Clinical Translation Pathway

Request for Applications

CATALYST Funding Stream

Version 1.0

October 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to aid Investigators wishing to apply for the Clinical Translation (CT) CATALYST (**C**linical s**A**mple **T**ranslational **A**ward for acce**L**erated anal**Y**ses of **S**pecimens from **T**rials) funding stream. This is a new funding program to support research that leverages existing biospecimens and clinical data to validate biomarkers, molecular signatures, immune correlates or other insights that can improve cancer detection, risk stratification or treatment stratification. The vision of the CATALYST funding stream is to honour patient contributions by accelerating discoveries from available clinical samples.

For more information on OICR and the CT program, please visit our website.

2. REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

2.1. Scope

The CATALYST funding stream will support studies that:

- address clinically meaningful hypotheses related to cancer detection, risk stratification, treatment response, or resistance mechanisms.
- provide insights that could inform future clinical trial design or biomarker-driven interventions.
- utilize existing samples and matched clinical data.
- use validated assays/platforms.

Note: No new sample collection is permitted under this funding opportunity.

2.2. Eligibility

OICR invites applications from investigators at Ontario academic centres, hospital research institutes or other government research institutions. **OICR funding is only tenable in Ontario. For profit entities are not eligible to receive OICR funding.**

Investigators may submit a maximum of **one application** as Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI). Investigators may, however, participate in additional applications as a Co-Investigator or Collaborator.

Applications must have documented (i.e. Letter of Support) access to biospecimens and clinical data from a completed clinical trial. They must **clearly demonstrate the feasibility of completing the proposed correlative study within 12 months of funding start**, including having necessary institutional approvals in place (or obtainable before project starts)

OICR is focused on developing and supporting the next generation of cancer researchers and **strongly encourages applicants to include early career investigators/clinicians**, particularly those from historically under-represented communities, as part of the study team. The inclusion of a patient or supporting individual(s) to the project team is also strongly encouraged.

Any project whose personnel (including, but not limited to, PIs/Co-PIs) or host institution is receiving concurrent support from the tobacco industry (including companies or corporate divisions that directly manufacture or purchase tobacco for production, or market tobacco products, including the Council for Tobacco Research or the Smokeless Tobacco Council) is **ineligible** for OICR funding.

2.3. Term

Proposals selected for funding will be provided with a funding term of up to one year, starting February 1, 2026 and ending no later than January 31, 2027.

2.4. Funding available

Expenses must adhere with OICR's guidelines for eligible expenses. The following expenses are not eligible under this RFA:

- Clinical/health intervention trials
- Commercial assays at the commercial rate

The envelope for this funding opportunity is approximately $800,000 which is anticipated to support several eligible projects. While no minimum or maximum amount is required per project, all budgets must be sufficiently justified. .

Funding is contingent upon available funding from the Government of Ontario via the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security.

2.5. Timeline

Concept submission deadline:	November 6, 2025 by 5:00 p.m. ET
Concept feedback to teams:	Week of November 24, 2025
Prioritized concept meetings with selected teams:	December 5, 2025
Full application deadline:	January 6, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. ET
Notification of results:	Mid-January 2026
Funding start date:	February 1, 2026
Funding agreement execution[1]:	Within 30 days of receipt of funding agreement

Late submissions will not be accepted.

For any questions, please refer to the FAQ page before contacting the OICR Scientific Secretariat office (ScientificSecretariat@oicr.on.ca).

2.6. Application requirements

Patient partners

Patient perspectives and insight can be transformative to research planning, execution and knowledge transfer. Patient partnership in OICR-supported research ensures i) studies meet the needs of the people intended to benefit, ii) studies benefit from the integration of patient perspectives, and iii) study activities and results are communicated in an accessible way to patients, caregivers and the wider community. All applications must include a patient partnership plan, in which applicants describe how patient partners and stakeholder communities are being, or will be, engaged throughout the life cycle of the project. Applicants are encouraged to involve patient partners as early as possible in the application process (at the concept development stage), as they can help shape the research question, develop the patient partnership plan, and inform the writing of the lay summary. Teams can explore the resources available on the Patient Partnership page of the OICR website and at their home institutions on how to recruit and involve patient partners and communities into the research process. Members of OICR's Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC), or delegates, will participate in the full application review, as well as progress reviews to provide ongoing guidance over the funding term.

