Department of Psychiatry – Internal Seed Fund Fall 2023 Competition

The Department of Psychiatry’s Research Committee is pleased to announce the Internal Seed Fund Fall 2023 Competition for research grants.

The objectives of these grants are to:

- catalyze research projects that have the potential to be successful for future extramural research funding from the Tri-Agency, other national and provincial research funding agencies and/or foundations;
- foster and develop interdisciplinary collaborative research activities among clinical and basic scientist faculty members of the Department of Psychiatry;
- provide opportunities for the training of future clinician-researchers and clinically-oriented scientists; and
- support and promote the Department of Psychiatry’s researchers, their research activities and impact both within and beyond our academic community.

We anticipate funding up to 3-4 research projects in the range of $10,000-$15,000 each. The number of grants funded will depend on the requested budgets and peer review recommendations.

This competition will not support top-up or gap-funding for partially completed research projects funded by other granting bodies, or continuation funding for currently funded, or ongoing projects/collaborations.

**Value and Duration:**

Up to a budgetary maximum of $15,000 is available per team to be used over a 2-year period; smaller funding requests will also be considered. Grants must be taken up in the first year for which they are awarded.

Funding cannot be used towards income support of faculty members or psychiatry resident team members.

Note: For successful recipients of the Internal Seed Fund, there is an opportunity to apply for an additional $7,500 towards supporting graduate student involvement on the research project through the Mitacs Accelerate program if the project involves an industry partner such as a hospital, municipality, not-for-profit, or for-profit corporation. Please refer to the hyperlink for more details on eligibility and the application process and/or contact Wilson Luo, Business Development Specialist at wluo@mitacs.ca.

**Application Procedure:**

The Internal Seed Fund Fall 2023 Competition application has two stages:

**Stage 1:** Letter of Intent due by 11:59PM on **Friday, August 18th, 2023**

**Stage 2:** Full Application (by invitation only) due by 11:59PM on **Friday, November 17th, 2023**

**Eligibility:**

The Principal Applicant/Investigator* must be a full-time core appointed faculty member of the Department of Psychiatry. **Please note:** Principal Investigators must be eligible to hold a research grant at Western – this means that the faculty member’s ARC has a research component of 5% or higher or is in the active process of changing one’s ARC to have a research component of 5% or higher at the time of application submission.

Other faculty members such as cross-appointed or part-time faculty of the Department of Psychiatry and faculty members from other Departments/Faculties/Research Institutes can be Co-Principal Investigator, Co-Investigators and/or Collaborators.

Current holders (Principal investigators/co-PIs) of Internal Seed Funding from the 2022 Competition or the most recent 2023 Competition are not eligible to apply to this call as a Principal Investigator.

The involvement of Western psychiatry residents, medical students and/or graduate students is strongly encouraged.
Preference will be given to Principal Applicants/Investigators who are new faculty members to the Department of Psychiatry (i.e., they are within 5 years from their faculty appointment with the Department of Psychiatry at Western University) and/or are Early Career (defined as being within 5 years of the start date of their first academic appointment).

Evaluation:

The Department of Psychiatry Research Committee, using a peer reviewed process, will evaluate the research proposals based on the objectives of these grants and the following criteria:

1. likelihood to advance understanding of underlying causes and mechanisms; methods of diagnosis and testing; approaches to prevention, treatment and recovery from mental illness and addiction; and/or to improve the design, implementation and/or effectiveness of the mental health system including services and mode of care delivery;
2. significance and novelty of the research question(s) and strength of the provided rationale;
3. quality of the proposed research strategies and/or design; and
4. feasibility of successfully completing the program of research, and appropriateness of the timeline of research, given the research team's resources and commitments.

The proposed research will be scored using the following grid:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Characteristics of the Proposed Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.0-6.0</td>
<td><strong>Strongly recommended for funding</strong>: Cutting-edge research with likelihood for high impact. The research question(s) are significant and novel; the rationale including background literature review is focused, fully explained and well developed. The study design and methodology are well described and likely to lead to meaningful results. The research team is an interdisciplinary collaboration that has the expertise and resources to carry out the proposed research in the timeline provided and involves trainees/students and is led by new and/or early career faculty member. Knowledge translation/mobilization plan is very good to excellent. On track to be competitive for further extramural funding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0-4.9</td>
<td><strong>Recommended for funding</strong>: Research question(s) is important and the proposed research will contribute to the development of the field. One or more of the following elements should have been better developed: rationale, study design, methodology and/or knowledge translation/mobilization plan. The team has the capacity to carry out the proposed research.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.0-3.9</td>
<td><strong>Fund if funds are available</strong>: A good research proposal but lacks at least one compelling element. The committee has concerns regarding one or more of the following elements: significance/novelty/impact, research question(s) and rationale, study design and methodology, research team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 3.0</td>
<td><strong>Not recommended for funding</strong>: Low probability of significant contribution to the field and/or of research being completed. Serious shortcomings in one or more of the following elements: significance/novelty, research question(s), rationale, study design and methodology, research team.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please contact Dr. Arlene MacDougall should you have any questions regarding the application process: arlene.macdougall@sjhc.london.on.ca

Please consider the support of Julie Walsh, Research Associate with the Department of Psychiatry, in the writing of your research grant proposal: julie.walsh@sjhc.london.on.ca

Please complete your application, noting the guidelines set out for this competition. Once completed, please save a copy for your files and submit an electronic copy along with any attachments to Nicole North: nicole.north@sjhc.london.on.ca

We will send you an acknowledgement of receipt of your application. If you do not receive an acknowledgement of your submission within 2 working days, please contact Nicole North, Research Administrative Assistant for the Department of Psychiatry, at (519) 685-8500 x 47240.

