Score	Innovation Rating Scale *Levels of innovation and their characteristics*	Priority for funding
4.2 – 5.0	**Transformational** Project exhibits at least one of the following: ▪ Transformative, paradigm-shifting research seeking to alter current research or clinical practice approaches ▪ High potential to address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field ▪ Utilization of novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions that may be exploited or adopted by several fields of research ▪ Application of novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions (in ways that have not been previously proposed) ▪ Unique application of existing concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions (in ways that have not been previously proposed)	High
3.4 – 4.1	**Substantial** Project exhibits at least one of the following: ▪ Research is unique and creative ▪ Moderate potential to address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field ▪ Utilization of novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions that may be exploited or adopted by a field of research ▪ Improvement of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions	Medium
3.0 – 3.3	**Incremental** Project exhibits at least one of the following: ▪ Low potential to address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field ▪ Refinement of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions	Low
Below 3.0	Research project is not considered innovative as it represents the next logical step or continuation of a previous project and an incremental advance upon published data and/or existing knowledge. The proposal is in need of further development before being competitive in this competition.	None
Unscored (mark as 0.01)	The application was triaged by the panel and not discussed. The weaknesses of the proposed research far outweigh the strengths and therefore there is low expectation of success.	None