

Hope for Tomorrow Research Competition Guidelines

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Overview

[Campus Alberta Neuroscience](#) (CAN), in partnership with the [Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories](#) (AS AB/NT), is pleased to announce the launch of the **Hope for Tomorrow Research Competition**, focused on research that has the potential to make a significant impact on the quality of life of patients, families, and caregivers through exploration into the causes, prevention, treatment, and cure of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

What is currently known about the causes, prevention, treatment, and cure for dementia is limited. Research into Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia is critical to advance our understanding of any of these facets that have the potential to significantly improve the lives of the more than [52,000 Albertans living with dementia](#). Without the critical knowledge development that research provides, dementia will continue to disrupt the lives of many more Albertans - [estimated at more than 200,000 by 2050](#). Research that pushes the boundaries of what is currently understood as having a positive impact on improving and maintaining quality of life for those affected by these diseases is encouraged - researchers should think "outside of the box" and bring disciplines together in unexpected ways to form bold, innovative perspectives.

About AS AB/NT

The Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories is working to change the face of dementia and improve the quality of life for those with the disease. Serving Alberta and the Northwest Territories, the Society offers a network of educational and support services for people diagnosed with dementia and their care partners, builds partnerships with health professionals and the community and advances research into effective treatments and finding a cure for this devastating disease. To learn more about Alzheimer's, dementia, and the work done by AS AB/NT, please visit alzheimer.ab.ca.

About CAN

Campus Alberta Neuroscience, established in 2012 with support from the Government of Alberta, is a province-wide neuroscience network connecting the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge to increase the impact of neuroscience and mental health research, education and translation, developing the province as an epicenter for neuroscience excellence. Through collaborative partnerships with researchers, government and health system stakeholders, industry and community organizations, CAN supports and accelerates innovative brain and mental health advances that improve brain health, patient care and quality of life in Alberta and beyond. For more information, please visit albertaneuro.ca.

Area of Focus

The Area of Focus for this research competition is a high-priority research area in which the AS AB/NT and CAN seek proposals. The current Area of Focus was developed in partnership with academic and community stakeholders through the collection and consideration of diverse perspectives on the highest priority areas for Alzheimer's disease and dementia research in Alberta.

Innovative and novel **Quality of Life** research that has the potential to make a significant impact on the quality of life of patients, families, and caregivers is this year's Area of Focus. This area is defined broadly, and the examples cited are not intended to preclude or constrain other projects or proposals. Potential applicants are encouraged to submit proposals in their own areas of interest or formulate

questions different from those presented in these Guidelines but aligning with the Area of Focus (Quality of Life).

Quality of Life

Quality of life embodies the overall physical and mental health and wellbeing of a person in relation to the cultural, environmental, and social context in which they live.

In order to maintain quality of life as we age, we must find ways to foster healthy brain aging and reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia. Once diagnosed, the maintenance and improvement of quality of life is often a key goal in the treatment process. Everyone can experience improved quality of life when Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia are prevented, effectively treated, and better understood.

This research competition aims to accelerate and focus the knowledge gained from innovative scientific findings, in the short or long term, into outcomes that will result in the reduced burden or enhanced quality of life for patients, families, and caregivers in Alberta and elsewhere.

Research focused on improving quality of life may include but is **not limited to**:

- Research looking for and assessing potential causes and risks for developing Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia, including gender-specific risks, factors that lead to resiliency and cognitive/brain reserve, and social and environmental attributes, to inform early diagnosis and intervention strategies over the life course
- Research developing and testing interventions to prevent or delay disease onset, including lifestyle/behavioral and health tech supported prevention strategies, to maintain optimal quality of life for as long as possible throughout the aging process
- Innovative diagnostic and treatment tools, including novel imaging techniques, biomarker identification, and evidence-informed and culturally appropriate diagnostic resources and tools, that support better understanding of disease progression, improve quality of life and care of persons living with Alzheimer’s disease or other forms of dementia, and identify who may be most likely to benefit

