

Call for Applications – Patient-Oriented Research (POR) Early Career Investigator Mentorship Award in Diabetes and its Complications 2020-2021

Diabetes Action Canada is launching its 2020-21 Intercentre Mentorship award for early career investigators interested in Patient-Oriented Research (POR) in diabetes and its complications. The goal of this award is to promote networking and optimal integration of early career investigators into the Diabetes Action Canada (DAC) Network and the Canadian diabetes research community. Up to three (3) annual mentorship awards will be awarded to early career investigators to work with an internal mentor and an external mentor. The internal mentor will be affiliated to the same research centre as the early career investigator. The external mentor will be affiliated with a *different* research centre from that of the early career investigator. At least one mentor will be a regular member of the DAC Network to apply. Mentors who are not PI's or Co-I's of the DAC Network must become DAC members before the allocation of funds.

Eligibility criteria and methods of evaluation are described below. Successful candidates will receive financial support of a maximum of \$10,000 for a one-year period to support their intercentre scientific activities.

Application deadline

- ❖ The deadline for submission of applications is **July 24th, 2020** for funding commencing no later than October 1st, 2020.

Applications submitted late, incomplete or which do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be evaluated. Proposed mentoring must be completed within the year of holding the award.

If not a DAC Network member at the time of application, successful early career investigator applicants must apply to become members of the DAC Network before allocation of funds. Successful applicants must complete a final report at the end of their mentorship year (December 2021) and agree to subsequent annual reports for an additional two (2) years to document the impact of this mentorship experience.

Eligibility criteria for the proposed candidate:

- 1) The applicant must become a member of the DAC Network;
- 2) The internal and external mentors must become members of the DAC Network before the allocation of funds;

- 3) **Only one application per competition as an *early career researcher*** may be submitted for the POR Early Career Investigator Mentorship Award in Diabetes and its Complications. There is no limit as a mentor;
- 4) The early career investigator must be within five years of their university appointment and have a research program deemed to be of excellent scientific quality. An appointment start date must be included in the *Candidate's Research Program* section of the application;
- 5) The applicant's research and mentorship plan must relate to diabetes and its complications;
- 6) The applicant must propose a mentorship plan that demonstrates capacity building in patient-oriented research (e.g. establishment of new multidisciplinary and/or intersectoral collaborations within a network of patient-oriented research);
- 7) The applicant must have the support of 1) an internal mentor from their research centre, and 2) an external mentor from a different research centre recognized by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). At least one of the two mentors should be a member of the DAC Network. These mentors should be actively involved in the scientific leadership of the applicant, including student co-supervision, scientific collaboration, access to specialized platforms, etc.;
- 8) The applicant must submit a mentorship plan that has been discussed and approved by both internal and external mentors. A detailed description of the mentorship plan should be submitted for evaluation;
- 9) Submit a CIHR CCV (with the *Detailed Contributions* section) of the applicant and mentors (internal and external) to assess scientific excellence. If the mentors are outside Canada, any CV containing information similar to the CIHR CCV will be accepted;
- 10) A one-year budget plan of expenditures (limit \$10,000), see below for eligible expenses;
- 11) Successful candidates agree to provide a brief report each year for 3 years to demonstrate the leverage effect of the program (i.e. new collaborations, obtaining scholarships and/or external grants).

Note: Although not a criterion, applicants from rural or less connected communities will be given priority if proposed research program deemed appropriate.

The Diabetes Action Canada Network supports equity in its Mentorship program and encourages applications from qualified individuals, women or men, including Aboriginal people, persons with disabilities and members of visible minorities.

Eligible Expenses:

Any expenses related to mentorship support for the recipient according to CIHR research grant standards. This may include:

- transportation and accommodation costs for external mentor visits to the early career investigator's research centre;
- transportation and accommodation costs for the early career investigator to the external mentor's research centre;
- transportation, accommodation and registration at conferences/meetings for the early career investigator if at least one of the mentors is present at the same event and a meeting is on the agenda; or
- costs related to intercentre scientific collaborations (support of early career investigators directly involved in the intercentre collaboration, supplies, technical services, etc.).

Ineligible Expenses:

Salary for early career investigators or mentors.

Who can apply:

The early career investigator is responsible for the application.

Materials required for application:

- 1) Application form completed by the early career investigator;
- 2) For early career investigators, an appointment start date must be included in the *Candidate's Research Program* section of the application;
- 3) Two letters of support from: 1) the internal mentor, and 2) the external mentor;
- 4) CIHR CCV (with the *Detailed Contributions* section) of the applicant and mentors (internal and external) to assess scientific excellence. If the mentors are outside Canada, any CV containing information similar to the CIHR CCV will be accepted.

All documents, must be submitted (in PDF format) to the DAC Training and Mentoring Program Coordinator, Michelle Murray at michelle.murray@umoncton.ca.

Application Evaluation Process:

All applications will be assessed according to the eligibility criteria of the competition and the following criteria. Successful candidates will be notified by August 31st, 2020.

- 1) Potential of the candidate: Quality of research training, scientific achievements, history of publication, funding and training of students;
- 2) Research program: Clarity of the research question and scientific justification. Potential for the creation of new knowledge, originality of assumptions and research questions, new approach, or methodologies or new application of existing methodologies;
- 3) Affiliation and expertise of the proposed mentors;
- 4) Relevance and quality of the proposed intercentre mentorship plan: Immediate or potential impact of mentorship for the early career investigator's laboratory/research and research within the DAC Network (e.g. establishment of new multidisciplinary and/or intersectoral collaborations within a network of patient-oriented research);
- 5) Feasibility of the proposed budget: Relevance of the proposed use of funds.

Any request for additional information can be forwarded to the DAC Training and Mentoring Program Coordinator, Michelle Murray, michelle.murray@umoncton.ca.