

2019 SPOR Evidence Alliance Seed Grant Competition

Funding Opportunity Details	
Funding Organization	SPOR Evidence Alliance
Program Name	2019 SPOR EA Seed Grant Competition
Funding Launch Date	May 29, 2019

**Updated content: May 13, 2019*

Important Dates

- **Application Opens:** May 29, 2019 (12:00PM EDT)
- **Application Deadline:** June 30, 2019 (11:59PM EDT)
- **Anticipated Notice of Decision:** September 3, 2019
- **Anticipated Funding Start Date:** October 1, 2019

Description

The SPOR Evidence Alliance aims to foster a culture of learning and innovation in the areas of knowledge synthesis, clinical practice guidelines, and knowledge translation in a patient-oriented research environment. The goal of the seed grant is to encourage innovation and advancement of the science by supporting methods projects at the idea or conceptual stage.

Each competition will have a call for a specific research area that is of relevance to the Alliance. The theme for the 2019 competition is “**Advancing the Science of Patient Engagement in Research**”. The intent is that the ideas and concepts generated at this stage will lead to future project grants.

What is patient engagement?

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research defines patient engagement as, “*a meaningful and active collaboration in governance, priority setting, conducting research and knowledge translation.*”¹ Patient engagement in the research enterprise helps to ensure that the research being conducted is relevant and valuable to those affected by it. Patients can also collaborate with the research team to summarize or share the research findings with the target audiences, such as other patients, policy makers, and other decision makers who may apply the findings in a health or community setting.²

Value and Duration

- Up to 2 awards valued at **\$10,000** each for one year (non-renewable)

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The applicant, or their academic supervisor, must be a member of the SPOR Evidence Alliance

¹ <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/48952.html#p>

² <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/45851.html>

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You can also register to be a member at the following link:

<https://sporevidencealliance.ca/get-involved/become-an-alliance-member/>

- The applicant must be a doctoral student, post-doctoral fellow, or an early career investigator (a full time, independent researcher for a period of 0 to 5 years) at a Canadian institution

Expectations

Successful candidates are expected to:

- Present a poster of their work at the **2020 SPOR Evidence Alliance Annual General Meeting**
- Provide a financial report and an annual report on their progress; due within **6 months after the end of the funding period**
- Acknowledge the SPOR Evidence Alliance for provision of financial support in any publications, poster presentations, **and other dissemination activities**

Application Review Process

- Reviewers will be selected from the SPOR Evidence Alliance investigator membership
- Each reviewer will be asked to declare all potential or perceived conflicts of interest at the beginning of the application review process
- Each application will be reviewed and scored using a standardized assessment form by two reviewers independently
- The average of the two scores will then be calculated for each applicant
- All applicants will then be ranked based on the average of their total scores
- The top two scoring applicants will be awarded

Assessment Criteria

Each application package will be rated by two reviewers independently, **including a patient partner**, using the following assessment criteria:

- Academic Excellence of the Principal Applicant (25%) – Academic Potential, Experience, Expertise, and Past Accomplishments
- Research Impact (50%) – Significance and Impact of the Research to the Science of Patient-Oriented Research, Proposed Approaches and Methods
- Study Feasibility (25%) – Study Timelines and Budget, Available In-Kind Support

Criteria	Indicators	Source	Score (*total)
Academic Excellence	Past scholarships/awards	Common CV (Awards section)	/5
	Academic training and relevant research experience (practicum included)	Common CV (Work Experience section) Academic Reference Application Form (Research Interest section) Application Form (Career Interest section)	/10
	Research contribution	Common CV (Publications and Presentations section) Academic Reference Application Form (Research Interest section)	/10
Research	Significance and timeliness of the	Research Proposal	/50

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Impact	proposed methods project		
	Uniqueness of the proposed research		
	Appropriateness of the study design and outcome measures		
Study Feasibility	Appropriateness of the study budget	Itemized Budget	/10
	Suitability of the proposed research to be completed within the allocated timeframe (12 months)	Project Timeline	/10
	Available in-kind support	Academic Reference	/5
Total Score			/100

