

**RURAL HEALTH RESEARCH FUNDING COMPETITION**  
Request for Proposals

**BACKGROUND**

The Office of Distributed Learning & Rural Initiatives (DLRI), was created in 2004 to support underserved rural Albertan communities through the promotion of rural medical learning experiences as a catalyst for a rural career choice. Since its inception, DLRI has supported a culture of excellence in medical education and education scholarship at the University of Calgary. To that end, we are pleased to announce the first annual Rural Health and Distributed Medical Education Research Funding Competition.

For this request for proposals we define two kinds of project submissions:

- **Rural health research projects** are focused on knowledge generation through the use of scientific methods of various kinds. Research projects are typically based around the exploration of a particular set of circumstances such as the impact of an intervention, the experiences of learners and teachers, developing or testing theoretical constructs, or examining a recurring topic across a body of research literature.
- **Distributed medical education (DME) projects** are focused on the application of knowledge (such as research findings and research syntheses) to guide changes in educational practice to improve, extend, or refocus a program/initiative. DME projects should include knowledge synthesis, development, application, and evaluation stages.

**LETTER OF INTENT – *Due March 31, 2020***

All applicants for this competition must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) in order to ensure that the proposed project has a direct link to DME or rural health. LOIs will be reviewed by a panel and successful applications will be invited to proceed to the full proposal stage. The LOI process will assist applicants in developing a full proposal.

The Letter of Intent is limited to **2 pages** (references can be on an additional page) and must address the following questions:

- 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? Please be as specific as you can at this stage.
- 2. Why is this research important?**  
Explain the importance of the proposed research and why it should be undertaken. This should include the problems, issues, or opportunities it addresses, as well as the major research questions being explained or a description of the proposed innovation. Applicants should also describe how the work will make a meaningful advancement in the field of rural health and distributed medical education scholarship, and contribute to the development of individual and/or collective capacity in educational scholarship in the Cumming School of Medicine. Please ensure that you 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 and the appropriateness of these methods in answering the research questions, specify what data will be involved, the sample you will study, the instruments you will employ, and the types of analyses you will conduct. For innovative DME 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 for this project (a full budget breakdown is not required at this stage).

### 4. How will this project benefit the applicant, applicants' team and community?

Explain how this project will be useful to your own career, meaningful to your clinic and/or team, or important to your learners or patients.

**Please submit your LOI to [dlri@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dlri@ucalgary.ca) by March 31, 2020.**

## ELIGIBILITY

This competition is open to investigators with a full or clinical/adjunct/research appointment, residents or graduate students in the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary. This opportunity is not primarily intended for undergraduates. However, the successful applicants may involve trainees in the project. Please indicate if the application is intended to count as graduate work for the principal investigator.

**\*Please note all rural preceptors are eligible for a clinical appointment. Potential applicants without appointments should contact DLRI and our office will assist you in the application process.**

Many applicants would benefit from connection with the Office of Health and Medical Education Scholarship (OHMES). If you have not already joined the OHMES group, please visit [cumming.ucalgary.ca/ohmes/membership](http://cumming.ucalgary.ca/ohmes/membership) to become a member. Membership is free.

Investigators can submit only one application annually as PI, but can participate as co-investigator on other applications.

Members of the DLRI Rural Initiatives Committee and Senior Education Council are eligible to submit as principal investigators and can also participate as co-investigators on projects.

Program evaluation projects without a research question are not eligible for this competition.

Please note that our rating system will give preference to rural based physicians, rural based learners, and 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.



## AWARDS & REVIEW PROCESS

Total award funding available from DLRI is \$15,000, and will be made according to rural focus, scientific merit, relevance and originality of the project, and its contribution to developing individual and collective capacity in educational scholarship.

The DLRI Research Funding Competition Committee will review the Letters of Intent. Successful applications will be invited to submit a full proposal.

## ASSISTANCE

Subject to availability, assistance discussing or developing proposals can be arranged. Please contact DLRI for more information.

If you have any questions, please contact DLRI at 403-220-4257 or [dlri@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dlri@ucalgary.ca)