

PATHOLOGY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUND

Terms of Reference

1. **Purpose:** Pathology Research and Innovation Fund (PRIF) funding (formerly PIFAD) is available to pathologists, residents, and clinical fellows in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry (the Department). This funding will support research that benefits the academic mission of the Department.
2. **PRIF will support:** Applications for the following, to a maximum funding amount of \$10,000 (Stream 1 and Stream 2) and \$5,000 (Stream 3), will be considered:
 - (a) Research and educational development projects and related publication fees if, applicable.
 - (b) Salary support for graduate students, undergraduate students, and research fellows. This request should be attached to a specific project in the Department.
 - (c) Ineligible expenses include payment to a full-time faculty member at Western University or affiliates (i.e. Brescia, Huron and King's College).
 - (d) Funding requests for capital and computing equipment.
 - (e) Funding requests for travel are not eligible.
3. **Eligibility and Research Team Composition**
 - a. PRIF is open to all pathologists and pathology residents/fellows in the Department of Pathology and Lab Medicine, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry.
 - b. For each competition cycle (Fall and Spring), three granting streams are available:
 - i. Stream 1: research project with pathologist as Principal Investigator (PI)
 - ii. Stream 2: research project with pathology trainee (resident or clinical fellow) as PI, with at least one pathologist as mentor. The pathology resident must be enrolled in the Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology or Neuropathology Residency Program at Western University. The pathologist mentor is responsible for supervising the project and overseeing project expenditures.
 - iii. Stream 3: publication fee reimbursement. Proposals in Stream 3 will only be considered when the FMC has not awarded up to two awards in Stream 1 or Stream 2 in each competition cycle. The pathologist seeking reimbursement must be the Principal or Corresponding Author on the publication. Publication costs will be reimbursed up to \$5,000 CDN per request.
 - c. For all streams, the applicant is eligible to receive funding to a maximum of \$10,000 in one academic year (July 1- June 30), as either PI or pathologist mentor. The Committee will review a maximum of two applications from one investigator in one academic year.
 - d. Collaboration between clinical and basic science researchers is encouraged.
4. **Application Process**
 - a. Application for funding must be submitted to the Department, using the web-based form. The applications will be considered twice a year with deadlines of March 15 and September 15.
 - b. All applications will be reviewed by the Department's Financial Management Committee (the FMC). Applications will be ranked based on the quality of the application including scientific

merit, likelihood of subsequent publication, quality and completeness of the proposal and associated budget.

- c. Applicants are expected to file appropriate applications with the Pathology Tissue and Archives committee and the Western Health Sciences Research Ethics Board. Funding will be held pending successful completion of these applications.
- d. First-time applicants will have preference over prior applicants.

5. Funding

- a. Up to \$20,000 in funding will be awarded during each cycle (\$40,000 per year). This limit may be exceeded at the discretion of the FMC after reviewing available funding.
- b. For each competition cycle, if there are both Stream 1 and 2 applications submitted, one of each will be funded.
- c. For each competition cycle, if there are less than two applications submitted in Stream 1 and Stream 2 then Stream 3 applications will be considered.

6. 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 by the FMC. Any unspent funds after 36 months must be returned to the PRIF fund.

7. Report and Acknowledgement

- a. Awardees must acknowledge PRIF in all publications or presentations generated as a result of research funded by this fund.
- b. The trainees involved in the funded research must present their work at the PaLM Annual Research Day.

- 8. The Department's FMC reserves the right to revise these terms of reference, as needed.

Revised: January 2024

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Together we earn, spend and distribute.*