

## Continuing Professional Development Digital Innovation & Research Grant (CPD Digital IRG) Mentored Education Research Team

### Overview:

This innovative opportunity is intended to support faculty across Schulich Medicine & Dentistry who are interested in acquiring skills and experience in medical education research through participating as part of a mentored team that will engage in research relevant to digital learning in the field of Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Through this grant, faculty can apply as individuals to be part of a team, selected by the CPD Digital IRG Adjudication Committee, who will be mentored by a faculty member from the Centre for Educational Research & Innovation (CERI). The team will collectively develop an educational research question and then complete a project that generates new knowledge in digital learning related to CPD. The team will determine the actual project once all members have been selected. Up to three (3) faculty members will be selected to be part of the team.

The team will be granted up to \$25,000 to support the completion of their project. An initial \$5,000 will be provided as seed funding to support the development of the project proposal, the remaining \$20,000 will be distributed following the acceptance of the team's proposal. Projects must be completed within three (3) years of the date of the award. The project developed by the team must also include involvement of one or more Schulich Medicine & Dentistry students. Students may be undergraduate basic medical sciences or Doctor of Medicine or Dentistry students, or graduate students enrolled in any Schulich Medicine & Dentistry department.

### 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 the CPD Office, we support the development of continuing professional development 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.

### Project Priorities:

With the assistance of a CERI faculty member, teams selected through the application process will collectively decide upon a topic to research. The research question must be related to the advancement of new knowledge related to the [CPD Office's Strategic Priorities](#). Specific examples include:

- Electronic continuing professional development 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
- Educational research related to the digital or virtual 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.), with preference given to early career faculty who have been in a faculty position for five (5) years or less, except those also holding postgraduate trainee status.

**Submission:**

- Applications must be submitted by completing the application form.
- Applications must be emailed to [cpd@schulich.uwo.ca](mailto:cpd@schulich.uwo.ca) with "CPD Digital IRG Mentored Team Application" included in the subject line.
- All application components and supporting appendices must be submitted as described in the Application form.

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

**Financial Guidelines:**

The term of the award is three years. CPD Digital IRG funds not expended within a three-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 their selections. Up to three (3) faculty members will be selected for the team. Decisions will be based on the merit of the application and the demonstrated interest in becoming engaged in medical education research.

Once the team is formed, with the guidance of their assigned mentor, the team will develop a project topic, plan, and individual team member roles and responsibilities. Seed money in the amount of \$5,000 will be available to the team for the completion of the plan. Once the project is approved by the Research Ethics Board (where necessary), the plan will be submitted back to the CPD Digital IRG Adjudication Committee for review. This committee has the authority to approve the use of the remaining \$20,000 to be used by the team for the completion of the project.

All decisions of the CPD Digital IRG Adjudication Committee are final. There is no appeal process.

**Questions:**

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