Key Dates

Call Announced:	September 21, 2022
Notice of Intent Deadline:	November 18, 2022 by 12:00 PM MST (noon)
Full Application Deadline:	January 20, 2023 by 12:00 PM MST (noon)
Award Notifications:	Spring - Early Summer 2023

Funding and Award Period

AS AB/NT, in partnership with CAN, will provide awards up to **CAD \$250,000 total funding** for a period of **up to three (3) years**. Requests may not exceed CAD \$250,000 and **must be matched at a minimum of 1:1 ratio** through funding from one or more funding partners secured by applicants. Matching funding must be cash. A signed letter guaranteeing the matched funds or other proof of secured matching funds is required by the Full Application deadline (January 20, 2023).

- Eligible funding partners for matching funding include individual donors, charitable organizations, provincial and federal government agencies, industry, research institutions, hospitals and health care organizations and any other entities, including foreign organizations and entities.
- A funding partner may support any number of applications and multiple funding partners may support a single application.
- Full Applications will not be accepted unless accompanied by a letter of commitment of matched funds from the funding partner(s).

Eligibility

The Principal Applicant is responsible for the direction of the research project and the coordination of proposed research activities, in conjunction with the Co-applicant(s) (if applicable). The Principal Applicant completes and submits the Notice of Intent (NOI) and Full Application, assumes administrative and financial responsibility for the award, and receives all related correspondence from CAN and AB AS/NT.

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 Alzheimer's disease and dementia, policymakers, health and/or service providers, professional organizations, and industry partners) are eligible to serve as Co-applicants on an application and their involvement at any stage of the research project (e.g., in planning and design, as participants, in dissemination and application) is welcomed and **strongly encouraged**.

*The Principal Applicant **must**:*

- Be an independent researcher (defined below) in the fields of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias
- Be affiliated with either the University of Alberta, Calgary or Lethbridge
- Have their substantive academic position be in Alberta for the duration of the requested funding
- Be a member of CAN ([join here](#))
- Be able to comply with the Terms and Conditions of the award (outlined below)

Co-applicant(s) can be:

- Independent researchers from inside or outside of Alberta
- Knowledge Users
- Trainees

*All Applicants **must not**:*

- Be in a Conflict of Interest with regard to this funding opportunity due to extensive and direct involvement in the development of this funding opportunity
- Have interests and intent towards the proposed research that intersect with any personal, commercial, or financial interest or benefit pertaining to the individual, their employment, or partnerships and former or prospective professional associations
- Have funding-decision Authority for this funding opportunity

Research Projects:

- Must be related to Quality of Life research as defined in the Area of Focus section above
- Must be conducted within Alberta
- Should involve Knowledge Users (highly encouraged if possible)
- Should think “outside of the box” and bring disciplines together in unexpected ways to form bold, innovative perspectives
- Should involve collaborations, academic or non-academic (if possible)

Applicants can only submit one application to this competition as Principal Applicant. **Multiple submissions from the same Principal Applicant is not permitted.** Co-applicants may participate in multiple projects. Principle Applicants and/or Co-applicants who currently have active funding provided by the Alzheimer's Society **may** apply for this funding competition only if:

- The proposed projects are distinctly different; and
- Applicants are not delinquent in their reporting or deliverables requirements for the active funding
- The active funding **is not** from the Alberta and Northwest Territories provincial society of the Alzheimer's Society

For the purposes of this research competition, an *independent researcher* is an individual who engages in research-related activities that are not under the direction of another individual, and has an academic or research appointment that:

- Commences by the Full Application deadline
- Allows the individual to pursue the proposed research project, engage in independent research activities for the entire duration of the funding, supervise trainees (as applicable per the affiliated institution's policy), and publish the research results
- Obliges the individual to comply with institutional policies on the conduct of research, supervision of trainees (as applicable), and employment conditions of staff
- Individuals who are full- or part-time students, postdoctoral fellows or research associates **are not** eligible to apply as Principal Applicants, regardless of whether they also meet the definition of an independent researcher

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

CAN and AS AB/NT recognize the importance of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in enriching the process and outcome of collaborative scientific inquiry and innovation. We encourage applicants of diverse backgrounds to apply to this funding opportunity, which will promote the expression of diverse perspectives, approaches, and experiences, including those of underrepresented groups.