[1] **Funding agreement execution**: Funding agreements with the host institution(s) must be fully executed no later than within 30 days of receipt of the funding agreement from OICR. If agreements are not fully executed within this timeframe, OICR reserves the right to withdraw the offer to fund the project. Research Offices should be made aware of this condition prior to concept submission.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

All OICR-supported research is expected to align with the Institute's principles of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). OICR's Commitment to EDI in Research Statement can be found on our website. OICR is committed to:

- Ensuring our research serves those from all relevant communities, especially those that are historically underrepresented.
- Fostering a more diverse and inclusive research community.
- Creating a work environment where all can thrive and feel included.
- Collecting and analyzing demographic data to better understand the diversity of applicants, funded researchers and project teams in order to identify gaps and develop approaches to address those gaps.
- Continuing to evaluate our processes, ask for input, collect data and improve.
- Communicating how we will achieve equity, diversity and inclusion.
- Sharing best practices and lessons learned to help drive equity, diversity and inclusion across the cancer research community.

Refer to OICR's guidelines on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion tactics in research for more details.

Declaration of Research Assessment

OICR is a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment (DORA). As such, we are aligned with DORA principles through our commitment to assess the quality and impact of scientific research through means other than journal impact factors. As part of OICR's commitment to these principles, applicants are asked NOT to include journal impact factors (JIF) or other journal-based metrics in any document submitted as part of the application process.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

OICR aligns with the Canadian federal research funding agencies ("the agencies") Guidance on the use of Artificial Intelligence in the development and review of research grant proposals. As part of the application process, applicants will be required to clearly state if and where application material has been generated by AI.

Reviewers must abstain from the use of AI when drafting their feedback and must never copy/paste applications (or excerpts) into AI platforms as doing so will constitute a breach in confidentiality.

Research Security and Geopolitical Risk Attestation

As part of the full application, the lead applicant (PI) must attest that they understand that each named investigator listed on the application will be required to complete an attestation regarding research security and geopolitical risk **should the application be selected for funding**. This attestation will include declaring all collaborations (including the receipt of in-kind support) with entities listed on the federal government's Named Research Organizations list. As part of the attestation process, investigators who declare a collaboration(s) with entities on the Named Research Organizations list agree to provide clarifying details of the nature of the collaboration and agree to provide a risk mitigation plan (to be reviewed and approved by OICR).

2.7. Overview of application requirements using the online submission system

Applications are a two-step process including a concept submission and a full application.

1. **Concept submission:**
   - Applicants submit a short concept outlining their proposed project, addressing feasibility and scope/fit requirements.
2. **Full application** (by invitation only):
   - Selected concepts will be invited to submit a full application that expands on the initial concept submission and addresses feedback provided during the review process.

All stages are to be submitted using ReportNet, OICR's online system for managing grants and awards. For clarity, the 'concept submission' stage will utilize the 'Letter of Intent (LOI)' form and process within ReportNet. Refer to OICR's guidelines on using ReportNet for additional information.

Uploaded files must be in 11-point Arial font with single spacing and one-inch margins.

2.8. Accessibility and accommodations

Providing an accessible experience is important to us. If you require an accommodation in order to prepare or submit an application, or if you require documents or materials in an alternative format, please contact the Scientific Secretariat (ScientificSecretariat@oicr.on.ca) to discuss opportunities. More information on OICR's Accessibility Plan can be found on our website.

2.9. Completing a concept submission (i.e., a 'LOI' in ReportNet)

Application information

The system will pre-populate the PI's information from their ReportNet profile. Applicants will not be able to submit without first completing their user profile, including the demographic questions.

Additional information, some of which is outlined below, is to be provided by the applicant(s). Required fields are marked with a red asterisk in ReportNet. Word/page counts, where applicable, are noted. Investigators and other collaborators can be added to the submission by Principal Investigators and PI Delegates using the 'Invitations' button that will appear once a project title has been added and saved.