Application Process

Important: Please read all instructions in order to become familiar with the application process before applying. **To complete your application, follow the specific instructions and submission requirements listed below.**

Required Documents

Interested candidates must provide the following documentation:

- 1-page research proposal outlining the study rationale and importance, details of the methodology, proposed analysis, and dissemination plan
- Canadian Common CV of the principal applicant (*pdf to be uploaded with the application*)
- One **Academic Assessment Form** (if trainee) from the academic supervisor/mentor, or a **Letter of Support** (if early career investigator) from the program director/manager to the SPOREA@smh.ca. **The referee to send this document to the Alliance independently.**
- A detailed itemized budget of eligible expenses
- A detailed timeline of the proposed research

Allowable Costs

Grant funds must contribute towards the direct costs of the research for which the funds were awarded, and the benefits should be directly attributable to the grant. The host institution of the successful applicant is responsible for paying any indirect or overhead costs associated with managing the research project funded by the SPOR Evidence Alliance.

Examples of ineligible costs include but are not limited to: salaries for staff who provide administrative support only, training costs for workplace health and safety, costs related to the maintenance of libraries and laboratories, and administrative costs associated with getting a patent for an invention. For a complete list and description of eligible expenses under this grant, please consult the [Use of Grant Funds](#) section in the Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC & SSHRC) Financial Administration Guide³

Eligible expenses can include, but are not limited to the following:

- Payment for research staff (e.g., research assistant)

³ http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/FinancialAdminGuide-GuideAdminFinancier/FundsUse-UtilisationSubventions_eng.asp

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Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research
**EVIDENCE
ALLIANCE**

Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research
SPOR
Putting Patients First

- Technical services, such as transcription, language translation
- Materials and supplies (e.g., copying, mailing, software/tools)
- Travel related to conducting (including meetings with decision makers/policy makers if project relevant) and/or disseminating research
- Costs related to community mobilization and engagement, including culturally relevant promotional items such as tobacco, cloth, and cash reimbursements (in a method acceptable to the individual or community being reimbursed) to compensate community participation
- Contracts and/or consultant fees for knowledge translation and communication activities

Specifications

- In order to ensure fairness in the evaluation of grant applications, equivalent time must be guaranteed for each reviewer to assess each application. As a result, **the SPOR Evidence Alliance will not accept any updates to applications after the application deadline**
- Applications will be accepted from **May 29 (12:01PM EDT) – June 30 (11:59PM EDT)**
- Applications must be no longer than 1-page (approximately **500 words**)

Failure to comply with the above requirements will negatively impact the evaluation/rating of the applications and can lead to their withdrawal from the Seed Grant competition.

Contact Information

For all inquiries, please contact Meghan Storey at StoreyM@smh.ca.

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ALLIANCE**

Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research
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Appendix 1: Academic Reference Form

Section A (to be completed by the Applicant)

Name:

Contact Address:

Email Address:

Section B (to be completed by the Academic Referee)

Title and Name of Referee:

Contact Address:

Email Address:

Select as appropriate

What is your relationship with the Applicant?

Academic Supervisor Practicum Supervisor Other

How well do you know the Applicant?

Very well Reasonably well Not very well

How long have you known the Applicant?

More than 3 years between 2 and 3 years Less than 1 year

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Evaluation of Applicant – in comparison with similar candidates with whom you have interacted.						
Tick (✓) as appropriate						
	Excellent (top 5%)	Very Good (top 10%)	Good (top 30%)	Average (top 40%)	Poor (less than 60%)	Brief Justification
Intellectual Ability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Research Capability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Analytical Capability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Research Motivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Originality and Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Teamwork and Collaboration Capability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ambition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sense of Responsibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Written/Oral Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ability to Complete Projects on Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Statement on the Applicant's research potential with specific reference to recent knowledge of the Applicant's work and any specific support the Applicant may require (maximum 2 pages):

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Signed:

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.