**GUIDELINES & APPLICATION FORM**

**Team Development Grant Program**

of the

*Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network*

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**Dates**

Call for Applications: June 1, 2021

Application Deadline: September 15, 2021

Anticipated Notice of Decision: October 1, 2021

Funding Start Date: October 1, 2021

**Description**

A priority of the Canadian Musculoskeletal (MSK) Rehab Research Network is to encourage new collaborative and transdisciplinary research initiatives and foster their development. Awarded Team Development grants are intended to facilitate future success and to support new transdisciplinary research that will attract external funding and address priority research questions in MSK rehabilitation. Funding will be targeted specifically to teams that meet the Network objectives and have potential to leverage future external funds.

Preference will be given to applications that demonstrate alignment to the Network’s cross cutting themes:

• knowledge translation;

• discovery & technology; and

• engagement & equity

Additional grants may be awarded in each competition based on partner funding, and those grants may have additional criteria based on partner specifications.

**Funds Available**

Up to $150,000 in total will be awarded to up to 2 grants valued at up to $75,000 each

**Objectives**

The grants are for developmental initiatives and are non-renewable. This round of awards is intended to:

1. **Establish a new research team that brings together researchers or a new national collaboration between existing teams** from across Canada focused on remote/online delivery of rehabilitation projects;
2. **Establish common principles and/or develop a toolkit for, and/or scale up the national implementation of, online structured clinician-led rehab interventions that address an identified need in one of two key Network priorities: osteoarthritis or non-specific chronic MSK pain**. Note one grant will be funded for each priority. Deliverables may include (but are not limited to) linking existing remote care programs, developing a toolkit for a blended model of in-person and remote rehabilitation, or establishing consensus on best practices of online/remote care. These deliverables should be grounded in principles of **equity, diversity and inclusion** that address challenges in **accessibility** for individual or community needs.

Funded teams will be expected to create tools for patients and/or clinicians that will supplement in-person treatment of the above conditions. It is expected that this funding will lead to **open access resources** to provide accessible, impactful tools to the rehabilitation research field.

The proposed team’s research is expected to be transdisciplinary with a pathway to success outlined in the application for leveraging the developmental funding into large scale external support. Applications should provide a clear rationale for the proposed research, exhibit innovation, and contain a budget that justifies the planned expenditures.

**Eligibility**

Each application it is expected to meet the following:

1. Establish a new national research team that brings together researchers, or a new collaboration between existing teams, focused on remote/online delivery of MSK rehabilitation;
2. Establish common principles and/or develop a toolkit for, and/or scale up the national implementation of, online delivery of clinician-led rehab interventions that address an identified need relevant to one of two key Network priorities:
	1. osteoarthritis, or
	2. non-specific chronic MSK pain
3. **Partner with an established institution or organization and provide a knowledge translation plan that includes a commitment to making the above outputs freely available and accessible to patients and/or clinicians;**
4. include multiple patient representatives or lay investigators who are fully integrated in the research (explain the roles of the lay researcher) and represents diversity in perspective and experience;
5. include at least two young investigators (within 5 years of their first academic appointment);
6. describe training components (e.g. modules, opportunities, exchanges) that will be provided to build capacity and integrate trainees in the team;
7. demonstration of a collaborative national team;
8. describe how equity, diversity and inclusion were addressed in team composition and future initiatives;
9. describe how accessibility will be improved by the research team and its efforts to address hard to reach populations;
10. include a pathway to success describing how the funds will lead to larger future funding; including a tri-council/major grant application supporting a Network level research project;
11. describe how the group will work with a specific knowledge partner and the Canadian MSK network to conduct iKT, and what additional resources will be leveraged to facilitate future implementation of the team’s innovations
12. describe how the team and project will lead to transformative research, increase capacity, advance knowledge, inform decision-making, or lead to MSK health and health system impacts, for example:
	* + transformative scientific advances;
		+ improved health and/or quality of life;
		+ clinical applications and/or policy development;
		+ commercialization.

**Conditions of Funding**

Applicants will be asked to provide a brief rationale for how funds will be used. The optimal allocation of funds to achieve the grant objectives will be the responsibility of the research team. Applicants are required to expend the funds in a manner that is consistent with CIHR guidelines.

Reporting: If possible, successful applicants are encouraged to present their research at the *Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network* annual meeting. Lay summaries of work completed will be requested throughout the project timeline and upon its completion. As per CIHR guidelines, financial reports (F300) will be required annually throughout the duration of the project. A final report, detailing the research accomplished and outcomes, is required within 1 year of completing the project.