- **Project title**
- **Start date:** Enter a funding start date for the application, no earlier than February 1, 2026.
- **End date:** Enter a funding end date for the application; can be a maximum of one (1) year after the start date.
- **Application type:** Select 'CATALYST"
- **Key words**
- **Cancer type**

Summary information

Lay summary (max. 500 words): The lay summary should explain complex research ideas in simple terms and plain language that can be easily understood by non-scientists at the high school graduate level. This is unlike a scientific abstract, which is written for subject peers. The lay summary will be used by reviewers and patient partners during the review process. If funded, it may be used to communicate your research to the public and funders. The applicants are strongly advised to engage a patient partner to co-write or review the lay summary.

An overview of each of the following topics is recommended, as applicable:
- Background/context to the research
- Description of the current standard of care

- Research question and the specific clinical problem to be addressed
- Thorough description of proposed research/method(s)
- Potential benefit to patients/impact on the field.

Bullet points are acceptable to highlight key points. Please use plain English while avoiding acronyms, scientific jargon and technical, field-specific terms unless a short explanation is added. Short sentences with easy sentence constructions are advisable.

The lay summary may be shared with external parties for communications and reporting purposes, and with reviewers to identify potential conflicts of interest. Both the project title and the lay summary should be considered non-confidential.

Concept checklist

Applicants must confirm that their proposal meets the criteria of the CATALYST funding stream. If a proposal does not meet all of the criteria, the project may not be suited for CATALYST funding at this time. Applicants are encouraged to consider how well their proposal meets these criteria and may reach out to OICR for further guidance before submitting the full application.

- Letters of support confirming access to, and timely availability of, biospecimens and clinical data from a completed clinical study
- Project oversight to ensure study is completed within 12 months
- Quarterly deliverables and milestones to track progress towards study completion within 12 months, identifying appropriate go/no go decision points
- Host attestation that OICR funding agreement will be executed within 30 days of receipt of the funding agreement

Clinical trial information

Describe the following (max. 250 words)

- NCT trial identifier
- Trial objectives
- Trial endpoints (primary, secondary, exploratory)
- Brief trial description and results (if available)

Study concept

- Study background, objectives and hypothesis (max. 250 words)
- Relevance to OICR's mission to improve cancer diagnosis, monitoring and treatment (max. 250 words)
- Path to clinical and patient impact within the next three years (max. 250 words)
- Description of biospecimens/data to be used. Include details on i) the number and type of biospecimen to be used, ii) if this represents all cases from the trial, iii) if the biospecimens are ready for use or will require processing for the study. Importantly, outline why the specimens from this trial are necessary to address the hypothesis (max. 300 words).
- Description of the methodology and execution plan to be used. Include details on the assay/platform to be used, including details on the analytical performance of the assay (if they have been standardized, validated, and are reproducible) and analytical methodologies (max. 300 words).
- Description of the study statistical analysis plan (max. 300 words).

Study feasibility

- Outline the study team, their role and a project oversight plan to be put in place to ensure that the study is completed within 12 months (max. 250 words)
- Highlight all the approvals (e.g., cooperative oncology group, institutional, pharma, etc.) in place to support study timelines (max. 250 words)
- Provide a brief bulleted list of study quarterly deliverables and milestones, including go-no decision points (max. 250 words)
- Describe potential pitfalls and possible mitigation plans (max. 250 words)

Additional information

- **Patient and/or partner engagement** (max. 250 words; refer to section 2.6 for more details): Patient perspectives and insight can be transformative to research planning and execution. Applicants should address how patient partners and communities are being, or could be, partnered with throughout the life cycle of the project. This section must be written as a stand-alone piece, assuming that readers may not have read the application research proposal. It should be written in clear, easy to understand, lay language understandable to a high school graduate.

