

## Office of the Vice-President Research



# Research Funding and Support

A weekly update on  
funding opportunities,  
workshops, and other  
support services.

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Visit the [OVPR Grants Calendar](#) for up to date deadlines and events.  
Learn more about RASI services [online](#).

### USask Workshops and Support Services

## NSERC Discovery Grants and Research Tools and Instruments Grants: Oct/Nov 2024 Application: Internal Review/Intention to Apply

If you are applying for a [NSERC Discovery Grant \(DG\)](#) and/or [Research Tools and Instruments Grant \(RTI\)](#) this year, we would encourage you to participate in the Internal Review program offered by OVPR.

Your proposal will be forwarded to your suggested reviewers, providing an opportunity to get valuable feedback on your grant application.

In the event of an unsuccessful proposal, Internal Review of your DG application is one of the factors required to be eligible to apply for the President's NSERC Fund.

- To take part in the Internal Review program please complete the [2024 Intention to Apply/Request for Internal Review Form](#)
- Guidance on the steps and important dates can be found in the [2024 Internal Review Timeline](#)

**USask Intention to Apply/Request for Internal Review Deadline:** 26 July 2024

#### NSERC Deadlines:

- Discovery Grant – Notification of Intent | 01 August 2024
- Research Tools and Instruments Grant – Submission | 25 October 2024
- Discovery Grant – Submission | 01 November 2024

For more information, please contact Michaela Lynds, Research Development Specialist at [grant.review@uask.ca](mailto:grant.review@uask.ca).

### Internal Research Programs

## NSERC Alliance Society Catalyst Program – Call for Applications

Research Acceleration & Strategic Initiatives (RASI) is introducing a pilot program to support researchers who are developing competitive, large-scale [NSERC Alliance Society](#) applications. Alliance Society grants bring together partners from across sectors to address societal challenges that result in new natural sciences and engineering knowledge and societal impact. The Alliance Society program is at present undersubscribed, with success rates as high as 80%.

To support USask faculty members interested in applying for this program, the Alliance Society Catalyst Program will provide individuals admitted into the pilot with the following:

- Up to \$10,000 to support engagement activities with partners from the private, public, or not-for-profit sectors (current or emerging).
- The opportunity to be part of a cohort of applicants preparing Alliance Society grants, who will receive dedicated partner engagement and proposal development support.
- One-on-one support from RASI over the course of the grant development process.

The Catalyst Program will support a cohort of up to six faculty members who are planning to apply for an Alliance Society grant valued at or over \$200,000/year. Members will meet as a group regularly to work and learn together throughout the proposal development process. Topics to be covered at the group meetings include best practices in developing a Public Impact Value Proposition (PIVP), governance, team building, and identifying and describing tangible mechanisms for partner engagement in the project. Group meetings will be tailored to and shaped by the expertise and needs of the cohort members.

The cohort will be supported by members of the Strategic and Institutional Research Initiatives arm of RASI and will run for approximately 12 months, with proposals submitted to NSERC no later than March 2026.

The Catalyst Program will run in two phases:

- *Phase 1: Partnership Development – Fall 2024-Winter 2025*

Programming will focus on building a research team as well as reaching out to and establishing relationships with partners.

- *Phase 2: Intensive Grant Development – Spring 2025-Fall 2025*

Programming will focus on developing competitive applications for submission to NSERC.

**Application form:** available [here](#). *\*Please note, the link has changed\**

**Application deadline:** 30 August 2024.

If you have any questions regarding the Alliance Society Catalyst Program or your application, please contact [rasupport@usask.ca](mailto:rasupport@usask.ca).

## Cross Disciplinary and Institutional Opportunities

### Gairdner Early Career Investigator Competition

Up to five investigators working in the fields of this year's awards will be chosen to give 10 minute talks during one of the three major symposia of Gairdner Week, to connect with the 2024 laureates and to attend the 2024 Awards Gala on October 24, 2024 (travel and hotel provided). The talks will be broadcast live and recorded for YouTube distribution globally. Faculty and professionals at the assistant professor or equivalent rank can submit for the opportunity to present their research. Submissions should include a two minute video proposal for your research presentation, a four-five page CV, and a 150-word summary explaining how your science relates to one or more of this year's laureates. You can learn more about this opportunity [here](#).

**APPLICANTS MUST INDICATE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING LAUREATE OPTIONS AS THEIR INTENDED MATCH:**

- [David Klenerman](#) / [Pascal Mayer](#) / [Shankar Balasubramanian](#): **Next generation DNA sequencing, genomic**

- [Zelig Eshhar / Michel Sadelain](#): CAR-T cells and therapies; new cancer therapeutics
- [Gagandeep Kang](#): Enteric diseases, disease surveillance, pandemic preparedness
- [Meghan Azad](#): Infant nutrition, microbiome in child growth, development and resilience
- [Christian Landry](#): Synthetic, systems and computational biology in the evolution of cellular systems

Registration for a webinar on the competition: [here](#)

Internal Deadline: 05 July

External Deadline: 15 August

This is a competitive process, with the finalists being selected by the Gairdner laureates themselves. Please contact Institutional Awards Officer Brittany Walch ([brittany.walch@usask.ca](mailto:brittany.walch@usask.ca)) by July 5 if you are interested in pursuing this opportunity.

