

Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Scholarship in Health and Medical Education Funding Competition 2023-24

BACKGROUND

The Office of Health and Medical Education Scholarship ([OHMES](#)), and partners (TBD for 2023-24) host an annual funding competition focused on **health and medical education scholarship in the areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) and Indigenous health**.

This initiative aligns with the Cumming School of Medicine mission to *“fulfill our social responsibility to be a school in which the common goal of improved health guides service, education and research, and to foster the collective pursuit of knowledge and its translation, through education and application, to better the human condition.”*

The competition will focus on research and innovation that advances our knowledge and understanding of EDI and/or Indigenous health issues in health and/or medical education, and ultimately results in improved outcomes.

Priority will be given to intersectional research and innovation projects that address more than one equity-deserving group (i.e., racialized people, people with disabilities, Indigenous - First Nations, Inuit and Métis, women, 2SLGBTQ+). Projects that only include under-represented populations as part of a broader study without an emphasis on EDI and/or Indigenous health will not be considered eligible.

Submissions can fall in one of two categories:

- Research projects: these are focused on knowledge generation through the use of scientific methods of various kinds, typically based around the exploration of a particular set of circumstances such as the impact of an intervention, the experiences of learners and teachers, or a recurring topic across a body of research literature.
- Innovation projects: these are focused on the application of knowledge (such as research findings and research syntheses) to guide changes to improve or extend educational practice. Innovation projects should include knowledge synthesis, development, application, and evaluation stages.

LETTER OF INTENT – **Due 30 October 2023 at 4PM to ohmes@ucalgary.ca**

A Letter of Intent process will be used for this competition in order to ensure that the proposed project has a direct link to scholarship before proceeding to the full proposal stage.

Please use the [LOI template](#) (2-page limit, references can be on an additional page) to address the following:

1. **What is the nature of the project?**
Describe what you plan to do in this project. This should include an outline of the project and what it will deliver or achieve. What hypotheses or research questions will be addressed?
2. **Why is this research or innovation important?**
Explain the importance of the proposed research or innovation and why it should be undertaken. This should include the problems, issues, or opportunities it addresses (with a focus on EDI and/or Indigenous health), as well as the major research questions being explained or a description of the

proposed innovation, and explain how the work will make a meaningful advancement in the field of equity, diversity and inclusion and/or Indigenous health in health and medical education scholarship, and contribute to the development of individual and collective capacity in educational scholarship in the Cumming School of Medicine. This must refer to existing literature, with reference to the new knowledge to be generated by or applied through the project.

3. *Is it feasible?*

There must be a viable plan of action which your team is capable of implementing.

- For research projects, describe the methods, how methods relate to the research questions, specify what data will be involved, the sample you will study, the instruments you will employ, the project timeline, and the types of analyses you will conduct.
- For innovation projects, implementation and evaluation plans should be described, including data collection and analysis.
- Explain how the skills and technical capabilities of the project team align with the demands of the proposed work.
- Include the total amount of funding requested (up to \$10,000) for this project and what it will be used for (a full budget breakdown is not required at this stage).

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to investigators with an academic appointment (as defined by Research Services - continuing, limited term, contingent term or sessional) in the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary.

The PI must be a member of OHMES. If you have not already joined the OHMES community, please visit <https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/office/ohmes/membership> to become a member.

This competition is not primarily intended for residents, fellows, or graduate students. The successful applicants may involve trainees/students in the project, but their role must be clearly described, and the PI must make a substantive contribution to the project. Please indicate if the application is intended to count as graduate work, noting that funding cannot be granted specifically for thesis-related work.

Investigators can submit only one application per call as principal investigator, but can participate as co-investigator on other applications.

Members of the Strategic Education Council are not eligible to submit as principal investigators but can participate as co-investigators on projects.

All applicants are required to participate in the [Indigenous Health Education Pathways to Healing Circle](#) (see *Pathways to Healing Circle* section).

Applicants to the *OHMES Research & Innovation in Health & Medical Education Funding Competition* are not eligible to submit to this competition with the same project.

Program evaluation projects without a research question are not eligible for this competition. Program development initiatives alone will not be funded without accompanying scholarly/research activity.

Please note that our rating system will give preference to less experienced educational scholars, as well as those moving into new areas of inquiry, and those without other sources of support for their educational scholarship.

Review the [OHMES Funding Competitions – Funding Request and Expense Policies](#) for a list of eligible expenses.

PATHWAYS TO HEALING CIRCLE

The competition is adopting the [Indigenous Health Education Pathways to Healing](#) model developed by the Office of Indigenous, Local and Global Health (ILGH). The Circles will use oral tradition to support the LOI and full application process and embed Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Doing into initiatives beyond Indigenous Health. This will provide applicants with the opportunity to share their ideas and engage in collaborative learning with their peers, ultimately creating a community of practice.

All applicants are required to participate in a Pathways to Healing Circle to share their research/innovation idea according to the principles of Sharing Circles, regardless of whether their project has an Indigenous Health focus.

Not all investigators named on a proposal are required to attend, but the PI for each proposal is required to attend a session and other investigators are also encouraged to do so.

Attendance may take place in preparation for the LOI or full proposal stages (or both) – only one attendance is required.

Please contact ohmes@ucalgary.ca to reserve a spot.

AWARDS & REVIEW PROCESS

Award funding is to a maximum of \$10,000 per project, and will be made according to scientific merit, relevance and originality of the project, and its contribution to developing individual and collective capacity in educational scholarship in the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary.

The EDI Funding Competition Review Committee will review the Letters of Intent according to the [LOI Evaluation Form](#). Successful applications will be invited to submit a full proposal, and final award recipients will be announced in early 2024.