Attachments

- **Figures, tables and references**. Label file name: Request ID_Figures and upload as a PDF.
- **Letter(s) of support**: Applications must have documented (i.e. Letter of Support) access to biospecimens and clinical data from a completed oncology trial. Label file name: Request ID_LOS and upload as a PDF
- **Budget**, using the Excel template provided (Label file name: Request ID_Budget and upload as both an Excel and PDF file)
    - Download the budget template provided in the application and complete the budget request details. Expenses must adhere with OICR's guidelines for eligible expenses. The following expenses are not eligible under this RFA:
        - Clinical/health intervention trials
        - Commercial assays at the commercial rate
    - The template will automatically calculate overhead at thirty per cent (30%) for overhead eligible expenses for non-MaRS based institutions. The overhead rate can be adjusted on the 'info and instructions' tab. Please contact the Scientific Secretariat with any questions regarding overhead.
    - Full justification must be provided for each line item
    - The 'Other contributing funds' section should be completed, as applicable.

Host institution information

- Provide the contact details for the host institution administrative authority at the PI's (and any named Co-PI(s)) institution(s).
- Using the PDF form provided, the applicant must obtain the signature of the institutional administrative authority attesting to the terms outlined in the form. Additional forms should also be signed and uploaded from the Host Institution of any Co-PIs. Label file name: Request ID_HI attestation, and upload as a signed PDF. If the host institution for a PI or Co-PI is OICR, an attestation form from OICR is not required.

Once you have completed all required fields, select the green '*Submit LOI*' button at the bottom of the screen.

2.10. Completing a full application

Information provided at the concept stage will be carried over to the full application form and will be editable. Only applicants invited to submit a full application following the concept review will be provided with access to the full application form.

In addition to the information collected at the concept stage, the following information will be required for a full application:

Summary information

- **Scientific summary** (max. 500 words; non-confidential format as this may be used for award communication).

Research proposal

- **Proposal** (max. 2000 words) including study background and objectives, relevance to OICRs mission, study team, methodology and execution plan. Highlight follow-on, end of study activities.
- **Study timelines** (max. 250 words using a bulleted format; to be used, along with submitted Deliverable and Milestones (below), to monitor success of the study during progress update meetings with CT Leadership).

Additional information

- **Differentiation** (max. 250 words): Provide a description on what makes this research unique, better and/or disruptive compared to what other researchers are working on in your field (i.e., what is distinguishing about this research that makes it more attractive than other existing work). This information may be shared with FACIT, OICR's commercialization partner, should the proposal be funded.
- **Data management plan** (max. 500 words): Applicants must provide a data sharing and access plan, as well as a data storage requirements and retention plan, specifying how much data will be generated or transferred into OICR (if applicable) during the course of the project, and the plan for retaining/archiving with the ability to restore the data for the five-year period following its conclusion. Refer to OICR's guidelines on data retention, sharing and open access for more information.
- **Use of Artificial Intelligence** (AI; max 200 words): If applicable, applicants must clearly state if and where application material has been generated by AI.
- **Research security and geopolitical risk attestation**

Attachments

- Proposal figures, tables and references (updated if necessary)
- Budget (updated if necessary)
- Deliverables and Milestones
- CVs:
    - Compile CVs **(abbreviated CVs are encouraged**) for the following individuals (label file name: Request ID_CVs, and upload as a single, bookmarked PDF):
        - PIs and Co-PIs
        - Co-Investigators
    - CVs can be in any format so long as it addresses:
        - Education/training
        - Employment
        - Honours and awards
        - Professional affiliations

- Research funding in the past five years
- Research outputs (e.g., publications, IP, presentations, etc.)

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion considerations and plan (max. 250 words)

Regulatory requirements

Common Scientific Outline

3. REVIEW PROCESS

3.1. Administrative review

An administrative review may be completed by the OICR Scientific Secretariat to assess the submission for conformity with the guidelines. Relevant points from the review will be shared with the PI.

3.2. Concept and full application review

The review process for this funding opportunity will take place in three stages, overseen by the OICR CATALYST Review Committee which includes CT leadership, patient partner(s) and external reviewers with expertise in the field. The review stages are outlined below:

Stage 1: Concept review

Committee members will evaluate the submitted concepts against the criteria in Table 3 of Appendix I, providing both a preliminary score and a recommendation on whether the concept should advance to the concept discussion meeting with the Committee. At a closed review meeting, Committee members will provide final scores and decide which concepts will be invited to the concept discussion meeting with the Committee. Concepts that do not meet the criteria will not move forward. All applicants will receive feedback from the Committee.

