

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### Alberta Spinal Cord Injury Research Support Fund (ABSCI-RSF): Spinal Cord Injury Provincial Clinical Implementation Grant

#### GRANT DESCRIPTION

The Alberta Paraplegic Foundation is providing Provincial Clinical Implementation Grants for collaborative, province-wide basic science and health research teams working in the area of spinal cord injury (SCI) in Alberta. The purpose of the SCI Provincial Clinical Implementation Grant is to provide limited short-term support of clinical implementation of evidence-based treatments and best practices into SCI care provincially. The Provincial Clinical Implementation Grants will serve to bring together Alberta clinicians and researchers building upon existing strengths within the province. Proposals submitted to this program should represent unique or novel ideas with potential to improve SCI patient care and research/knowledge translation capacity among SCI clinicians and researchers in Alberta. Funded teams will receive project funding from The Alberta Paraplegic Foundation, via the Alberta SCI Research Support Fund.

**The Alberta Paraplegic Foundation** was established in 1987 as a permanent legacy in honor of Rick Hansen's Man in Motion World Tour and to support Mr. Hansen's objective to increase the potential of people with disabilities. The Foundation funds scientific and community development projects related to spinal cord injury. The Foundation is especially interested in SCI research endeavors that provide innovative, collaborative solutions and those that push the envelope in terms of understanding how the spinal cord operates.

The Foundation has established the Alberta SCI Research Support Fund. This fund will support novel, cross-provincial collaborative pilot projects in the area of spinal cord injury research. These projects are intended to generate pilot data that may give rise to larger research efforts.

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Research teams meeting the following criteria are invited to submit applications:

- A minimum of two members (clinician and/or researcher) with either full-time, continuing faculty appointments at the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge, Mount Royal University, MacEwan University and/or with an AHS appointment, representing the provincial SCI care programs in at least two cities.
- Projects that are extensions of on-going programs, or that already have existing funding, are not eligible for support under this program.
- Applications are intended to include investigation of **primary spinal cord injury** (i.e. SCI; spinal cord dysfunction resulting from a single diagnosis or etiology) of traumatic and non-traumatic origin. In this target population, SCI is defined as damage to the spinal cord that causes changes in its function, either temporary or permanent. These changes translate into loss of motor, sensory, or autonomic function in parts of the body served by the spinal cord below the level of the lesion. Injuries can occur at any level of the spinal cord and can be classified as complete injury, a total loss of sensation and muscle function, or incomplete, meaning some nervous signals are able to travel past the injured area of the cord. Depending on the location and severity of damage along the spinal cord, the symptoms can vary widely, from pain, numbness to paralysis and even devastating neurologic deficits and disability.

#### **TERMS AND VALUE**

- The Alberta SCI Research Support Fund (ABSCI-RSF) will fund a maximum of 2 projects at up to \$20,000 CAD per project over a one to two year (12-24 month) term.
  - Funds will flow directly from an account established by the ABSCI-RSF Chair to the Primary Applicant's institution.
  - Monies awarded from this grant must be returned to the ABSCI-RSF if unused.
- Project funding is non-renewable.
- No overhead or administration costs can be charged against ABSCI-RSF grants or awards.

#### **TIMELINE**

- Call for Proposals: February 24, 2017
- Application Deadline: March 20, 2017
- Notice of Decision: May 1, 2017
- Earliest Commencement of Funding: July 10, 2017

#### **HOW TO APPLY**

Complete applications for the Spinal Cord Injury Provincial Clinical Implementation Grant must be received in a single .pdf via email by 5:00pm MST on March 20, 2017. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.

A complete application consists of:

- Completed Spinal Cord Injury Provincial Clinical Implementation Grant Application Form
- Primary Applicant and Co-Applicant CVs
- Other required attachments as specified in the application form

The Spinal Cord Injury Provincial Clinical Implementation Grant Application Form requires:

- Signatures from all applicants and the primary applicant's department head/chair
- Project details, including background, aims, project design, methods and analysis
- Project timeline
- Project significance
- A description of applicant contributions and the plan for collaboration
- Project Budget

The complete application package, including all necessary components described above, must be submitted via email as a single .pdf file by 5:00pm MST on March 20, 2017 to [rida.chan@ahs.ca](mailto:rida.chan@ahs.ca). The application should be named as follows:

**PI SURNAME\_PI FIRST NAME\_IMPLEMENTATION GRANT\_2017**

#### **ADJUDICATION**

- An external review committee will review and rank all complete applications.
- The review committee will make recommendations to the ABSCI-RSF Committee for the final determination of the awards.
- Funding decisions will be based on the Review Committee rankings, availability of funds, and alignment with the objectives of the Alberta Paraplegic Foundation.

### **ADJUDICATION CRITERIA**

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Project:** Are the overall scope, methodology, and analyses appropriate and feasible to accomplish the aims of the project within the proposed timeline?
- **Feasibility:** Are there adequate resources and support for the project? Is the budget sufficient and satisfactorily justified?
- **Significance:** Does this proposal represent a unique or novel idea? Are the outcomes going to have a positive impact on SCI care? Will it increase the capacity for research and knowledge translation among SCI clinicians?
- **Applicants:** Do the applicants have the necessary experience and expertise to carry out the proposed project?
- **Team:** Does the team have a clear collaborative approach and a reasonable plan for the projects execution?

### **ADMINISTRATION OF AWARD**

- Funding decisions will be announced by May 1, 2017.
- Primary Applicants will be provided a notice of decision in writing via email.

### **CONDITIONS**

- If applicable, clinical projects recommended for funding must demonstrate ethics approval before funds are released. Applications must include the intended date of submission to the Ethics Review Board.
- Any real or potential conflict of interest must be declared.
- The applicant is required to submit a final report by December 15, 2018 to the Alberta Paraplegic Foundation. The report must include a written description of progress made, any milestones achieved during the granting period and information regarding how funds were spent.
- Recipients who receive funding are required to acknowledge The Alberta Paraplegic Foundation, the Alberta SCI Research Support Fund in any written or oral presentation resulting from this support.

### **QUESTIONS**

If you are interested in applying for a Spinal Cord Injury Provincial Clinical Implementation Grant and require further information, please contact Chester Ho, [Chester.Ho@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Chester.Ho@albertahealthservices.ca)