How to Apply

Application to this funding opportunity follows a **two-stage process**:

1. Notice of Intent (NOI) - submit a NOI via the [Online Notice of Intent Submission](#).
2. Full Application - submit a complete Full Application via the [Online Application Submission](#).

The NOI and Full Application must be submitted by a single Principal Applicant.

Notice of Intent (NOI)

Applicants intending to submit a Full Application to this funding competition are **required** to submit a NOI electronically through the [Online Notice of Intent Submission](#).

The purpose of the NOI is to provide necessary information in planning for peer review. **As such, NOIs will not undergo formal review and comments are not provided at the NOI stage.** NOIs will be used to ensure that all Applicants are eligible for this competition as per these guidelines. As such, CAN and AS AB/NT reserve the right to contact any Applicant to suggest revisions or retraction of the intent to apply for funding.

Notices of Intent must be received **before 12:00 PM MST (Mountain Standard Time) on November 18, 2022**. A complete list of questions to be addressed by the NOI is provided in **Appendix A**.

*Note: Once an NOI has been submitted, the Principal Applicant **cannot** remove themselves from the application to join a different application submitted to the same funding opportunity.*

Full Application

Full Applications must be submitted electronically through the [Online Application Submission](#). The Principal Applicant who submitted the NOI must be the same individual who submits the Full Application.

It is imperative that the Full Application is proofread before submission; changes to the Full Application after the deadline are not allowed. Only a single copy of a Full Application will be accepted.

Full Applications must be received in completion **before 12:00 PM MST (Mountain Standard Time) on January 20, 2023**. A complete list of questions to be addressed by the Full Application is provided in **Appendix B**. A Budget Summary Template, to be filled out and submitted as part of the Full Application, is provided [here](#).

*Note: Principal Applicants can choose to submit the Full Application at **any time** after the launch of the research competition (September 21, 2022). As mentioned above, NOIs will not undergo formal review. However, all individuals submitting a Full Application **must** submit **both** a NOI and a Full Application.*

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding. It is the sole responsibility of the Principal Applicant to ensure the Full Application submission adheres to all requirements and is received before the deadline.

Note: By submitting your information, CAN and AS AB/NT reserve the right to disclose any included information with partner organizations and their donors for the sole purpose of being considered for additional funding and support opportunities. In addition, information regarding applications may be shared with donors to provide them with information about the distribution of their valuable contributions to the advancement of research in Alberta. Finally, AS AB/NT and CAN reserve the rights to share information such as applicant name, project title, and lay research summary publicly on our website and social media. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the sharing of applicant or project information, please contact abneuro@ucalgary.ca for further guidance.

Review Process (Full Application)

All eligible and completed Full Applications will undergo double-anonymous peer review by individuals from institutions outside of Alberta with expertise in basic, clinical, and quality of life research capacities as related to the Area of Focus. Applications will also be reviewed by community reviewers, such as people with lived experience and/or family and caretakers, to reflect the priorities and needs of the community in Alberta. Any Conflict of Interest will be taken into consideration when assigning reviewers.

Reviewers will have access to the non-confidential summary from the NOI and to the Full Application, excluding identifying information.

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of scientific merit, novelty, clarity, and potential to create positive impacts into understanding the causes, prevention, treatment, and cure of Alzheimer's and dementia.

Specifically, applications will be evaluated based on:

- Alignment with Area of Focus (Quality of Life)
- Knowledge User Involvement
- Innovativeness
- Potential for Impact/Feasibility
- Quality of the Work Plan
- Expertise of applicant and/or team
- Environment of the research
- Appropriateness of the budget

In addition, community reviewers will assess the potential impact, clarity, and relevance of the information provided in the *lay summaries* submitted in the Full Applications.