Stage 2: Concept discussion with the Committee

Prioritized concepts that pass the initial review will be invited to meet with the CATALYST Review Committee. The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Clarify aspects of the concept submission
- Confirm feasibility/fit eligibility and project timelines
- Justify study budget
- Discuss areas needing further development

Once all meetings have been completed, the Committee will determine which concepts will be invited to submit a full application. All applicants will receive feedback from the Committee.

Stage 3: Full application review

A subset of the Committee will review each submitted full application and ensure that the proposal aligns with expectations discussed during the meeting with the team. A final check for feasibility and scope will be done prior to making final recommendations for funding. In some cases, this final stage may be an iterative process with additional feedback/recommendations/requirements that will need to be addressed by the team prior to the application being recommended for funding. Proposals not recommended for funding at this final stage will receive feedback from the Committee.

Table 3 in Appendix I provides an overview of the criteria that will be used by the Committee to evaluate each concept and full application. Decisions made by the Committee are final.

3.3. Notification of Decision

A meeting report summarizing the discussion and recommendation of the CATALYST Review Committee will be prepared by a Scientific Officer and distributed as part of the Notification of Decision that will be provided by mid-January 2026.

4. ESTABLISHMENT OF AGREEMENTS

OICR will establish a funding agreement with the Institution of the Lead PI and Partner Institutions (if applicable). The agreement will cover the general principles regarding the conduct of research activities, eligible research expenses, terms and conditions regarding the disbursement of funds, agreements with third-party funders, financial and progress reporting, PI/Co-PI covenants, IP, commercialization, publications and communication policies. In addition, OICR will establish a commercialization framework, which will require the recipient and OICR to set up an IP co-management plan, where applicable.

Note that delays in execution of research agreements may impact OICR's ability to disburse funds. Funding is contingent upon available funding from the Government of Ontario via the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security. **Agreements that are NOT executed within 30 days of receipt will lose funding**.

5. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

5.1. Financial and operational status reporting

The following schedule (Table 1) will be used for financial and operational status reporting. Note that the deadlines indicated are moved to the next business day if they fall on a non-working day. A quarterly reporting template and instructions will be available on the OICR online financial reporting system, CaAwardNet.

Financial Officers of the Lead Institution will be required to provide quarterly updates on budget versus actual expenditures as per the table below. When reporting on the operational status of a project, an explanation of variances of greater than ±15 per cent and mitigation plans to address the budget gaps should be provided.

***Table 1**: Financial and operational status reporting*

Period covered	Responsible party and action	
	Financial Officer	**PI at Lead Institution (or designate)**
Q1 April-June	Quarterly financial report Due: July 31	Review and submit quarterly financial and operational status report Due: August 15
Q2 July-September	Quarterly financial report Due: October 31	Review and submit quarterly financial and operational status report Due: November 15

Period covered	Responsible party and action	
	Financial Officer	**PI at Lead Institution (or designate)**
Q3 October-December	Quarterly financial report Due: January 31	Review and submit quarterly financial operational status report Due: February 15
Q4 January-March	Quarterly financial report Due: April 30	Review and submit financial and operational status report Due: May 15
Q1-Q4 April-March	Annual fiscal year financial report: Due May 31	N/A

5.2. Progress and Key Performance Indicator (KPI) reporting

All projects will be included in OICR's annual reporting process, as required by the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security according to the schedule below (Table 2). Note that the deadlines indicated are moved to the next business day if they fall on a non-working day.

***Table 2**: Reporting requirements*

Report	Period covered	Due date	Person(s) responsible	Action
Progress update	Q3-Q4	Q1	PIs/Co-PIs	Provide status updates on study progress and D/Ms
Progress update	Q1-Q2	Q3	PIs/Co-PIs	Provide status updates on study progress and Deliverables and Milestones (D/M)
KPI report	Fiscal year: April-March	April 30 of the subsequent fiscal year	PIs/Co-PIs	Provide quantitative KPIs using ReportNet (OICR's online submission system)

5.3. Post-award reporting

Within five years of the award end date, applicants will be required to submit a post-award report to OICR outlining additional outputs, achievements and impacts of the OICR's funding. Additional details will be provided to applicants in advance of the report being due.

