

BRC Knowledge Translation (KT) Grant Program – 2018

Overview:

The Brain Repair Centre Knowledge Translation (BRC-KT) programme provides funding for proof of principle or pre/pro-commercialization research projects of up to 12-18 months duration. The BRC-KT programme is designed to advance research through knowledge translation, with a view to creating new neuroscience-based initiatives, businesses and organizations. Ultimately BRC KT grants aim to improve brain and neurological health outcomes for Nova Scotians and Canadians. Usually applicants will have significant data (achieved from basic science research already completed and previously funded).

Background and Definitions:

In accord and agreement with the current CIHR definitions:

Definition of Knowledge Translation (KT): “Knowledge translation (KT) is a dynamic and iterative process that includes the synthesis, dissemination, exchange and ethically-sound application of knowledge to improve the health of Canadians, provide more effective health services and products and strengthen the healthcare system”.

Many of the inventions and discoveries (products/tools/services) arising through academic research are at a stage beyond discovery-driven research and yet are often of uncertain utility or insufficiently developed to be of interest to relevant receptor companies, organizations, and potential investors. Such intellectual property may never be licensed, commercialized, or otherwise applied, without additional targeted research, investment and business development activities. These activities are of paramount importance, because they serve to validate, better define and add value to the intellectual property but they require resources that typically cannot be obtained through the traditional funding mechanisms. The BRC-KT Program aims at filling part of this funding gap within the neuroscience community in Nova Scotia. The BRC-KT Programme also aims to increase the output of intellectual property arising from the neuroscience biomedical research community within Dalhousie University and its associated teaching hospitals.

Objectives of Funding Programme:

The goal of the BRC-KT Programme is to facilitate and improve the translation of knowledge and technology resulting from basic and applied academic health research arising from the neuroscience biomedical research community within Dalhousie University and its associated teaching hospitals.

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The specific objectives of this funding opportunity are to:

- Enable or facilitate key experiments as part of an already established research programme to enable transition to a more knowledge translation focussed direction
- Permit key data to be acquired to add information (e.g. toxicology, pharmacokinetic data, behavioural analysis) to a “data package” necessary for continuing knowledge translation or commercialization
- Provide the opportunity to determine the potential for commercial viability and other opportunities for use of IP;
- Provide the opportunity to enhance and strengthen the value of IP;
- Improve the researcher's prospects and potential for downstream investments on the IP;
- Promote academic neuroscience research and technology transfer activities that support and accelerate commercialization of IP;
- Foster an entrepreneurial culture within and around the neuroscience research community in the Dal/NSHA/IWK institutional complex;
- Promote economic development through neuroscience research in the Dal/NSHA/IWK community;
- Support the application of neuroscience research results to improve the health of Nova Scotians and Canadians.

Eligibility:

For your application to be eligible:

- The focus of the application must be directly related to neuroscience, more specifically to knowledge translation as applied to neuroscience.
- Significant and substantive preliminary research must already have been completed and there must be evidence in the application documentation on how the proposed knowledge translation research builds upon this preliminary research.
- The Nominated Principal Applicant must be an independent researcher; applications from graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, resident-physicians and other learners/trainees will not be accepted or considered.
- The Nominated Principal Applicant must be appointed at one or more of the following institutions: Dalhousie University (all faculties and schools are eligible); IWK Health Centre; Nova Scotia Health Authority.
- Applicants must have an established track record of provincial, national and/or international peer-reviewed funding from recognized agencies for research in areas related to the proposed project.
- Summaries of all held grants must accompany this grant application.

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Guidelines for Application Preparation:

Application format:

- One inch (2.54 cm) margins, all four edges, (8.5 x 11 inch paper);
- 12 pt. font (one of Times New Roman, Arial or Calibri); except cited bibliographic references which may be given in 10 pt. font; single-spaced;
- All pages numbered, lower right corner;
- No appended manuscripts (either published or in press); no attached protocols or supplementary data or information packages;
- Exception: a single letter (maximum length 2 pages) from an industrial or commercial partner or sponsor in support of the application may be appended;
- Any and all additional or extraneous materials will be removed and discarded.

Application Components:

A full application will be comprised of a cover page and three modules.

Cover Page (1 page)

The cover page will contain the title, and the names and full addresses (including telephone number and e-mail) of the principal investigator (PI) and all co-applicants. It must be signed by the PI and all co-applicants, and by the Department Head for the department in which the PI holds his/her primary appointment. Co-applicants may be from universities, hospitals, government laboratories or industrial laboratories from any other province or country. However, the funding requested must remain with the Dal/NSHA/IWK institutional complex (with the only exception being fee for service analyses or assays being done by a contract research organization (CRO) laboratory).

Module 1: Research Description Module

Module 1 provides a description of the research/technical plan as well as a description of the knowledge translation plan.

