**Program Name** **SPOR : Patient-Oriented Research Collaboration Grants**

**Sponsor(s)**

**Program Launch Date** 2016-09-20

## Important Dates

| Competition | 201612PEG |
|---|---|
| **Application Deadline** | 2016-12-13 |
| **Anticipated Notice of Decision** | 2017-03-30 |
| **Funding Start Date** | 2017-03-01 |

## Funds Available

The total amount available for this funding opportunity is $1,000,000, enough to fund approximately 406 grants. The maximum amount per grant is $25,000 per year for up to one year.

Of this $1,000,000:

- $250,000 is available to fund applications which include clinician scientists as Principal Investigators. Once these funds are depleted, the remaining applications in the competition will be pooled together and funded in rank order as far as the remaining budget will allow

## Objectives

The objective of this funding opportunity is to catalyze research that aligns with the SPOR Capacity Development Framework and the SPOR Patient Engagement Framework by:

- Building capacity in Canada's health system for patient-oriented research through projects conducted by integrated teams; and,
- Increasing the number of clinician scientists meaningfully involved in patient-oriented research by integrating them in patient-oriented research teams.

## Description

Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) is a national coalition of federal, provincial and territorial partners, including patients (an overarching term that includes individuals with personal experience of a health issue and informal caregivers, including family and friends), provincial health authorities, academic health centres, charities, philanthropic organizations, the private sector and others, all dedicated to the integration of research into care.

Patient-oriented research refers to a continuum of research that engages patients as partners, focusses on patient-identified priorities and improves patient outcomes. This research, conducted by multidisciplinary teams in partnership with relevant stakeholders, aims to apply the knowledge generated to improve healthcare systems and practices.

SPOR aims to build capacity for patient-oriented research and requires that all partners are trained, aligned, prepared, and working collaboratively towards the common goal of increased access to high quality health care

and improved patient outcomes. According to the SPOR Capacity Development Framework, patient-oriented research capacity means:

- Patients have the capability and support to meaningfully contribute to and participate in research;
- The health research enterprise supports viable career paths for patient-oriented researchers and health professionals;
- All participants in patient-oriented research receive the proper training and support;
- Patients, researchers, health practitioners, administrators, and policy-makers work collaboratively towards common goals; and,
- Relevant and transformative knowledge is generated and applied to improve health outcomes.

The goal of this funding opportunity is to support research teams which contribute to capacity building efforts in patient-oriented research, as identified in the SPOR Capacity Development Framework, and to catalyze opportunities for clinician scientists (i.e., nurses, occupational therapists, pharmacists, social workers, physiotherapists, psychologist, and other health professionals) to be involved and learn in the context of patient-oriented research teams. Examples of activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Planning or team-building activities that assist potential teams in working together to:
    - Identify research questions or emerging issues and priorities;
    - Design a project or study which includes meaningful roles for all team members, including patients; and/or
    - Identify and address the learning needs of team members;
- Stand-alone patient-oriented research projects;
- Enhancing existing research projects to become patient-oriented in nature, i.e., become projects which address all elements within the definition of patient-oriented research above.

Proposals must demonstrate robust patient engagement approaches. Patient engagement is defined in the SPOR Patient Engagement Framework as meaningful and active collaboration in governance, priority setting, conducting research and knowledge translation. Depending on the context, patient-oriented research may also engage people who bring the collective voice of specific, affected communities, such as health charities and patient advocates. The SPOR Patient Engagement Framework also outlines the following guiding principles for patient engagement:

- ***Inclusiveness:*** Patient engagement in research integrates a diversity of patient perspectives and research is reflective of their contribution – i.e., patients are bringing their lives into this.
- ***Support***: Adequate support and flexibility are provided to patient participants to ensure that they can contribute fully to discussions and decisions. This implies creating safe environments that promote honest interactions, cultural competence, training, and education. Support also implies financial compensation for their involvement.
- ***Mutual Respect***: Researchers, practitioners and patients acknowledge and value each other's expertise and experiential knowledge.
- ***Co-Build:*** Patients, researchers and practitioners work together from the beginning to identify problems and gaps, set priorities for research and work together to produce and implement solutions.

**Partner Funding Requirement**

To be funded through this competition, applicants must secure, by the application deadline, partner funds (from non-federal sources) at a minimum of 1:1 ratio to the amount requested from CIHR.
Matching partner contributions can include up to 25% eligible cash equivalent contributions. Partner contributions cannot be funds that have previously been leveraged for other CIHR initiatives, such as funding provided to SPOR SUPPORT Units and SPOR Networks.
For Eligible cash equivalent contributions see the Additional Information section.

