



## Innovation Grant FAQ's

### **How does CCS's Innovation Grant program fit into the research funding landscape?**

Innovation Grants were created to support innovative, creative problem solving in cancer research. It is hoped that this grant program will accelerate the introduction of innovation into the entire cancer research system and contribute to the scientific pipeline.

### **What does "Innovation" mean in this competition?**

The goal of this program is to support unconventional concepts, approaches or methodologies to address problems in cancer research. It may be the investigation of novel ideas and/or research questions, the use or development of novel research methods or new technologies to address a research question, the application or adaptation of existing methods or technologies to novel research questions or clinical purposes that may differ fundamentally from those originally intended. Innovation projects will include elements of creativity, curiosity, investigation, exploration and opportunity.

### **Is incremental advancement on published data likely to be funded in the Innovation Grant competition?**

Successful projects may be based on "high risk" ideas, but will have the potential for "high reward" (i.e. to significantly impact our understanding of cancer and generate new approaches to combat the disease by introducing novel ideas into use or practice). It is hoped that all types of grant programs will increase knowledge and have impact; however these grants are targeted for high innovation. Therefore, projects which are likely to provide only incremental advancement on published data are not likely to be funded.

### **What types of applications are eligible for support through the CCS's Innovation Grant program?**

Applications from all areas and disciplines of cancer research will be considered eligible for funding and will be evaluated based on a common set of criteria. Applicants are required to submit proposals for studies that explicitly address the Society's mission to eradicate cancer and enhance the quality of life of people living with cancer.

### **Are basic biomedical research projects eligible for support through the CCS's Innovation Grant program?**

Yes. CCS is very committed to biomedical research. Basic research has been, still is, and will continue to be the mainstay of the research that the Canadian Cancer Society funds.

### **How will innovation be rated?**

Innovation will be rated on the degree to which it has the potential to address an important problem or a barrier to progress in the field (in a new way), improve or apply a new theoretical concept, approach, methodology or tool, or result in a gain relative to (any) perceived risk. It will also be judged on the degree to which the research is original, unique and creative.

### **Will innovation be scored separately?**

Reviewers will be asked to assign two scores: an **Innovation** score (based on the Innovation Scale created for this competition), as well as a **Scientific Merit** score (based on the Scientific Merit Scale). A



final Overall score will be calculated combining the Innovation (60% weighting) and Scientific Merit (40% weighting) scores.

**Will grants be triaged in this competition?**

Yes, grants with a low scientific and/or innovation score will be triaged at the panel meeting. Applicants will receive reviewer reports but there will not be a scientific officer's report for triaged applications.

**What is the purpose of the Innovation Statement section of the application?**

The Innovation Statement provides applicants with an opportunity to describe the novelty of their idea/concept. Reviewers will specifically review this section to assign the innovation score, therefore applicants should pay particular attention to this requirement.

**Is preliminary data required as part of an application?**

Preliminary data is not required but applicants must provide sufficiently convincing rationale for the project through the analysis of preliminary data and/or published literature, as appropriate.

**Why is there a mandatory Abstract Registration for this competition?**

The review panels will be composed based on the types (and numbers) of applications expected. Due to this, if there are any significant changes to the proposed project or applicant team after the Abstract Registration deadlines, applicants must indicate that changes have been made in the full application submission. **Substantive changes that significantly alter the overall goals and aims of the proposal relative to the abstract registration are not permitted.** The Abstract Registration application is not reviewed for scientific merit or appropriateness to the competition. Applicants should carefully consider whether their project is appropriate to this funding mechanism before submitting an abstract.

**Can I apply to other agencies for the same project submitted to CCS's Innovation Grant program?**

No, there must not be substantial overlap (more than 50%) with any pending application (including those at the abstract registration or Letter of Intent submission stage) to any agency as of the CCS due date. The Innovation grant must contain >50% unique aims to comply. Duplicate applications will not be considered. The onus is on the applicant to indicate the extent (or absence) of overlap. Grantees can accept funds for a project from other sources, up to the CCS panel recommended amount.

**Are junior investigators eligible to apply for this program?**

Yes. The qualifications and experience of the investigators will be considered as part of the review and the track record of new investigators will be taken into account. Junior investigators are considered to be those who have less than five years of experience as an independent investigator. Note that junior investigators can apply for travel funds to observe a grant panel – see our [website](#) for more details.

**Can I apply for more than one Innovation Grant at a time?**

Investigators can only **submit one** Innovation Grant application as PI or co-PI per competition.

**Can I hold more than one Innovation Grant at a time as a PI or co-PI?**

There is no limit to the number of Innovation Grants an investigator can hold at one time.



**Is there a limit to the number of Innovation Grants that I can be listed on as a co-applicant?**

There is no limit for co-applicants.

**When are the Host Institution Executive Authority approvals required?**

Executive Authority approvals are needed at the full application submission stage. They are not required for the Abstract Registration.

**How many years of funding can I apply for?**

The grant maximum is \$100,000 per year for a maximum grant value of \$200,000. Funds can be spread over two years, or three years with justification in the budget request.

**Can I renew an Innovation Grant?**

The program is designed for highly innovative ideas to be completed within a 2-3 year term. Due to this, it is hoped that the project will attain the stated goals and will subsequently be successful in securing funding through a CCS Innovation to Impact Grant, Impact Grant or operating grants offered by other funding agencies. Therefore, renewals will not be accepted.

**Can I re-apply with the same application in a subsequent Innovation Grant competition?**

Yes, applicants can re-submit an Innovation application that has been unsuccessful to a subsequent competition. Re-applications will have the opportunity to respond to the panel comments from the previous review. There is no limit on the number of times an application can be re-submitted.

**Do I have to create a user profile in the online system (EGrAMS) to create an application?**

The Applicant (Principal Investigator) must have a user profile in EGrAMS to create an application. Please visit [EGrAMS](#) for instructions on creating a user profile.

**How are applications submitted?**

All applications must be submitted via our online system ([EGrAMS](#)) by 5:00 p.m. Eastern on the given deadline date for a competition.

**What if the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday?**

When a deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, the next business day will be considered the deadline date.

**What if I have additional questions that are not addressed here?**

As always, if you have any feedback, questions or concerns, email us at [research@cancer.ca](mailto:research@cancer.ca).