Research and Technical Plan (max. 4 pages of text) (pictures, figures, tables and cited references can be included in an additional 2 pages). This section describes the research being expanded for purposes of KT. It should describe how previous funded research has enabled the research program to attain this stage of “KT-readiness”. This section may include any of the following:

- Research question(s).
- Background and summary of the relevant literature.

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- Methodologies (present hypotheses and describe available expertise and experimental plan to test them)
- Anticipated outcomes **AND** must include next steps (e.g. additional funding/sources, patenting etc).
- Business plan if appropriate

Module 2: Budget Request and Justification

The budget module consists of the statement of budget request and a budget justification. The budget is to be for one year (with an additional six months if justified in the budget justification).

Budget Request (1 page)

List of items and/or services for which funding is requested.

Budget Justification (no page limit)

Complete justification for the funding requested. Quotes for services or pieces of equipment (<\$5,000) are requested, but not mandatory. In addition, please include a statement of timeline (layout milestones and deliverables for the execution of the KT Plan during the term of the project, correlated with the anticipated costs; include a description of the follow-on steps - by the researcher and/or institution - after the funding period).

Module 3: Curriculum Vitae

A Canadian Common CV (<https://ccv-cvc.ca>; Funding Format, – CIHR option) must be supplied for the principal applicant; no other CV format will be accepted. Applicants who have not prepared a Common CV in past are advised that this document requires a substantial amount of work to prepare.

Eligible and Ineligible Expenses:

Eligible Expenses: A representative (but not all-inclusive) listing of example eligible expenses is as follows:

- Funding to permit and/or facilitate key experiments as part of an already established research programme to enable transition to a more effective knowledge translation;
- Fee-for-service analyses, construct preparation, assays or custom mouse model production being done by a contract research organization (CRO) laboratory necessary to the ultimate preparation of a pre-commercialization data package;
- Patenting expenses;
- Filing of a Provisional Patent Application;

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- Legal fees associated with the patenting process;
- Consulting fees associated with business plan preparation or business-related advice.

Ineligible Expenses: A representative (but not all-inclusive) listing of example ineligible expenses is as follows:

- Salary support of principal or any other named applicant;
- Any expenses incurred at an institution (university or hospital) other than Dalhousie University; IWK Health Centre; Nova Scotia Health Authority;
- Any piece of equipment of value greater than \$5,000 CDN (this is not an equipment grant programme);
- Retiring existing or already incurred debts;
- Building renovations and/or any structural or infrastructure modifications, even if deemed “essential” to completion of the described research;
- Bridge financing for a basic science research programme (whether with or without long-term commercialization potential) that has had its funding terminated.

Funds Available:

Grant requests in the range of \$5,000-\$30,000 CDN will be considered. Requests exceeding \$30,000 will not be considered, even under exceptional circumstances. It is anticipated that up to 3 KT grants will be funded during the 2018 funding period.

Evaluation Criteria:

The BRC grant submissions will be evaluated by an independent review panel. It includes an established evaluation framework and discussion amongst the reviewers to finalize decisions.

For each application, the research and technical plan will be assessed together with essential elements of a KT plan. Each application is evaluated on its own merit in relation to the objectives of the BRC-KT Programme. Items that will be considered by the selection committee will include the following:

1) Research and Technical Plan

- Description, feasibility and appropriateness of the research plan;
- Originality of the research plan and impact of the expected contributions;
- Relevance and description of the scientific and/or technical requirements to move the research toward KT;
- Identification of potential hurdles and how they will be addressed;
- Qualifications and track record of the applicants;

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- Applicants' familiarity with literature in the field and current competitive, or emerging, technologies;
- How the proposed experiments will strengthen the IP position or generate new IP.

II) Knowledge Translation Plan

- Description, feasibility and appropriateness of the KT plan;
- Demonstration of a need for BRC-KT funded research;
- Impact of proposed neuroscience product/service on the health of Canadians and/or the Canadian health economy;
- Description of patenting strategy, freedom to operate, prior art, market evaluation and opportunity as appropriate;
- Consideration of potential barriers to KT or commercialization;
- Industry/sector contacts, appropriateness of receptor company/organization;
- Qualifications, track record of persons associated with the commercial aspects of the project and identification of business expertise needed to complete the plan;
- Capacity and commitment of applicant's institution to take the project through the commercialization process;
- Appropriateness of milestones and follow-on steps planned at conclusion of project.

Submission Process:

Applicants are requested to submit one (1) paper copy of the full application (with the common CV* of the PI only) to the BRC office on or before **Friday May 4th 2018**. Also, by the deadline, the applicant is asked to submit the full application (in one or more PDF files) by e-mail to Eleanor Seaman-Bolton (esb@dal.ca).

*CV format should be Common CV – Funding format – CIHR option.