We look forward to receiving your application!

Arlene MacDougall, MD, MSc, FRCPC
Director of Research

on behalf of the Research Committee for the Department of Psychiatry, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Department of Psychiatry
Internal Seed Fund Competition Fall 2023 Application

Title of proposal:

Proposed Start Date: ______________ End Date: ______________

Research Project Team and Roles:
Principal Applicant/Investigator is a new faculty member to the Department of Psychiatry (i.e., they are within 5 years from their faculty appointment with the Department of Psychiatry at Western University) and/or is Early Career (defined as being within 5 years of the start date of their first academic appointment). Yes ☐ No ☐

Clearly indicate the names, roles, and/or responsibilities of the Principal Investigator and any co-PI/co-Investigator(s)/Collaborator(s) and Trainee(s) as well as the percentage of time or number of hours per week to be devoted to this project. Please attach a brief (no more than 3 pages) academic CV for each of the project team members.
Mentor(s) for New Faculty and/or Early Career Researcher Principal Investigators (if applicable)

Clearly indicate at least one, up to three, Department of Psychiatry affiliated faculty mentor(s) who have agreed to provide mentorship and guidance.

Mentorship Plan for Trainees:

Clearly indicate the mentorship plan (e.g., training, leadership, performance assessment, and expectations) for all trainees listed in the application (i.e., Psychiatry Resident(s), Graduate Student(s)).
Instructions for Applications

Your proposal should be a **maximum of 5 pages in length** (not including budget) single-spaced, Arial 12-point font, and have the following headings (submissions that do not adhere to these guidelines may be returned without review or receive low priority scores in this competition):

- Background and Rationale
- Research Question(s) and Objectives/Hypotheses
- Study design and methodology
- Explanation of how the feedback from the LOI review process was taken into account in this application
- Anticipated limitations/pitfalls and proposed remedies
- Overall significance
- Plans for dissemination and knowledge translation/mobilization
- Plans for future extramural funding applications

Have all study investigators completed the Lawson SOP training? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Has this proposal been reviewed by all co-investigators / mentors? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Note: The seed funding competition will not typically cover the cost of training courses. Requests for top-up funding for existing partially-completed projects will not be supported. Please contact Dr. MacDougall with any questions prior to applying.

Please submit this application electronically to

nicole.north@sjhc.london.on.ca by November 17th, 2023.
Proposal Description (maximum five pages. Begin your proposal here; add pages as needed).
Budget (maximum one page; provide a detail budget using the template provided and provide up to one page for budget justification).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seed Fund</td>
<td>Other Funds</td>
<td>Seed Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries / Benefits</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(provide detail in budget justification)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference &amp; Travel</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Access Publication Fees</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(provide detail in budget justification)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.00</strong></td>
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Notes:

- Support for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows/associates and personnel will only be provided for those integral to the proposed research project and must be described in the budget justification.
- Graduate students and postdoctoral associates/fellows must be enrolled/employed by Western in order for funding of trainees to be dispersed; funding for graduate students will be limited to those individuals enrolled in a Western graduate program and who are supervised by a faculty member with a Department of Psychiatry appointment. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
• Funding for personnel costs will typically be limited to Western personnel or Lawson/LHSC/SJHC personnel as appropriate. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
• Funding for costs incurred by Co-PI, Co-Investigators or Collaborators from outside of Schulich will generally not be covered. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
• Requests for equipment costing more than $2,000 must be accompanied by quotes. [NOTE: this award is not intended to support acquisition of major equipment]
• Requests for publication fees must not exceed $1,500
Budget Justification (maximum one page)
Department of Psychiatry

Internal Seed Fund Competition Fall 2023

**Checklist** (please submit this checklist along with your funding application).

Before submitting your application, please indicate that you have completed the following tasks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have you...</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Completed and signed the application form?</td>
<td>Yes ☐ No ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Confirm that the Principal Applicant can hold a Western Research Grant or is in the active process of taking the steps to be eligible to hold a Western Research grant (see application call for details)</td>
<td>Yes ☐ No ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Completed Mentorship plan(s) for Trainees, if applicable?</td>
<td>Yes ☐ No ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Acknowledged that all investigators have reviewed this project (and that authorship discussions have taken place)?</td>
<td>Yes ☐ No ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Completed project budget with budget justification?</td>
<td>Yes ☐ No ☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please submit this application electronically to

nicole.north@sjhc.london.on.ca by **November 17th, 2023.**