6. COMMUNICATION WITH OICR

The research agreement will outline the obligations of the investigators to advise OICR of anticipated public dissemination, publications and media announcements.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND RECOGNITION OF SUPPORT

All investigators and recipient institutions must acknowledge and credit the contribution/support, in whole or part, of OICR and the Government of Ontario in any promotional material, including, without limitation, scientific publications of whatever nature or kind, and in any communication materials or publications supported by OICR funding by referencing the projects/subprojects with the following statement: “This study was conducted with the support of the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research through funding provided by the Government of Ontario. The views expressed in the publication are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Ontario”.

8. CONTACT INFORMATION

For any questions, please refer to the FAQ page before contacting the OICR Scientific Secretariat office (ScientificSecretariat@oicr.on.ca).

9. APPENDIX I: EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING

Table 3: Evaluation criteria
Relevance The study**:** ● Is in line with elements of the CATALYST RFA. ● Addresses a clinically meaningful hypothesis related to cancer detection, risk stratification, treatment response, or resistance mechanisms. ● Is driven by a strong hypothesis that rests on sufficient evidence. ● Seeks to contribute to accelerating discoveries from available clinical samples.
Excellence ● The proposed research is innovative and of international calibre. ● The study objectives are well defined and attainable. ● Research design is appropriate to answer the question(s) posed, with a cohesive plan that will lead to meaningful results. ● Statistical justification is provided to support the hypothesis and study design.
Potential for impact • The study has an identifiable impact on clinical research or practice within the next three years. • The Patient Partnership plan is appropriate to support the impact of the study.
Feasibility ● Proposed study is feasible, within the term of the award (12 months), with potential for success. ● Oversight is appropriate to ensure that the study is completed within 12 months. ● Appropriate approvals (e.g., cooperative oncology group, institutional, pharma, etc.) are in place to support study timelines. ● Utilizes readily available, existing samples and matched clinical data. No new sample collection is proposed. ● Utilizes available, analytically and/or clinically validated assays/platforms. ● Study team has access to appropriate facilities and resources to ensure study success. ● The team, and its leadership, have the necessary range of disciplines and experience necessary to conduct the study. ● The deliverables and milestones are attainable within the specified timeline. They are appropriately defined to allow the monitoring of progress against goals and objectives. ● Potential pitfalls and possible mitigation plans are provided and appropriate. ● The budget is detailed, appropriate and fully justified. It showcases all funds supporting the study, including those leveraged from elsewhere.

Table 4: Scoring		
Score	**Descriptor**	**Additional guidance**
4.7-5.0	**Excellent with no weaknesses identified**	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses. The project excels in most or all criteria. Any shortcomings are minimal. Proposed research has a very high potential for transformative impact on clinical practice and has a very clear path to completion with sufficient funding.

Table 4: Scoring		
Score	**Descriptor**	**Additional guidance**
4.2-4.6	**Excellent with minor weaknesses identified**	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses. The project excels in many criteria and reasonably addresses all others. Certain improvements are possible. Proposed research has a high potential for transformative impact on clinical practice and has a clear path to completion with sufficient funding.
3.6-4.1	**Very good with minor weaknesses identified**	Strong but also some weaknesses. The project excels in some criteria and reasonably addresses all others. Minor revisions are required. Proposed research has a moderate probability for impact on clinical practice and has a reasonably clear path to completion with sufficient funding.
3.0-3.5	**Very good with moderate weaknesses identified**	Strong but also some moderate weaknesses. The project excels in some criteria and reasonably addresses all others. Significant revisions are required. Proposed research has a moderate probability for impact on clinical practice and has a reasonably clear path to completion with sufficient funding.
2.4-2.9	**Good with moderate weaknesses identified**	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness. The project broadly addresses criteria, but revisions required are too significant to overcome. Proposed research has a moderate to low probability for impact on clinical practice, and the path to completion is missing or not feasible.
Below 2.4	**Unsatisfactory**	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses. The project fails to meet most of the criteria and/or has serious inherent flaws or gaps. Proposed research has a low probability for impact on clinical practice. The proposed project should not be funded.