

Dear CIRC Members,

I am pleased to announce the next call for research proposals for CIRC members. We welcome multicenter study proposals that would benefit from the involvement of the Consortium. Proposed studies should ideally involve multiple sites and investigators across provinces. Submissions may be new proposals requesting seed funding and/or CIRC endorsement, or established CIRC studies requesting bridge funding. CIRC aims to support clinical research and hence research limited to basic science will not be accepted.

All proposals will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee and ranked on relevance/importance, scientific quality, feasibility and appropriateness for CIRC. Highly ranked proposals will be funded as they are or invited to submit revisions, based on input from the Scientific Committee, and to present their revised proposal to the CIRC membership. Using a CIHR-based scoring format, highest ranked studies will be funded if they attain a minimum score of 4.0 (out of 4.9) and may be invited to submit a revised proposal if they attain a score of 3.5 – 3.9. Proposals receiving a score below 3.5 will not be funded but will receive feedback from the committee to assist with future submissions. Successful applicants will have access to CIRC's study coordinator and administrator, and their proposal will be advertised through CIRC's various forums. It is expected that studies that receive funding or endorsement from CIRC will make every effort to acknowledge CIRC's contributions in future presentations and publications that arise from the study.

For this call, CIRC will fund up to 2-3 proposals at a maximum of \$100,000 each. Submission categories and criteria are as follows:

1. New or existing studies requesting CIRC funding (funded stream)

- (i) New proposals may be pilot/feasibility studies or stand-alone studies, although pilot studies that seek to build evidence for a larger study or program of research will be given priority. Investigators should submit a proposal of up to 5 pages elaborating the primary aims and hypotheses, background, methods, feasibility (including timeline and sample size), study team, study significance and knowledge translation/future plans. In the case of pilot study proposals, a brief synopsis (1-2 paragraphs) of the objectives, overarching methods and funding plan pertaining to the larger study that will benefit from pilot funding should be included. Up to one additional page should be included for each of study synopsis/abstract and detailed study budget (with justification).
- (ii) Requests for bridge funding for established CIRC studies must explain why additional funding is necessary and what other funding sources have been (or will be) sought. It is expected that, if the investigator receives external funding that is sufficient for study progress/completion, the investigator will return any unused CIRC funds back to CIRC. Investigators should submit a proposal of up to 5 pages elaborating the primary aims and hypotheses, background, methods, study progress to-date, feasibility of study completion (including timeline and sample size), acquired funding to-date (including funding sources), study significance and knowledge translation/future plans. Up to one additional page should be included for each of study synopsis/abstract) and detailed study budget (with justification).

2. Studies requesting CIRC endorsement/participation (non-funded stream)

Investigators who have already acquired funding or who will be applying for external funding and desire the CIRC's endorsement (i.e. as part of a grant application) or participation should submit a 2-page abbreviated proposal highlighting the study's aims and hypotheses, background, design and methods, feasibility (including timeline and sample size), study team, study significance and knowledge translation/future plans. A brief explanation as to why the study would benefit from CIRC's involvement should be included in the proposal.

3. Proposals for RAND/UCLA consensus document (non-funded stream)

Investigators should provide a one-page summary of the topic of interest, relevant background and plan for systematic review and question development. Investigators should justify why this topic is appropriate for a consensus document as opposed to a formal guideline document. If approved by the Scientific Committee, the proposal will be sent out to the CIRC membership for voting as part of the consensus process. The Scientific and Executive Committees will assist successful applicants in the development of appropriate questions and the study team, and in study logistics (meeting organization, procurement of a RAND adjudicator, etc.) as required. Please note that a detailed systematic review of the literature to inform study questions will be the responsibility of the proposal's steering committee.

Submissions should be emailed to circ.ccrm@gmail.com as a single pdf file **no later than 9 PM Pacific time (midnight EST) on March 31st, 2023.**

If you have questions regarding the submission or review process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Good luck!

Harminder Singh, MD
Director of Research, CIRC