or have plans to do so in the immediate future (I.e. within the next 5 years); and/or
 - feel for any reason unable to provide an impartial review of the application.