Continuing Professional Development Digital Innovation & Research Grant (CPD Digital IRG)

Overview:

This grant is intended to serve two purposes:

1. To support innovation and/or research relevant to digital learning in the field of Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This includes Continuing Medical Education (CME), Continuing Dental Education (CDE) and Faculty Development.
2. To provide opportunity for student involvement in educational research and/or innovation.

Up to two awards may be granted annually with each award amounting up to $25,000.

The CPD Digital IRG supports projects that either relate to innovation regarding the planning, implementation, delivery, or evaluation of digital CPD activities (innovation project), or projects that generate new knowledge in digital learning within CPD (research projects).

What is CPD?

CPD encompasses a wide variety of educational activities taken by practicing healthcare professionals, educators, and researchers to enhance knowledge, skills, behaviours, or attitudes required to be successful in their role(s). At Schulich CPD, Faculty Development is considered part of the CPD mandate.

At the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Faculty Development refers to activities offered to assist faculty to develop and improve their Schulich roles and responsibilities. These activities advance knowledge, skills, and behaviours related to teaching, educational scholarship, research, leadership, and administration.

At the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, CME and CDE refer to the spectrum of accredited educational activities offered to assist physicians (CME) and dentists (CDE) to develop and improve their clinical knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

Within Schulich CPD we support the development of CPD activities across a broad range of topics through:

I) the identification of needs.
II) the development of learning objectives.
III) the selection of educational formats that suit the needs of learners; and
IV) the design and implementation of evaluation methodologies.

Grant Priorities:

Projects that advance new knowledge or innovation related to the [CPD Office's Strategic Priorities](#) will be given preference for funding. Specific priorities for this grant include:

- Electronic CPD for distributed education – studying and exploring opportunities in knowledge translation related to rural health.
- Methodologies to determine perceived and unperceived learning needs around virtual care.
- Projects related to virtual self-learning.
- Innovative educational technologies that enhance improved knowledge, skills or behaviours of practicing physician and dentists and/or Schulich Medicine & Dentistry faculty members.
- Digital educational projects or research that include opportunities for assessment of individuals.
- Projects that explore Artificial Intelligence in CPD.

Applicant Eligibility:

The grant is available to all Schulich Medicine & Dentistry faculty (adjunct, part-time, etc.) except those also holding a postgraduate status.

Faculty applying for research-based projects must have the ability to access a research account. Contact your Chair / Chief if you are seeking to confirm that your academic appointment allows for this.

The type and extent of student involvement in the project must be outlined in the application. Students may be undergraduate basic medical sciences or Doctor of Medicine or Dentistry students, or graduate students enrolled in any Schulich Medicine & Dentistry department. Post-graduate trainees (residents) may be considered.

Non-faculty may be identified as collaborating members of the project team, but not as PI or co-Applicant.

Submission:

- Applications must be submitted by completing the official grant application form (Form A).
- Applications must be emailed to cpd@schulich.uwo.ca with "CPD Digital IRG Application" included in the subject line.
- All application components and supporting appendices must be submitted as described in the Application Checklist.

Full applications and all supporting documentation must be received by **11:59pm (EST), March 2, 2026**

If ethics is required for the proposed project, evidence that a Research Ethics Board (REB) application has been submitted must be presented at the time of application. Funds will not be released until there is evidence that a REB application has been received and approved.

Budgetary Guidelines:

Acceptable and unacceptable expenses are provided in the Budget Form. The term of the award is two years. CPD Digital IRG funds not expended within a two-year period will be returned to Schulich Medicine & Dentistry.

Adjudication:

The CPD Digital IRG Adjudication Committee will review applications and make recommendations to the Associate Dean, CPD, regarding disbursements. Decisions will be based on the merit of the proposal and the congruence of the proposal with CPD Digital IRG Guidelines and priorities. All decisions of the CPD Digital IRG Adjudication Committee are final. There is no appeal process.

Examples of Deliverables:

- One or more publications or conference presentations
- One or more electronic educational resources (such as a teaching tool, evaluation tool, video, etc.)
- A new CPD activity related to digital education that is innovative in its education format, evaluation, and/or collection of needs.

The financial support of "Continuing Professional Development, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University" must be acknowledged in all publications or presentations resulting from this grant. Successful applications will include a knowledge translation plan that includes dissemination of research findings and sharing across Schulich Medicine & Dentistry.

Final Report Requirements:

Successful applicants must provide a final written report to the Associate Dean, CPD, regarding the progress / outcome of the research upon completion of the project. The CPD Office may require a brief mid-term oral update on progress.

Additional Policies:

1. Research and scholarly activities aimed solely at undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate or fellowship programs or learners are not eligible through this grant.
2. Only prospective proposals will be acceptable for consideration of funding. The CPD Digital IRG will not reimburse expenses already incurred for a project prior to grant submission.
3. There is no obligation to dispense funds at each competition if applications do not meet the standards set by the terms of reference for the award.
4. Previous recipients of the CPD Digital IRG are eligible to apply for new awards.
5. Faculty members may serve as a PI on only one active CPD Digital IRG at a time. They may also participate as a Co-Applicant on one additional active project, for a maximum involvement of two concurrent projects.

Questions:

If you have any questions about the CPD Digital IRG, please contact the CPD Office at cpd@schulich.uwo.ca or 519.661.2111 x81577.