

The CCSRI Impact Grant Program

Background

The Impact Grant Program was developed as part of the 2011 research program redesign to address the need for larger grants and longer term funding for the mature, very successful basic biomedical, translational and clinical cancer research communities in Canada.

These are prestigious grants as they are the largest single grants ever offered by the Canadian Cancer Society (\$1.25M over 5 years).

Program Goals & Scope

The goal of the Impact grant program is to fund scientists to adopt innovations and accelerate the generation and application of new knowledge to address problems in cancer research that have the potential to reduce cancer incidence, reduce cancer mortality or improve quality of life for cancer patients and their families. Impact grants are intended to fund the most promising cancer science in the country and move it significantly forward.

Applications from either individual investigators or teams of investigators are eligible. In this open grant competition, CCSRI will accept applications from any part of the cancer research spectrum or multi-disciplinary applications, however the program is primarily expected to fund the Society's "End 2" (reduced mortality, or CIHR Pillars 1 and 2) research. To address a frequently asked question received by CCSRI, "basic" or "discovery" research is within the scope of this program. All applicants must clearly articulate the potential for the ideas presented within the proposal to significantly advance the understanding, or the management, of cancer. The potential impact of these grants may be realized in the short or long term. An evaluation of both cancer relevance and potential for impact will be part of the review criteria (see below).

The grants are intended to support and build upon successful research programs where this funding will make a measurable difference in accelerating the impact of those programs on cancer.

Evaluation of Impact

The diverse nature of the applications and the different possible timescales involved makes judging the potential impact of the proposed research a critical challenge for the peer-review panel to address. Clinical research may be judged to have a directly measurable impact on patient care, whereas a basic research project may significantly advance our fundamental understanding of cancer. Both of these research examples would be eligible for funding within the Impact grant program.

To assist the review process, we will ask reviewers to consider the following questions when rating the potential impact of a proposal:

- Does the proposal address an important problem in cancer?
- Are data from this research likely to make an impact on the field that is significantly greater than that expected from an incremental approach?
- Are data from this research likely to have a wider impact beyond the specific field of the researcher?
- Are data from this research likely to make a major contribution to our understanding of cancer and how to prevent it, treat it, or improve patient outcomes?
- How would the results of this work likely change cancer research and/or cancer control?
- For patient-oriented research, does the applicant give strategic consideration to translation into practice?
- Does the applicant adequately describe the expected impact of the work and how it is likely to be realized?