**Partner and Internal Collaborator Participation**

CIHR is dedicated to identifying and developing collaborations with other funding organizations and stakeholders to enhance the availability of funding for this strategic initiative, and to create, where appropriate, opportunities for knowledge exchange and translation related to the scope of this particular initiative.
Applicants are invited to visit the Partner and Internal Collaborators Description sections to find a list of partners, internal collaborators and their respective mandates and/or strategic interests. The specific research foci and requirements for each partner and internal collaborator are outlined in the "Objectives" section.

The opportunity to add new partners and internal collaborators to this funding opportunity may arise after publication. These partners and internal collaborators may not be listed, however, the principles that govern relevance review and funding decisions will still apply in these cases; see Review Process and Evaluation. Note: Where new partners and internal collaborators are added later in the competition, the partners and internal collaborators will conduct relevance reviews based on their respective mandates on all applications in this competition without reference to peer review results. Applications deemed to be relevant will be funded from the top down as far as the budgets will allow.

## Eligibility

Eligibility criteria for all CIHR research funding programs apply. The business office of the institution of an eligible Nominated Principal Applicant generally administers CIHR funds. Refer to the Individual Eligibility Requirements regarding the eligibility requirements for individuals and institutions.

### Eligibility to Apply

For your application to be eligible:

1. The applying team must be comprised of at least one independent researcher acting as either a Nominated Principal Applicant, Principal Applicant or Co-Applicant:

2. The applying team must be comprised of at least one patient acting as either a Nominated Principal Applicant, Principal Knowledge User or Knowledge User.

3. The applying team must be comprised of **at least one** of the following individuals acting as either a Nominated Principal Applicant, Principal Knowledge User or Knowledge User:
    a. a clinician
    b. a policy-maker

4. The Nominated Principal Applicant must be affiliated with:
    a. Canadian post-secondary institutions and their affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes; or
    b. Canadian non-governmental, not-for-profit organizations (including community or charitable organizations) with an explicit health research or knowledge translation mandate; or
    c. Canadian non-federal government departments or agencies, including regional health authorities, when specific programs of those departments or agencies do not fund the activity that forms the subject matter of the grant.

5. The Nominated Principal Applicant **can only submit one application** in the competition under that role.

6. The Nominated Principal Applicant cannot hold a grant from the most recent 2015-16 Patient Engagement: Collaboration Grants (201511PEG) competition.
   However, Nominated Principal Applicants funded under the 2014-15 Patient Engagement: Collaboration Grants opportunity (201401PEG) ***are*** eligible to apply to this funding opportunity.

Guidelines

### General CIHR Guidelines

This funding opportunity will comply fully with the policies and guidelines as outlined in CIHR's Funding Policies. CIHR policies reflect areas of importance such as (but not limited to): Gender and Sex-Based Analysis, Knowledge Translation, Open Access, Global Health Research and International Collaborations. Policies and guidelines also cover areas such as applicant responsibilities, Official Languages policy, Access to Information Act, Privacy Act, Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications and Communication Requirements. Information collected by CIHR may be shared as described in the Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy of the Federal Research Funding Organizations.

**Allowable Costs**
Recipients should review the Use of Grant Funds section of the Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) Financial Administration Guide for a complete listing and description of allowable costs and activities.
In addition, the following expenditures will be considered eligible for funding received through this funding opportunity:

- Compensation-Related Costs:
    - Funds may be used to compensate knowledge users, including patients (as well as informal caregivers such as family and friends), to allow them time to participate in the project.

**Conditions of Funding**
Successful applicants funded through this funding opportunity and any other persons working on the project must comply fully with the CIHR Funding Policies. Policies and guidelines cover areas such as Applicant Responsibilities, Official Languages policy, Access to Information and Privacy Acts, and Acknowledgement of CIHR's Support. Successful applicants will be informed of any special financial requirements prior to the release of funds or when they receive CIHR's Authorization for Funding (AFF) document.

**Performance Measurement**

CIHR is committed to collecting and disseminating information on the outputs and impacts of the research it funds. This information is an important part of CIHR accountability within the Federal Government and to Canadians. If successful within this funding opportunity:

- The Nominated Principal Investigator may be required to attend a future SPOR event in-person and present the results of their funded project.
- Within six months of the end of the grant's term, the Nominated Principal Applicant will be required to submit a  Final Report", summarizing the outcomes and describing how the grant funds were used.
- The Nominated Principal Applicant will be required to contribute to the monitoring, review and evaluation of CIHR's programs, policies and processes by participating in evaluation studies, surveys, workshops, audits and providing data or reports as required for the purpose of collecting information to assess progress and results.
- The Nominated Principal Applicant will be required to encourage their associates, trainees and administration to participate in the monitoring, review and evaluation of CIHR's programs, policies and processes as required.

