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OADR Grant Development Office

This message has been sent on behalf of the Office of the Associate Dean Research (OADR) Grant Development Office. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [Jenna Slobozian](mailto:jslobozi@ucalgary.ca) (jslobozi@ucalgary.ca), [Clint Westgard](mailto:chwestga@ucalgary.ca) (chwestga@ucalgary.ca), [Brandi Povitz](mailto:brandi.povitz@ucalgary.ca) (brandi.povitz@ucalgary.ca), [Paul Daniels](mailto:paul.daniels1@ucalgary.ca) (paul.daniels1@ucalgary.ca) or [Sara Mahjor](mailto:smahjor@ucalgary.ca) (smahjor@ucalgary.ca).

Funding Opportunity: CIHR Emerging COVID-19 Research Gaps and Priorities

[CIHR Emerging COVID-19 Research Gaps and Priorities](#)

This is the first of several funding opportunities under the “*Emerging COVID-19 Research Gaps and Priorities*” banner to provide rapid funding for projects which respond to identified gaps in COVID-19 research areas in Canada. As priority gap areas are identified, additional funding opportunities will be launched.

IMPORTANT: Given the short timelines for CIHR COVID-19 funding opportunities **ALL** interested applicants are asked to contact [Clint Westgard](mailto:chwestga@ucalgary.ca). The Grant Development Office will work with applicants to ensure they complete all necessary tasks and meet both the CIHR deadlines and internal deadlines.

Deadlines		
LOI Deadline	March 15 at 6:00pm	No internal approvals
RSO Internal Deadline for Full Application	April 12 at noon	RMS and Full Application
CIHR Application Deadline	April 15 at 6:00pm	
Notice of Decision	June 16, 2020	

Value and Term:

- Clinical Trial or RCT: Up to \$1M over one year.
- All other research: Up to \$500K over one year
- It is expected that most budgets will be lower than these maximums

- The total funding envelope for this and upcoming *COVID-19 Research Gaps and Priorities* competitions is approximately **\$119M**. The amount invested in this competition will not be the full amount and will depend on the number and quality, as assessed by peer review, of applications received.

Application:

- All proposals must address both Objectives and at least one Research Area (see below).
- **LOI:** Identify NPA, indicate whether proposal is for a Clinical Trial or RCT and select a priority research area. No CVs or summary are required at this stage. CIHR will conduct a relevance review.
- **Full Proposal:**
 - Clinical Trial or RCT: 6 pages maximum
 - All other proposals: 5 pages maximum
 - EDI plan (1 page)
 - Summary and Budget
 - NPAs, Principal Applicants and Knowledge Users must provide a Biosketch CCV or an **Applicant Profile CV** (3 pages). CVs are not required but encouraged for co-applicants. Collaborators do not have to provide a CV.

Objectives:

- Accelerate the availability and use of high-quality and real-time evidence and/or solutions to support Canada's ongoing response to the pandemic in order to better prevent, detect, treat and manage COVID-19
- Generate evidence related to one or more diverse population(s), including for instance: health equity considerations, health status (e.g. high risk populations, individuals with comorbid conditions), sex and gender, a life cycle approach (from children to aging adults), and/or racialized or First Nations, Inuit, Metis and Urban Indigenous populations.

Research Areas:

1. Variants

- Subtopic 1: Understand the impact of the new variants on disease progression and/or severity.
- Subtopic 2: Phenotype circulating viral variants, particularly those that may affect response to medical countermeasures (e.g. vaccine, therapeutics) and diagnostic tests.

2. Vaccines

- Subtopic 3: Determine the efficacy and long-term durability of the response of the vaccines with respect to the emerging variants of concern, with additional focus on possible immune escape mutants.
- Subtopic 4: Determine the immune correlates of protection (humoral and cellular), which can be used to understand natural immunity and compare it to vaccine-mediated immunity.

3. Confidence in science

- Subtopic 5: Examine drivers of vaccine hesitancy and approaches to improve vaccine confidence.
- Subtopic 6: Develop and test broader strategies that can be used to improve uptake of public health and safety measures, including the wearing of masks and vaccines.
- Subtopic 7: Identify approaches to improve overall trust in public health and the health care workforce among the general population and among various sub-populations in Canada.

4. Post COVID-19 condition (i.e. Long-COVID, Long-Haulers)

- Subtopic 8: Understand underlying causes and biological factors, including biomarkers or biological correlates to strengthen causal links with SARS-CoV2 infection.
- Subtopic 9: Improve recognition and diagnosis - including the heterogeneity of presentation and/or barriers resulting in under-diagnosis or misdiagnosis.
- Subtopic 10: Understand the inter-relationship between existing comorbidities and the occurrence of the post COVID-19 condition.
- Subtopic 11: Develop and testing treatment, including interventions that characterize and mitigate the role of immune responses in long-term persistence of inflammation.
- Subtopic 12: Improve strategies to manage the post COVID-19 condition including understanding lessons learned for patient care both in and out of hospital and understanding related psychological, social impacts, and culturally safe care.

5. Testing models and surveillance

- Subtopic 13: Examine testing models (e.g. olfactory; nasopharyngeal; salivary) that could be used as surveillance in different settings
- Subtopic 14: Identify and evaluate low cost rapid diagnostic approaches that can be used in congregate settings (e.g. schools, workplaces, long term care homes, prisons).

6. Long term care

- Subtopic 15: Examine the efficacy of preventive measures and how they are implemented (e.g. implementing updated infection prevention

and control standards, reducing trips out of the home for care, approaches to address health workforce challenges)

*For more information, please contact **Clint Westgard** in the Grant Development Office.*

Grant Development Website

If you believe you have received this message in error, please contact medgrant@ucalgary.ca



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