

## SCI Knowledge Translation Research Competition Guidelines

### Competition Details

In partnership with the [Alberta Paraplegic Foundation](#), Campus Alberta Neuroscience (CAN) is pleased to offer the **Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Knowledge Translation Research Competition**, designed to support high impact knowledge translation research in the field of spinal cord injury (SCI) in Alberta to bridge the gap between evidence and practice.

Knowledge translation research is aimed at moving research discoveries into practical use to improve the health and quality of life of those living with SCI. Relevant research discoveries may result from many different sources, including foundational research or human trials. Thus, knowledge translation research may involve taking foundational research findings and integrating them into the design of clinical studies or may involve taking clinical research findings and incorporating them into clinical, health services and/or public health practices, services or policies. The latter is the focus of this competition as it is more likely to directly affect health outcomes and quality of life of people living with SCI as well as their families and caregivers.

Translational research of greatest interest to this competition is multi-disciplinary, multi-method, and involves knowledge users (individuals or groups that will use or benefit from the research knowledge generated, included but not limited to persons with lived experience of SCI, policymakers, health and/or service providers, professional organizations, and industry partners) to improve the health and quality of life of people living with SCI.

This competition is designed to support SCI research in Alberta, including:

- Accelerating research in the field of SCI and advancing discoveries or inventions toward translation and/or implementation opportunities
- Promoting partnerships with knowledge users and knowledge translation (Knowledge users are individuals or groups that will use or benefit from the research knowledge generated, included but not limited to persons with lived experience of SCI, policymakers, health and/or service providers, professional organizations, and industry partners)
- Contributing to the creation and use of science discoveries in the field of SCI

Campus Alberta Neuroscience and the Alberta Paraplegic Foundation encourage applicants of diverse backgrounds to apply to this funding opportunity.

*Of note, we recognize the uncertainty of the current global situation and will adapt as necessary.*

### Funding and Award Period

A maximum of four SCI knowledge translation research projects will be funded, each for a maximum of 1 year and limited to \$25,000. The funding is non-renewable. Awards are contingent on guaranteed matched funding at a minimum of \$25,000. The funding of this competition can be further leveraged with [Mitacs](#).

The funds must be used to cover the costs of knowledge translation research in the field of SCI at an Alberta institute.

Eligible expenses include:

- Research operating expenses, including supplies and materials
- Salary support for research associates and technical/professional assistants or graduate students and fellows essential to the project
- Costs associated with the dissemination of findings (e.g., publication costs, costs associated with developing web-based information, workshop/seminar costs related directly to the funded research)
- Expenses for provincial travel that is essential for the conduct of the knowledge translation research

Funds CANNOT be used for:

- Previously incurred expenses (prior to the implementation of the award)
- Indirect costs (e.g., operational costs related to heating, lighting, facilities, safety compliance, etc.)
- Travel outside of Alberta

## Eligibility

*The Principal Applicant must:*

- Be an independent researcher or postdoctoral fellow affiliated with the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, or University of Lethbridge and be a member of CAN ([join here](#)); junior investigators are welcomed and encouraged to apply
- Have their substantive role in Alberta for the duration of the requested funding
- Have guaranteed matched funding of a minimum of \$25,000; matching funding can be from industry, universities, tri-council, community or not for profit groups, clinical groups, etc.; a signed letter guaranteeing the matched funds or other proof of secured matching funds is required\*
- Be able to comply with reporting requirements (see information under Terms and Conditions section)

*Co-applicants can be:*

- Independent researchers
- Knowledge users (individuals or groups that will use or benefit from the research knowledge generated, included but not limited to persons with lived experience of SCI, policymakers, health and/or service providers, professional organizations, and industry partners) are highly welcomed and encouraged
- Trainees

*Projects should:*

- Focus on the creation and application of knowledge across the continuum, including, but not limited to improvements in clinical or health services practices, integration of care, or understanding of care gaps and/or social determinants of practices; knowledge translation

may not be fully reached within the timeframe of this award but should be incorporated in the research and dissemination plan

- Involve knowledge users (highly encouraged if possible)
- Involve collaborations, with academic or non-academic collaborators (if possible)
- Be conducted within Alberta

## How to Apply

Applications must be submitted electronically as a single PDF to [abneuro@ucalgary.ca](mailto:abneuro@ucalgary.ca) and consist of:

- **Completed SCI Knowledge Translation Research Competition Application Form**  
This form requires basic information about the applicant, co-applicant and funding partner, a description of the research plan and expected outcomes.
- **Short CV of applicant and co-applicant(s) (if applicable)**  
CVs should not exceed 5 pages per applicant and include education/training, positions/employment, honors/awards, selected peer-reviewed publications from the last 5 years, research support, etc.
- **Signed letter/confirmation from funding partner**  
A signed letter from the funding partner or other confirmation of guaranteed matched funding of at least \$25,000 needs to be provided.

Complete applications must be received **before 5:00 PM MST (Mountain Standard Time) on April 15, 2022**, with the subject line “SCI Research Competition – [Applicant Last Name]”.

The pdf file should be named **SCI Research Competition\_[Applicant Last Name]**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure the submission adheres to the requirements and is received before the deadline.

*Disclaimer: Please note that by submitting your application, CAN reserves the right to disclose any application information with partner organizations for the sole purpose of being considered for additional funding and support opportunities.*

## Key Dates

Application Deadline: April 15, 2022 by 5:00 PM MST (noon)

Application Review: April 2022 - May 2022

Award Notifications: week of June 27, 2022 (date is tentative and subject to change)

## Review Process

All applications will undergo peer review. The review committee will be composed of experts, likely from institutions outside from Alberta, as well as persons with lived experience. Any conflicts of

interest will be taken into consideration when assigning reviewers. The review committee will provide comments for the applicant and a recommendation for funding to CAN.

Funding decisions will be based on the review committee ranking, availability of funds, and alignment with the objectives to create positive impacts in the SCI field. All decisions are final and cannot be appealed.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Satisfaction of eligibility criteria
- Significance, anticipated impact and translational focus of the proposed research for SCI
- Quality of approaches and methods, and feasibility of proposed research
- Expertise and experience of team (primary applicant, co-applicants and collaborators)

Final decisions of applicants selected for funding will be announced in writing by Campus Alberta Neuroscience the **week of June 27, 2022** (date is tentative and subject to change).

## Terms and Conditions

Funding of \$25,000 for up to 1 year will be provided to successful applicants, contingent upon guaranteed matched funding by the applicant's funding partner. Payment of funds is dependent on compliance with program requirements and deliverables.

If awarded for funding, Campus Alberta Neuroscience requires that any necessary ethical and/or regulatory approvals are kept current. All successful applicants, as part of their acceptance of funding, are required to submit a final report (within 60 days after the end date of their funding). Reports should clearly describe project progress, the use of funds and any revisions to the approved project (if applicable).

The financial support of the Alberta Paraplegic Foundation should be acknowledged in publications, releases and presentations pertinent to the research project.

Recipients may be asked to attend and/or participate in events/media to showcase the importance of research for the field of spinal cord injury and the quality of research being done in the province of Alberta.

## Questions

If you are interested in applying to this program and require further information, please contact Campus Alberta Neuroscience at [abneuro@ucalgary.ca](mailto:abneuro@ucalgary.ca) with the subject line "SCI Research Competition".