Reviewers will evaluate applications using a scoring system. Applications with scores falling within the fundable range will be discussed at the review committee meeting. The review committee and CAN will submit recommendations for funding to AS AB/NT. Funding decisions will be based on the review committee evaluations, availability of funds, and alignment with the Area of Focus for the research competition. AS AB/NT and CAN make every effort to ensure the confidentiality of each application. AS AB/NT and CAN will not enter discussion on specific items in the review process, reasons for the

rejection of applications, or on budgetary modifications. **All decisions are final and cannot be appealed.**

Applications selected for funding will be notified in writing to the Principal Applicant in **Spring/ early Summer of 2023** (date is tentative and subject to change). It is the sole responsibility of the Principal Applicant to ensure that CAN and AS AB/NT are provided with current contact information and to notify of any changes to the contact information provided in the original application.

Payment of Funds

Funds will be paid directly to awardees by AS AB/NT on an annual basis pending the submission of annual reports, as outlined in the Terms and Conditions, affirming no major revisions to the research proposal and providing an update on research progress. In the event that an annual report is not provided to CAN, funding may be revoked.

Should an awardee be unable to continue the research project for any reason for which he/she is receiving support, CAN should be notified immediately, and provisions be made for the return of unexpended funds.

Recipients requesting a leave of absence must provide a written statement explaining the reason for their request at least three (3) months before their anticipated date of leave. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A timeline of when they expect to resume their project and a related work plan is also required. Funding will be suspended for the duration of the leave and shall recommence when, and if, the awardee returns to their affiliated Alberta-based institution and provides a letter of verification to CAN and AS AB/NT.

Budget

The required [Budget Summary Template](#) for the proposed research project must be submitted with the Full Application. The Budget Summary must outline the proposed use of AS AB/NT and matching funds. For example, if a Principal Applicant is requesting CAD \$250,000 from AS AB/NT, matching funding of at least CAD \$250,000 is required and the Budget Summary should outline the total research project budget of CAD \$500,000. The requested funds from AS AB/NT must be used to cover the costs of Alzheimer's disease and dementia research related to Quality of Life at an Alberta institute. Additional details on allowable costs for AS AB/NT funds are outlined below.

Eligible expenses include:

- Research operating expenses, including supplies and materials needed for the proposed research
- Small pieces of research equipment and laboratory supplies not provided by the affiliated institution and necessary for the purpose of the proposed project, up to \$10,000
- Salary support for research associates and technical/professional assistants or trainees and fellows essential to the project

- Costs associated with the participation of knowledge users in the research and/or 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 travel to scientific and professional meetings, not to exceed CAD \$1,000 in any given year

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)
- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g., Microsoft Office)
- Standard office or laboratory furniture (e.g., stools, cabinets, computer desks, etc.)
- Tuition

Please see the required [Budget Summary Template](#) to be submitted with the Full Application.

Terms and Conditions

Funding of up to CAD \$250,000 for three (3) years will be provided to successful Applicants. Payment of funds is dependent on availability of funds and compliance with program requirements and deliverables.

Successful Principal Applicants must accept the offer by notifying CAN within ten (10) business days of receiving a notice of award; failure to comply with this requirement may lead to withdrawal of the offer.

All successful Principal Applicants, as part of their acceptance of funding, are required to submit:

(a) Annual scientific and financial reports, every 12 months from the start date of the proposed research project, affirming no major revisions have occurred and providing an update on the progress of the research, including objectives achieved and primary use of funds. In the event that this report is not provided to CAN, funding may be revoked.

(b) Within six (6) months following the end of the final funding period, Principal Applicants must submit a final report to CAN that outlines final results and includes any publications, in peer reviewed journals or in press, that resulted from the funding.

These reports will be consolidated and shared with AS AB/NT. Reporting templates will be provided to successful Principal Applicants. An important component of the annual and final reports is the lay summary. These summaries may appear on CAN and AS AB/NT's website and be shared with relevant stakeholders and partners, including, when applicable, the partner co-funding the application. CAN and AS AB/NT reserve the right to make editorial amendments to summaries which will be returned to the awardee for review.

The financial support of the [Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories](#) should be acknowledged in all publications, releases, and presentations pertinent to the research project.

