



# RESEARCH PROGRAM AWARDS

## Office of Surgical Research



### Pathway to Success Funding Program

Submission deadline is Monday March 31, 2025, by 11:59 PM MST

#### **Funding opportunity**

The Department of Surgery (DoS), Office of Surgical Research (OSR) is pleased to announce a new funding opportunity for DoS members. The “Pathway to Success” funding award is designed to provide DoS PIs or DoS research group’s infrastructure, research capacity and early data to facilitate competitive applications towards external funding opportunities.

#### **Strategic Goals**

- To enable innovative research in the Department of Surgery.
- To increase external funding success for research initiated within the DoS.
- To foster collaboration with the Cumming School of Medicine research institutes.

#### **Award**

- \$50,000 per year for 3 years of support
  - Funds will be released annually after defined renewal criteria have been satisfied.
- 1 award will be available for the 2025 competition.

#### **Deadlines**

- Application submission: Monday March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 23:59 MST
- Funding decision: May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025
- Applications (merged into one PDF document) can be emailed to the OSR ([OSR@ucalgary.ca](mailto:OSR@ucalgary.ca)).

#### **Eligibility**

- PI must have a primary appointment in the DoS.
- Research involving any of the OSR Pillars: basic science, clinical, education, health services.
- Defined target external funding opportunity to which the applicant will apply using this award (CIHR, NSERC, Alberta Innovates, Foundations and Agencies).
- Preference to PIs who do not already hold large external grants; however new research directions or opportunities from established PIs are still encouraged.
- Clearly defined collaboration and support from a CSM research institute.

## Pathway to Success Funding Program

Submission deadline is Monday March 31, 2025, by 11:59 PM MST

### **Proposal Evaluation Criteria**

- Originality of the proposed research (20%)
  - Novelty and clinical need
- Research approach (20%)
  - Methodology and experimental plan
- Feasibility and research team (20%)
  - PI and co-applicant(s)
  - Collaboration with CSM institute(s)
  - Feasibility of research approach; appropriate timeline for data collection
- Impact of research (20%)
  - Future directions; prospective research strategy; collaborations
  - Potential to impact patient care, surgical education, surgical care delivery
- External funding plan (20%)
  - External funding application feasible in a 2-year timeline
  - Detailed plan for pursuit of external funding

### **Renewal criteria**

Accountability, reporting, and dissemination are important objectives of the OSR. The OSR will review annual progress reports from successfully funded applicants and will release additional annual funds once these defined renewal criteria are satisfied:

#### **First renewal**

- Research team is established, and ethics approval obtained.
- Research project is initiated, and data collection is underway.

#### **Second renewal**

- Application for external funding submitted or in preparation.
- New data and documented progress from first renewal.
- Minutes from internal peer review of external funding application.
- Confirmation to presentation at Surgeons' Day.
- Knowledge translation (abstracts from local, national, or international conferences).

## Pathway to Success Funding Program

Submission deadline is Monday March 31, 2025, by 11:59 PM MST

### Application Documents and Checklist

- Title page and Scientific Abstract page (1 page each)
- Research proposal (5 pages: overview, background, preliminary data, hypotheses + study aims, research approach, impact, external funding plan).
- Supplemental figures and Reference pages (1 page each)
- Applicants CCVs (CIHR biosketch format) – this includes PI and co-applicants
- Letter(s) of support from CSM institute or collaborator aligned with these entities. Letter of support must include commitment toward internal peer review process AND facilities or infrastructure or institutional support relative to proposal.
- Three-year budget (1 page)

### Proposal guidelines

All submitted proposals must follow the template provided below. All proposals must be prepared in Microsoft Word using 12 point Times New Roman font. Document settings must be 2 cm margins, align left and with exact single line spacing. All proposals must be submitted as a single PDF file.

- **Title page (1 page max):** (i) proposal title, (ii) short running title, (iii) listing of PI and co-PIs, (iv) pillar of research (clinical, education, basic science, health services), (v) CSM institute.
- **Abstract (1 page max):** (i) Scientific abstract (background, hypothesis, objectives, methods, impact)
- **Proposal (5 pages max):** (i) Background and Rationale, (ii) Overall aim and Hypothesis, (iii) Study Aims, (iv) Methodology for each aim, (v) Impact (vi) External funding plan (targeting funding opportunity, strategy, timelines), (vii) Research environment (research team, collaboration, expertise to accomplish research) and (viii) Timelines (consider a Gantt chart).
- **Supplemental figures (1 page max)**
- **References (1 pager max):** Recommend Nature Reviews or Vancouver formats
- **Three-year budget (1 page max):** Travel expenses, PI salaries or major equipment presently available at the CSM are not eligible. All other expenses: consumables, research personnel salaries, patient funding, imaging, drugs, research tools, etc. are eligible.

### Administrative Contacts

**Michael J. Monument MD, MSc, FRCSC**  
Vice-Chair Research, OSR  
Telephone: (403) 944-2402  
[mjmonume@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mjmonume@ucalgary.ca)

**Emi Sanders**  
Telephone: (403) 943-4588  
[OSR@ucalgary.ca](mailto:OSR@ucalgary.ca)  
[Emi.sanders@ahs.ca](mailto:Emi.sanders@ahs.ca)