**Review Process and Evaluation**

CIHR will provide funding for applications that are relevant to (in alignment with) the objectives and research-related priority areas described in the Objectives section.
Prior to peer review, CIHR will have access to full applications and nominative information to conduct relevance review. The applicant must consent to the sharing of nominative information at the time of application to be eligible for funding.
Applications that are not deemed to be relevant to any thematic area or funding pool will be withdrawn from the competition.

**Review Committee**
A CIHR review committee will evaluate the full applications. The committee may be drawn from one of CIHR's pre-existing committees or may be created specifically for this funding opportunity. Committee members are selected based on suggestions from many sources including the institute(s)/ branch(es) and partner(s), following the Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy of the Federal Research Funding Organizations.
For information on CIHR's peer review principles, see the Peer Review: Overview section of CIHR's website.

**Evaluation Criteria**
To support the strategic objectives of this funding opportunity, the following factors will be considered:

1. **Approach**

a. Clarity and alignment of the goals and scope of the proposed project with the objective of this funding opportunity.
b. Appropriateness of the patient-oriented research approach.
c. Appropriateness and strength of the patient engagement approach.
d. Alignment with the guiding principles of the SPOR Capacity Development Framework and the SPOR Patient Engagement Framework.

2. **Building capacity for patient-oriented research**
    a. Degree of meaningful inclusion of patients and relevant stakeholders and their appropriateness in relation to the goals of the proposal.
    b. Degree to which team members develop skills for conducting patient-oriented research.
    c. Potential to catalyze new initiatives, develop new and sustainable inter- and multi-disciplinary collaborations among researchers, knowledge users, including patients, clinicians, and policy-makers.

3. **Feasibility**
    a. Appropriateness of the team to carry out the proposed activities.
    b. Appropriateness of the budget based on proposed activities.

4. **Impact**
    a. Likely impact of the anticipated outcomes.
    b. Potential to contribute to the improvement of health care systems and practices that support patient-oriented research.
    c. Appropriateness and adequacy of the proposed knowledge exchange and/or dissemination plans for activity outcomes.

**Funding Decision**

Upon completion of peer review, CIHR will receive the ranking list, ratings and recommendations on funding level and award term for the applications that fall in the fundable range and have been determined to be relevant to the specific research areas and objectives of the initiative. The list will be used for funding decision-making purposes and will remain anonymous unless applicants have provided written consent to share nominative information.

Applications will be funded from the top down in the clinician scientist funding pool in order of ranking as far as the budget will allow. Once these funds are depleted, the remaining applications in the competition will be pooled together and funded in rank order as far as the remaining budget will allow.

Applications that receive a rating below 3.5 will not be funded.

**How to Apply**

**Important:** Please read all instructions to familiarize yourself with the application process before applying. For new applicants or for those wanting a reminder of the main application procedures, an overview of CIHR's application processes can be found under Application Process. Note that these are general instructions only as the specific application instructions for this funding opportunity are located below.

- The application process for this funding opportunity is comprised of one step: Application.
- To complete your Application, follow the instructions in the Grants – ResearchNet "Application" Phase Instructions Checklist along with any additional instructions found below under "Specific Instructions".
- **Reminder to applicants:** Please ensure that your application is complete (includes all required signatures) and is submitted on time to CIHR.
- Your Application must be submitted using ResearchNet. Scan and upload **the signed signature pages** including the routing slip in the Print/Upload Signature Pages task in ResearchNet prior to submitting your application.

**Specific Instructions**

**Task: Identify Participants**

- List all participants in this task.

- For the Nominated Principal applicant, enter the confirmation number for the CIHR Academic CV or the Knowledge User CV, as appropriate.
- For each Principal Applicant and Co-Applicants, enter the confirmation number for the CIHR Academic CV.
- For each Principal Knowledge User and Knowledge Users:
    - enter the confirmation number for the CIHR Knowledge user CV; or
    - Members of the **Patient/family representatives/informal care providers** stakeholder group may provide a written statement (see task **Attach Other Application Materials** below for more details)
- Patient/family representatives/informal care providers stakeholder group named as "Collaborators" on the grant application are also required to provide written statements (see task **Attach Other Application Materials** below for more details).
- Free Form/ personal CVs will not be accepted.