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## Health Sciences Opportunities and Updates

### CIHR Access Newsletter

Please see below for highlights from the 30 May 2024 [CIHR Access Newsletter](#):

- [Apply Now: CIHR Invests in Youth-Led Research](#)
- [Coming Soon! New Funding Opportunity for Dementia Researchers](#)
- [Apply to the TRANSCAN-03 Joint Transnational Call – Combination Therapies Against Cancer](#)
- [CIHR-Funded but Not Sure How to Recognize Our Support When Sharing Your Research?](#)
- [Launch of the New Institute of Gender and Health 2024-29 Research Priority Plan](#)
- [Clinical Trial Registration and Disclosure – 2023 Annual Monitoring Summary](#)
- [CIHR’s Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction-Supported Researchers Informing Guidelines for Virtual Delivery of Mental Health and Substance Use health Services](#)
- [New Report is a Blueprint for the Future Activities of the Dementia Research and Innovation Funders Alliance](#)
- [Congratulations Implementation Science Teams Grants Recipients!](#)
- [Celebrating the Best in Student and Trainee Neuroscience Research: The Latest Winners of the Brain Star Awards!](#)
- [Are We Ready to Embrace Digital Approaches for Mental Health?](#)
- [COVID Self-Testing: What is the Evidence?](#)
- [Interchange Canada Assignment Opportunity at Health Canada: Departmental Science Advisory \(DSA\)](#)

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## International Opportunities and Updates

## In-person Info Session: Experience with acquiring third-party funding via the Horizon 2020-EU Project

Interested in learning about partnering with European institutions and securing Horizon Europe funding? We are pleased to welcome Dr. Stefan Walheim from Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany, to share his experience applying for a Horizon 2020-EU project as a work project leader and managing a multi-partner consortium of research institutions and industry partners. Dr. Walheim and his team are project partners working on the AIRCOAT project, which promotes a passive air lubrication technology with the potential to revolutionize the ship-coating sector. This event is a campus-wide opportunity to learn from Dr. Walheim's first-hand experience about the scope, application process, management, and reporting for/of a project within the Horizon funding scheme. [Please register here.](#)

### Presenter:

Dr. Stefan Walheim studied physics at the University of Konstanz (Germany), where he completed his diploma thesis 1997 in polymer physics together with Ullrich Steiner (Professor, Université De Fribourg) and Georg Krausch (President, University of Mainz) in the group of Professor Jürgen Mlynek (previously held the position of CEO of the Helmholtz Association in Berlin). Dr. Walheim continued his work in Konstanz on the phase separation of polymer blend films during his dissertation, with extended stays in the laboratories of Professor Tom Russell and Professor Ed Kramer at the University of Massachusetts and the University of California at Santa Barbara respectively. Dr. Stefan Walheim co-developed several international patents and authored several top-cited scientific publications.

Since 2000, he has worked in the group of Prof. Dr. Schimmel at the Institute for Nanotechnology (INT) and the Institute of Applied Physics, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT).

**Date:** Wednesday, 05 June 2024; 2-3pm

**Location:** Arts 206 - [Register here](#)

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## European Research Council Info Session (virtual): Grants for Excellent Frontier Research – June 10, 2024

Learn about bottom-up grants available from the European Research Council (ERC), the premier European funding organization for excellent frontier research. The ERC supports investigator-driven frontier research across all fields. It awards research grants to scientists and scholars from all over the world, both early-career and senior researchers, carrying out their ambitious research projects in all scientific disciplines in Europe.

**Time:** 10 AM, 10 June 2024

Please register [here](#).

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## Horizon Europe – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Doctoral Networks – 2024 Call

The 2024 call for the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions \(MSCA\) Doctoral Networks](#) under [Horizon Europe](#), the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation, is open for submissions with a deadline to apply by **27 November 2024**.

This call will dedicate **€608.6 million** to fund over **160 projects** in all scientific fields and the training and skills development of **2,400 doctoral candidates**.

[MSCA Doctoral Networks](#) implement doctoral programmes through consortia of organisations from different sectors across Europe and beyond, including

- higher education institutions
- research institutions and infrastructures,
- private sector organisations, including industry, businesses and small and medium-sized enterprises
- public sector organisations, including national, regional, and local governments, agencies and museums
- other socio-economic actors

The MSCA are open to all domains of research and innovation, chosen freely by the applicants, and have a strong focus in interdisciplinary, international and intersectoral cooperation.

