

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUND

Terms of Reference

The Collaborative Research and Innovation Fund (CRIF, the Fund) is a fund earmarked for collaborative research among faculty members in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry (the Department). This fund is intended to promote collaborative research between the basic science and clinical sides of the Department in pursuit of our shared academic mission.

1. The CRIF will support:

- (a) Direct research costs and project related publication fees if, applicable.
- (b) Salary/fellowship support for undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars.
- (c) Supplies and consumables.

2. The CRIF will not support:

- (a) Purchases of equipment and/or maintenance costs associated with equipment.
- (b) Travel expenses.
- (c) Monthly phone or photocopier charges.
- (d) Costs associated with scheduling meetings and networking.
- (e) Research costs of existing projects and collaborations.
- (f) Payment to faculty members at Western University or affiliates.

3. Eligibility and Research Team Composition

- (a) CRIF is open to all faculty members with a primary appointment in the Department.
- (b) Research projects must be developed jointly by two co-PIs, one of whom must be a Basic or Clinical Scientist (PhD), the other a Clinical Academic (MD or equivalent).
- (c) The value of the grants awarded through CRIF is \$15,000; two grants will be awarded per year.

4. Application Process

- (a) Application for the grant must be submitted to the Department, using the web-based form provided.
- (b) Applications will be considered once a year with a deadline of May 15.
- (c) Applications will be reviewed by the Awards and Internal Peer-Review Committee. Applications will be ranked based on quality of the application including scientific merit, appropriateness of budget, likelihood of subsequent competitive submissions to research sponsors external to the Department, and likelihood of subsequent research publication.
- (d) If the successful research project requires human or nonmedical research ethics approval or animal use protocol approval, funding will be held pending full approval of these certifications/requirements.
- (e) Awards must be held at Western.

5. Award Duration

- (a) Funds must be utilized within 24 months from the date of award notification. Requests to carryforward unspent funds for up to 12 months will be considered. Unspent funds after 36 months must be returned to the Department.

6. Report and Acknowledgement

- (a) Awardees must acknowledge CRIF in all publications or presentations generated as a result of research funded by a grant.
- (b) The two PIs on the funded research should be listed as equal authors (for example, co-senior or co-corresponding authors) on resulting publications and conference abstracts and presentations.