

### Background

The Discovery Fund is dedicated towards finding innovative solutions to solving major challenges in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illness. The impact of the resulting projects will lead to greater effectiveness in diagnosis, to testing and implementation of new treatments, and to prevention and recovery from mental illness. The Discovery Funds will help improve the health of society locally, nationally and globally as they stimulate innovation and propel clinical discovery within the organization.

### Award Guidelines

The Discovery Fund is hosting a seed funding research competition to provide support for investigators during the critical period between the initiation of research and the receipt of sustained funding. The Discovery Fund Seed Funding Competition is intended to facilitate innovative research opportunities rather than supplement support for ongoing work and supports basic or clinical investigators. The competition will support at least 7 awards per competition. Two of these awards per competition will be dedicated to collaborative projects that require two co-PI's to lead the project and who are from two different departments within University of Toronto or from two different institutions.

A two-year award up to \$100,000 per year (maximum of \$200,000 for two years) will be provided to scientists at a lecturer level or above (including senior scientists) to support an innovative research idea. The seed funding award will be available for a second year based on sufficient progress, continuing availability of funds, and submission of an interim progress report. Final Year 1 and 2 scientific and financial progress reports will be required to ensure significant progress and appropriate expenditure of funds.

The Discovery Fund seed funding competition is interested in funding projects focused on applying concepts of clinical research to better identify, diagnose and treat mental illnesses. Projects will be assessed and awarded under the research themes below, listed alphabetically. These research themes have equal weight of importance and no theme is more superior or favored over another.

1. Brain and/or behavior interventions (including technology based interventions)
2. Clinical measure and/or biomarker identification
3. Health services research
4. Implementation science
5. Translating and extending clinical neuroscience (i.e. the study of mechanisms of disease and new ways of diagnosis and treatments) into clinical research

Funding will be provided for operational costs only. All funded projects are expected to lead to applications for external funding and additional grants for ongoing funding following the pilot period of the projects.

### Eligibility Criteria

- PIs at the lecturer level or above and currently employed at CAMH are eligible. **Junior PIs are encouraged to apply.**
- PIs must be able to demonstrate how the funds are the most suitable source of funding for their project, in relation to other available research grants (both internally and externally to CAMH); A need for funding must be

shown. Equipment, salary, and technical support are typical budget requests, but *CAMH* wishes PIs to identify requirements specific to their research and setting.

- The application should enable reviewers to determine eligibility; judge the independence of the idea and productivity; establish the relevance of the proposal to the *CAMH mission*; and estimate the originality and scientific promise of the investigator.
- PIs cannot hold two awards simultaneously as PIs through this funding mechanism.
- PIs are encouraged to comment on their plan to integrate the data collected through the funded project with other data collected at CAMH. PIs may be asked also to utilize standardized data collection pipelines and to contribute data to Neuroinformatics Platform.
- **Collaborative Projects:** for projects to be considered for the collaborative competition, two PIs are required, typically from two different departments within University of Toronto or from two different universities or institutions. Two PIs from different hospitals in Toronto but both within University of Toronto Department of Psychiatry would be eligible but not ideal.
- CAMH institutional assurances (RAAF) must be provided.
- **Women and members of under-represented minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.**
- Applications must be submitted to Lina Chiuccariello at [Lina.Chiuccariello@camh.ca](mailto:Lina.Chiuccariello@camh.ca) by **12PM April 3, 2018**

The review and selection of the funded projects will be conducted by an internal and external panel of senior scientists and research leadership. The terms and engagement of the grant will be provided after the decision is made in order to ensure funded projects are successful and aligned with other Discovery Fund projects. CAMH Research leadership will work with successful PIs to ensure projects are slated for success at the operational and budgetary level.

### Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted electronically as one pdf, with 0.75" margins all around, typed in a font size no smaller than 11 pt., and include in the following order (each section should be labeled accordingly and the document should include a header with PI's name in the upper right corner and proposal title in the left corner, unless otherwise noted, and include a separate page for each):

- RAAF**
- Abstract:** Maximum 500 word lay language description of the research outlining the background, objectives and hypotheses, methods and significance. . If the proposal is funded, this material may be used in CAMH Foundation announcements;
- Proposal:** a maximum of two pages standard type with no appendices (figures, tables, diagrams, etc., must be included within this page limit) to describe the project **background**, clearly specify **hypotheses**, and outline the **specific research plan**;
- References:** a separate page listing up to ten bibliographical references
- Budget Justification:** a separate page (maximum of 500 words) of the budget description specifying the amount requested with a brief justification. Requests must not exceed \$100,000 per year. Grants can have smaller budgets and be as competitive as larger grants. Please specify budget for both years of funding. Specific

assurance that receipt of this award will not result in duplication of funding is required. Other support (received or pending) must be included;

- f) **Collaborator Letter/s (optional):** letters of commitment from essential project collaborators (not solely letters of reference), addressed to the PI briefly explaining the specific contribution and confirming a willingness to collaborate (only necessary if PI will utilize collaborators). The scanned document/s depicting a signature should be submitted electronically;
- g) **Curriculum Vitae:** NIH-style biosketch for the PI(s).
- h) **Career Interruption (optional):** PI(s) can include a paragraph (maximum 500 words) describing any career interruption that could have affected productivity.

\*\*REB approval for human and animal subjects will need to be verified before releasing the funds for successful awards, as will institutional acceptance of the Discovery Fund Terms of Award.

\*\*Supplemental material and material exceeding the specified length will not be considered in the review process.

### Seed funding Application Cover Page

**Name of PI(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Application:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Amount Requested:**

Year 01: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Max \$100,000)

Year 02: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Max \$100,000)

### **Choose one or more of the following research themes:**

1. Brain and/or behavior interventions
2. Clinical measure and/or biomarker identification
3. Health services research
4. Implementation science
5. Translating and extending clinical neuroscience (i.e. the study of mechanisms of disease and new ways of diagnosis and treatments) into clinical research

### **Is this a Collaborative Project Application?**

YES     NO

Signature of PI (or Co-PI if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Second Co-PI (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_