Knowledge Translation, Science Education, and Public Engagement are key goals for CAN and AS AB/NT. Therefore, awardees may be asked to attend and/or participate in events and media to showcase the importance of research for the field of Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia, provide education to both academic and lay audiences, and demonstrate the quality of research being done in the province of Alberta.

CAN and AS AB/NT require that any necessary ethical and/or regulatory approvals for approved research projects are kept current. It is the sole responsibility of the Principal Applicant to ensure that the proposed research project is reviewed by the appropriate ethical review committee prior to the commencement of the project. The Principal Applicant must ensure the proposed research project aligns with all relevant ethical regulations at the researchers’ respective institutions, including required considerations for human and/or animal research aims, design, materials, and procedures.

Note: By submitting your information, CAN and AS AB/NT reserve the right to disclose any included information with partner organizations and their donors for the sole purpose of being considered for additional funding and support opportunities. In addition, information regarding applications may be shared with donors to provide them with information about the distribution of their valuable contributions to the advancement of research in Alberta. Finally, CAN reserves the right to share information such as applicant name, project title, and lay research summary publicly on our website and social media. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the sharing of applicant or project information, please contact abneuro@ucalgary.ca for further guidance.

Questions

If you are interested in applying to this program and require further information, please contact Campus Alberta Neuroscience at abneuro@ucalgary.ca with the subject line “Hope for Tomorrow Research Competition”.

Q&A Webinars

Applicants are encouraged to attend scheduled Q&A webinars to learn more about the Research Competition requirements, identified Area of Focus, and the overall application process.

Please visit our website (albertaneuro.ca) or Twitter ([@abneurosci](https://twitter.com/abneurosci)) for more information on the upcoming webinar dates.

Appendix A: NOI Questions Overview

Applicants intending to submit a Full Application to this funding competition **must** submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) electronically through the [Online Notice of Intent Submission](#) by **12:00 PM MST (noon) on November 18, 2022**. CAN will not accept late submissions or NOIs submitted via mail or email.

Below is a complete list of questions to be addressed by the NOI. Please note that this list is meant for informational purposes only and to facilitate the preparation of the NOI for submission.

The complete Notice of Intent (NOI) must include:

- **Project Title**
Provide a short and descriptive title that can be used for publication purposes. You can use common abbreviations (e.g., DNA), but avoid uncommon or discipline-specific abbreviations, company and trade names.
- **Keywords**
List up to 5 keywords to describe the proposed research.
- **Principal Applicant Information**
Name, affiliation, position/title, and contact information for the Principal Applicant
- **Non-confidential Summary (max 500 words)**
Provide a brief description of the proposed research, including objectives, research approach, novelty/innovativeness of the project, and expected significance of the work, and its alignment with the Area of Focus (Quality of Life).
If your application is successful, this summary will be used for promotional purposes outside the research community to inform the government, media, potential donors, other stakeholders, and members of the public who request information about research funded by the Hope for Tomorrow program.
- **Suggested reviewers (optional) and reviewer exclusions (if applicable)**
Provide a list of suggested reviewers who may be contacted to review the proposal at the Full Application stage. We encourage you to suggest a diverse cross-section of potential reviewers with appropriate expertise (outside of Alberta; Canadian and international, established and Early Career Researchers (ECR), members of underrepresented groups, from academic and non-academic institutions) to review and comment on the proposal. Proposed reviewers should not be in a Conflict of Interest with any Applicant noted on the Full Application, as defined by:
 - Extensive and direct involvement in the development of the funding opportunity
 - Involvement in the proposed research project
 - Interests and intent towards an area of research intersects with any personal, commercial, or financial interest or benefit pertaining to the individual, their employment, or partnerships and former or prospective professional associations
 - Having Funding-decision Authority for the funding opportunityIndicate any individuals who should not be considered to review the full proposal, including instances where:

- The Applicant trained with/or by the individual
- The Applicant published with the individual in the last four (4) years, excluding workshops or large consortia
- The individual has been a co-investigator on a grant application or award with the Applicant in the last four (4) years
- The individual has a conceptual difference of opinion with the Applicant that will prevent a fair review
- The individual will receive financial benefit from the Applicant receiving an award

Appendix B: Full Application Questions Overview

Full Applications **must be** submitted electronically through the [Online Application Submission](#) by **12:00 PM MST (noon) on January 20, 2023**. CAN will not accept late submissions or applications submitted via mail or email.