All publications and presentations arising from research funded in whole or in part by a Team Development Grant must include acknowledgment of support from the *Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network - and its funding partner(s) if applicable*. Grant recipients will report how the team grant was leveraged.

**Review Process**

Proposals will be adjudicated by a review committee. The review committee will be composed of 3-5 Network PIs, a Network co-investigator, and 1-2 patients/consumers. The committee will be chaired by the Network co-ordinator. Each member of the committee will be asked to declare conflicts of interest. If any conflicts are identified, they will be dealt with appropriately. Each proposal will be reviewed by at least 1 Network co-PI, 1 Network co-I, 1 content expert, and 1 patient. The review criteria include:

* alignment with Network priorities and with the criteria described in the guidelines
* scientific/technical merit (clarity and focus of research objective, novelty, feasibility, appropriateness of work plan)
* transdisciplinary, capacity enhancement
* potential for high impact (transformative scientific advances, commercialization, improved health or quality of life, policy development or clinical application)
* potential to leverage future external funds
* **use of MSK Rehab Research Network infrastructure and collaborations**

**Application:**

Please send your completed application form in a single PDF file to rehabnet@uwo.ca

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| **Applicants**  | **Name** | **Affiliation** | **New Investigator (NI) or Trainee (T)?** |
| **Nominated applicant** |  |  |  |
| **Other applicant(s)** *Add additional rows as necessary* |  |  |  |
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| **Title of team/project** |  |
| **Amount requested (max $75,000)** |  |

**Themes** (project must be relevant to MSK health and to at least 2 themes)

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| **Theme** | **Theme description** | **Check (√) if relevant** |
| 1 | Pain |  |
| 2 | Mobility |  |
| 3 | Work |  |

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| **Ethics**  | **No** | **Yes** | **Pending** |
| Human subjects |  |  |  |
| Animals |  |  |  |
| Biohazards |  |  |  |

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Signature of NPI Date

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| **1 – LAY ABSTRACT Maximum 250 words**  |
| *In terms that can be understood by a lay person, please describe the team and proposed research foci. Include the reason for the collaboration and the projected outcomes of the work. The patient representative or lay investigator should be involved in the development of the abstract.* |

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| **2 –PROPOSAL Maximum 4 pages (12 point font, single spaced, 1-inch margins)** |
| *Describe the team and its research initiative(s) using the following subheading (up to 3 additional pages containing references, tables, figures etc. can be added as an appendix)*  |
| **A) SCIENTIFIC/CLNICAL BACKGROUND & RATIONALE and PURPOSE** *(including its potential significance & impact)*  |

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| **B) ALIGNMENT WITH NETWORK PRIORITIES** *(clearly show fit with network foci and cross cutting themes; use of network capacity)*  |

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| **C) ENGAGEMENT, EQUITY and DIVERSITY ( sex/gender, trainees, patient engagement)**  |

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| **D) OBJECTIVES**  |

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| **E) INNOVATION** (explain how this new collaboration will make a high impact on MSK health; and be competitive in national funding competitions). *Include expected results as appropriate, possible pitfalls & alternatives* |

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| **F) KT Partner***(name the partner organization your team will leverage to provide open-access availability of your research outputs to clinicians and/or consumers)* |

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| **3 –COLLABORATION – CAPACITY BUILDING Maximum 1 page (12 point font, single spaced, 1-inch margins)** |
| *Describe what new collaborations are being developed. Describe the different expertise of team members. Include the value added by combining the disciplines.* |

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| **4 – BUDGET Maximum 2 pages (including justification, 12 point font, single spaced, 1-inch margins)** |
| *Present a list of proposed costs. Provide a brief justification.*  |
|  | **Description** | **Cost per unit** | **Total Cost** |
| **Salaries** |  |  |  |
| **Supplies** |  |  |  |
| **Animals** |  |  |  |
| **Services**  |  |  |  |
| **Equipment** |  |  |  |
| **Other-** |  |  |  |
| **Other -**  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** |  |

**DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION:**

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|  **5 – PLAN TO LEVERAGE TEAM in FUTURE RESEARCH FUNDS (max 1 page, 12 point font, single spaced, 1-inch margins)**  |
|  *Describe how this team will lead to a fully funded grant/initiative; including what resources will be leveraged.*  |

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| **CVs**  |
| Please append a CIHR Biosketch CCV (http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/47567.html) for each applicant. |

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| **SUBMISSION**  |
| **DEADLINE: September 15, 2021**Please ensure all sections are completed and application is signed. Assemble entire application as a single PDF and send to rehabnet@uwo.ca.The nominated applicant will receive an email acknowledging receipt of the application. If you have any questions, please email rehabnet@uwo.ca.  |