



Translational Research Initiative Collaboration Award

**Applicant Guide
December 2019**

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1. Introduction and objective

Collaboration among scientists is paramount to solving big problems. The Translational Research Initiative (TRI) Collaboration Award is a pilot funding stream to a) encourage collaboration amongst OICR's TRI teams; and b) support the training of young investigators.

Through this new award, applicant team members, led by young investigators, will engage in novel, interdisciplinary, cross-cutting cancer research (e.g. epigenetics, tumour microenvironment, improving immunotherapy, targeting DNA repair deficient disease, etc.) emerging from the TRIs.

2. Eligibility

Applicant teams:

Applicant teams will be made up of two or more collaborating TRI members from at least two different TRIs, and if applicable, OICR core programs (Adaptive Oncology, Drug Discovery). Each applicant team is led by two Collaborating Investigators. One Collaborating Investigator must be a junior scientist (postdoctoral student or investigator who completed postdoctoral training within the past five years). Participating Investigators can be members of the two collaborating TRIs and/or OICR core programs.

In order to disburse award funds, OICR will amend existing TRI funding agreements with the host institution(s) of the Collaborating Investigators.

Host institution:

Host institutions are defined as the home institution(s) of the Collaborating Investigators.

Eligible host institutions include any Ontario university, research centre or research institute already receiving funds from OICR for TRI research projects.

3. Amount and duration of awards

Up to two Awards, each valued at \$50,000 (not inclusive of overhead). The award term will cover the period of March 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

4. Use of award funds

Funds can be used to cover:

Overhead eligible costs: Consumables, salaries and benefits of short term students (e.g. summer students). Funds cannot be used to cover the salaries and benefits of current TRI team members. Note: Overhead is not eligible for award funds held at OICR.

Overhead ineligible costs: Service costs, travel between collaborating institutions (to a maximum of \$1,000, and in line with OICR's travel policy; all travel must be justified).

Eligible expenses, with the exception of external research services, may only be incurred **in the province of Ontario.**



5. Application information

Applications must include:

1. Completed TRI Collaboration Award Form I: Administrative information and research proposal (maximum of four pages);
2. Completed TRI Collaboration Award Form II: Budget;
3. Letters of support from TRI co-leaders (one from each TRI involved in the collaboration); and
4. Investigator CVs (maximum 10 pages each).

6. Submission:

Applications must be submitted as one bookmarked PDF to scientificsecretariat@oicr.on.ca by **Friday, January 10, 2020 by 5:00 p.m. EST. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Notification of funding: End of February 2020.

7. Evaluation

The Clinical Translation Scientific Advisory Committee (CT-SAC) will review all submitted applications and provide ranked funding decisions to OICR Executive.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following:

- Scientific merit;
- Novelty of cross-cutting question/investigation being addressed;
- Potential for proposed research to enhance current TRI research activities and create new collaborations that will lead to high impact oncology research; and
- Project plan timeline: Feasibility of completing the work by March 31, 2021.

The CT-SAC will use the scoring guideline below to evaluate applications.

| Score | Description |
|-----------|---|
| 4.7 – 5.0 | Excellent with no weaknesses identified |
| 4.2 – 4.6 | Excellent with minor weaknesses identified |
| 3.6 – 4.1 | Very good with minor weaknesses identified |
| 3.0 – 3.5 | Very good with moderate weaknesses identified |
| 2.4 – 2.9 | Good with moderate weaknesses identified |
| 1.7 – 2.3 | Fair with moderate weaknesses identified |
| 1.0 – 1.6 | Poor with moderate to major weaknesses identified |
| Below 1.0 | Poor with major weaknesses identified |

8. Contact information

For any questions, contact scientificsecretariat@oicr.on.ca