Below is a complete list of questions to be addressed by the Full Application. Please note that this list is meant for informational purposes only and to facilitate the preparation of the Full Application for submission.

The complete Full Application must include:

- **Project Title**
Provide a short and descriptive title that can be used for publication purposes. You can use common abbreviations (e.g., DNA), but avoid uncommon or discipline-specific abbreviations, company and trade names.
- **Principal Applicant Information**
Name, affiliation, positions/title, and contact information for the Principal Applicant.
- **Principal Applicant CV**
Provide a Canadian Common CV (CCCV) in Biosketch format. For more information on how to create an account and a PDF document, please visit the [Canadian Common CV website](#).
- **Co-Applicant(s) Information**
A multidisciplinary team and involvement of knowledge users is strongly encouraged.
Name, affiliation, position/title, and contact information of individuals to be *actively* and *directly* involved with the proposed research project.
- **Co-Applicant(s) CV**
Provide the CCCV of the Co-applicant(s) in Biosketch format as a single file (if applicable). This requirement is waived if a Knowledge User is a Co-applicant, in which case an alternative 3-page CV suffices. All information must still be compiled into a single document.
- **Primary Location where research will be conducted and Institution to be paid**
The Research Project must be conducted in Alberta. Please provide the institution and faculty information.
- **Matching Funding Information**
Identify funding partners providing matching funding, key contact, and value of guaranteed contributions (CAD). A signed letter guaranteeing the matched funds or other proof of secured matching funds is required.
- **Period of Support Requested and Proposed Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy)**
Awards are for a period of up to three (3) years.
- **Lay Research Summary (max 300 words)**

Provide a summary of the research objectives and expected results and how these positively impact Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Please use language appropriate for the lay public and suitable for publication.

- **Scientific Abstract (max 300 words)**
Provide a summary of the research objectives, methodology, expected results and outcomes in general scientific language.
- **Research Proposal (max 2000 words, excluding references)**
Provide a clear and concise description of the research plan, specific project aims, and the methodology, including the specific hypothesis of the research and expected outcomes, and how you plan on disseminating the findings, in general scientific language.
- **Research Alignment with Area of Focus of Quality of Life (max 300 words):**
Describe the focus of the proposed research and its potential to make a significant impact on the quality of life of patients, families, and caregivers through the innovative exploration into the causes, prevention, treatment, and cure of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.
- **Knowledge User Involvement (max 300 words)**
Explain how this research project will be conducted in collaboration/partnership with Knowledge Users, with consideration of the inclusion of individuals and groups that are diverse in gender, age, ethnicity, perspectives, abilities, disciplines, career stages, and lived experience in research. Please provide details about the Knowledge User(s), when and how they will be engaged in meaningful ways, expected contributions, and importance to the research process. If Knowledge Users will not be actively included in the research process, please explain why a Knowledge User partnership approach does not apply to your research design and how you intend to communicate the findings to these individuals and the potential impact of your research to Knowledge Users.
- **Work Plan and Timeline (max 500 words)**
Describe the overall objectives, work plan (e.g., timeline, milestones) and demonstrate the feasibility of the proposed research project.
- **Team and Research Environment (max 500 words)**
For the team information, describe how the members of the team contribute to the probability of success because of their skills, expertise, connections, etc. This should not duplicate biosketch information. Use this section to describe how this group of individuals will succeed as a team. For the research environment, describe the institutional support, physical resources and/or community involvement the proposed research project will benefit from, contributing to the success of the research.
- **Upload a budget document using the provided [Budget Summary Template](#), including a description of sources, amounts (CAD), and an explanation for each cost.**
The Budget Summary Template is available [here](#)
- **Provide a written justification of budget expenses (max 300 words)**