Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Department of Psychiatry

COLLABORATIVE GRANT PROGRAM

TERMS OF REFERENCE · 2023

Overview
These grants have been established to foster collegial research collaborations involving faculty members from both the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Department of Psychiatry. The overall aim is to fund projects that are likely to subsequently attract external funding to ultimately advance clinical care.

Funding details
Both departments will each provide funding of up to $50,000 annually for a 2-year period, to fund two awards of up to $100,000 over the grant period.

One grant will be awarded on a topic of mental health issues related to any aspect of pregnancy, and the other grant will be awarded on a topic of mental health issues related to the medical or surgical practice of gynaecology, including infertility or oncology.

The term of the award is two years, starting July 1, 2023.

Projects are expected to be completed within a 2-year period of time, and the timeline included in the application should reflect this. A half-page section should be included that outlines plans for future external funding applications. If necessary, a maximum of one 12-month no-cost extension may be requested and must be approved before the initial grant term end.

The successful applicants must agree to acknowledge the support from this grant in any and all publications and presentations that result from the funded work. These acknowledgements must be brought to the attention of the Vice Chairs, Research, of both departments.

Eligibility
Each grant will involve two Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs), one holding a primary full-time, part-time, or status-only appointment in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the other one holding a primary full-time, part-time, or status-only appointment in the Department of Psychiatry.

Applications involving more than one University-affiliated site are strongly encouraged.

Co-PI applicants should hold a rank of Assistant or Associate Professor (i.e., Professors may be co-investigators but they cannot be Co-PIs).

Co-PI applicants currently holding CIHR funding as Principal Applicant are not eligible to apply.

Faculty members in Obstetrics and Gynaecology who received a 2022 Synergy Grant as either applicant or co-applicant are not eligible to apply as Co-PI. Faculty members in Psychiatry who are an applicant or co-applicant of an operating grant from the Labatt Network or the Miner’s Lamp awards are not eligible to apply as Co-PI.

A faculty member may not serve as Co-PI on more than one application for this grant competition.

Research ethics board (REB) submission or approval is not required at the time an application is submitted. However, REB approval will be required before the funds are released. Successful applications will be voided after 9 months if REB approval has not been obtained.
Adjudication  The adjudication process will consist of two stages: first, all submitted applications will be reviewed by two senior faculty members, one from each Department; applications deemed to be the most competitive will then undergo external peer review.

Incomplete applications or applications not adhering to the rules listed below will not be considered.

Similarly, applications that require funding greater than $100,000 will not be considered.

Application  Applications must be submitted electronically at this web form. The sections of this online form will automatically be merged into a full application PDF for peer review.

The application deadline is 9:00am on Monday, March 6, 2023. There will be no exceptions to this deadline.

All the following items must be submitted through the application site:

Research proposal  
- Maximum of four US letter-sized pages, not including figures or references, with the following three sections:
  1. Overview and Objectives (including specific aims and related hypotheses)
  2. Background and Significance (including how the proposal will lead to or support a future application for external funding)
  3. Methods (including data analysis plan, and power analysis if warranted)
- 12-point Times New Roman font, single-spaced
- Minimum of one-inch margins all around

References  
- Unlimited number of US letter-sized pages
- 12-point Times New Roman font
- Minimum of one-inch margins all around

Figures  
- Maximum of two US letter-sized pages
- Minimum of one-inch margins all around
- Figure legends no less than 10-point Times New Roman font, single-spaced should be placed either beside or underneath each figure, and are part of the 2-page limit

Five-year abbreviated CIHR CVs for all applicants  
A supporting letter for each co-PI, limited to one page, provided by a mentor at the Associate Professor or Professor rank

Budget and justification  
- Maximum of two US letter-sized pages
- 12-point Times New Roman font
- Minimum of one-inch margins all around

Lay abstract, suitable for posting  
- Maximum of 250 words

Last revision: January 2023