**Task: Enter Proposal Information**

- The **research proposal** (**8 pages maximum**, not including references) should clearly outline each of the elements below (please also refer to the evaluation criteria):

1. **Approach**
    - Describe the goal(s) and scope of the planned activities.
    - Describe the approach and planned activities to achieve stated goals, taking into consideration the SPOR Capacity Development Framework and the SPOR Patient Engagement Framework. For example, how the planned activities will address the manner in which patients will be identified, contacted and prepared in a way that supports active collaborations.
    - Describe the approach, processes and engagement mechanisms to achieve meaningful patient engagement. **Note that one of the 8 pages** included in the research proposal should be dedicated to this criterion.

2. **Building capacity for patient-oriented research**:
    - Describe the role of patients and relevant stakeholders (research community, knowledge-users, citizens, etc.) and sectors (private, public, charities), their degree of engagement, and how this relates to the goal(s) of the proposal.
    - Describe how team members will develop skills for conducting patient-oriented research.
    - Describe the plan to catalyze new initiatives, develop new inter- and multi-disciplinary collaborations among researchers and knowledge users, including patients.

3. **Impact**
    - Describe anticipated outcomes and likely impact.
    - Describe how these activities will contribute to the improvement of health care systems and practices that support patient-oriented research.
    - Describe the proposed knowledge exchange and/or dissemination plans.

- **The Summary of progress is not required**
- **The Response to previous reviews task not required**

**Task: Enter Budget Information**

- Provide a detailed budget justification in relation to planned activities; this includes detailed information about the specific resources that will be used for the patient engagement activities, e.g., amounts allocated to facilitate engagement such as compensation, incentives, and the development of orientation and training processes.

**Task: Attach Other Application Materials**

- Letters of support/collaboration: Provide letters from all partners and collaborators that describe their role, activities, authorities, accountabilities and contributions (including intellectual, financial (cash or cash equivalent) and other resources).

- Please refer to the CIHR examples of details to be provided in letters of support.
- For participants providing written statements: Written statements describing the participant's contribution to the proposal and how their lived experience validates their fit for this role (**max 2 pages each**) can be uploaded under "Other" document type.
- Applicant table:
    - In table format, list all participants (including collaborators) with their affiliations and their role on the application as per the eligibility section. The table can be uploaded under "Other" document type.
- Note that the manner in which all personal information is collected and used is described in the Access to Information Act and Privacy Act.
- Publications (optional):
    - Append **a maximum of three (3) publications** relevant to the proposal.

**Task: Identify Application Partners – Upload Partner Information**

- A 'Partnership Details' form must be submitted for each partner providing cash or cash equivalent contributions.

**Task: Apply to Priority Announcement/Funding Pool:**

- Under the "**Priority Announcement/Funding Pool Title**", please select the Funding Pool from the drop down list below if applicable:
    - Clinician Scientists.

**Task: Print, Scan and Upload Signature Pages**

- Required signatures:
    - Signatures must be included for all applicants (except collaborators), and individual(s) with signing authority from the Institution Paid.
    - Original signatures are not required. The scanned signed signature pages and the Routing Slip must be uploaded in the Print/Upload Signature Pages task in ResearchNet prior to submitting your application.

## Contact Information

For all inquiries please contact:

CIHR Contact Center
Telephone: 613-954-1968
Toll Free: 1-888-603-4178
Email: support@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

Department of Family Medicine
Contact: Grace Perez
Telephone: 403-210-7129
Email: ggperez@ucalgary.ca

## Sponsor Description

### Internal Collaborators

**Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)**
The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)is the Government of Canada's health research investment agency. CIHR's mission is to create new scientific knowledge and to enable its translation into improved health, more effective health services and products, and a strengthened health care system for Canadians. Composed of 13 Institutes, CIHR provides leadership and support to more than 13,000 health researchers and trainees across Canada.

**Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR)**
Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) is about ensuring that the right patient receives the right intervention at the right time.

Patient-oriented research refers to a continuum of research that engages patients as partners, focusses on patient-identified priorities and improves patient outcomes. This research, conducted by multidisciplinary teams in partnership with relevant stakeholders, aims to apply the knowledge generated to improve healthcare systems and practices.

The objective of SPOR is to foster evidence-informed health care by bringing innovative diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to the point of care, so as to ensure greater quality, accountability, and accessibility of care.

SPOR is a coalition of federal, provincial and territorial partners – all dedicated to the integration of research into care:

- patients and caregivers
- researchers
- health practitioners
- policy makers
- provincial/territorial health authorities
- academic institutions
- charities
- private sector