For more details on the composition of the consortia applying check the [scheme's page](#) and the [MSCA Work Programme](#). Read tips to prepare your application: [MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024 call: Six steps to prepare](#)

**Internal Deadline:** 13 November 2024

**External Deadline:** 27 November 2024

Join the info day on **07 June 2024** [here](#).

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## **U.S. NIH – Respective Calls Regarding Behavioral Sleep Interventions and Pathophysiology Between Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders**

### **Optimizing Behavioral Sleep Interventions for Adolescents and Young Adults (R34 Clinical Trial Required)**

National Institute of Mental Health ([NIMH](#)) seeks applications for pilot research to adapt, optimize, and test empirically supported behavioral interventions that address common sleep problems in adolescents and young adults with or at risk for a mental health disorder. Pilot trials should be designed to evaluate the feasibility, tolerability, acceptability, safety, and potential effectiveness of the approach in real world settings, and to conduct a preliminary test of the intervention's impact on target mechanisms and sleep and mental health outcomes, and to obtain preliminary data needed as a prerequisite a larger-scale effectiveness trial. An emphasis is placed on studies that address the needs of youth from understudied and underserved populations.

**Funding Amount:** up to USD \$450,000 in direct costs over the entire project period

**Funding Period:** up to 3 years

**Internal Deadline:** Ten business days prior to external deadlines

**LOI Deadline:** 30 days prior to the application due date

**External Deadlines:** 30 October 30 2024; 13 June 13 2025

## Using Neuromodulation to Characterize the Continuum of Pathophysiology Between Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders (R01 Clinical Trial Required)

This notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) seeks applications that coordinate efforts to simultaneously characterize the effects of neuromodulation on brain circuits and behaviors relevant to both substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health disorder (MHD). Proposed studies are expected to provide a mechanistic perspective on the shared and unique pathophysiology related to SUD and MHD through the causal manipulation of relevant circuit(s) via targeted neuromodulation in human participants.

**Funding Amount:** Application budgets are not limited but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project.

**Funding Period:** up to 5 years

**Internal Deadline:** Ten business days prior to external deadlines

**LOI Deadline:** 15 July 2024

**External Deadlines:** 15 August 2024

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## **IDRC and the Global Partnership for Education – Call for Proposal for the Education System Resilience Initiative**

International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) invite proposals to become implementing partners in the new [GPE KIX Observatory on Education System Resilience initiative](#). The purpose of the initiative is to contribute to the improvement of education system resilience of GPE partner countries through research and evidence. The task of implementing partners will be to establish and operate regional observatories, conduct applied research and mobilize its findings.

The call expects to fund six regional observatory projects: one in Latin America and the Caribbean, one in the East, West, Central, and Southern Africa region, and four in Europe, Middle East and North Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.

### **Eligibility:**

This funding opportunity is open to either individual organizations or consortia of up to three organizations working in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific. The lead organization must be headquartered in an LMIC, while consortium members may be from within LMICs or outside. Organizations/consortia must have a track record of work in GPE partner countries.

### **Funding amount:**

CAD 4 million for the entire initiative. The following budget limits have been set for the regional observatories:

- Latin America and the Caribbean: up to CAD400,000
- East, West, Central and Southern Africa: up to CAD1.5 millions
- Europe, Middle East and North Africa, Asia, and the Pacific: up to CAD2.1 million to be allocated across four sub-regions (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia; Middle East and North Africa; South Asia and Southeast Asia; and the Pacific)

**Duration:** 28 months

**Internal Deadline:** 27 June 2024

**External Deadline:** 11 July 2024

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## OpenAI Cybersecurity Grant Program

The OpenAI Cybersecurity Grant Program seeks to:

- Empower defenders: We would like to ensure that cutting-edge AI capabilities benefit defenders first and most.
- Measure capabilities: We are working to develop methods for quantifying the cybersecurity capabilities of AI models, in order to better understand and improve their effectiveness.
- Elevate discourse: We are dedicated to fostering rigorous discussions at the intersection of AI and cybersecurity, encouraging a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities in this domain.

OpenAI will evaluate and accept applications for funding or other support on a rolling basis. Strong preference will be given to practical applications of AI in defensive cybersecurity (tools, methods, processes). Offensive-security projects will not be considered for funding at this time. All projects should be intended to be licensed or distributed for maximal public benefit and sharing, and we will prioritize applications that have a clear plan for this.

**Funding amount:** \$10,000 USD, in the form of API credits, direct funding and/or equivalents.

**Internal Deadline:** Ten business days prior to external deadlines

**External Deadline:** Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

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## The ChadTough Defeat DIPG Foundation – Fellowship Grant

The ChadTough Defeat DIPG grants are intended to incentivize novel approaches and spark innovation to find a cure for the deadliest pediatric brain cancer, DIPG. The Foundation offers three types of grants: Fellowship Grants, New Investigator Grants, and Game Changer Grants. Currently the Fellowship Grant is open for applications.

Fellowship Grant is awarded to outstanding pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellows under the guidance of a mentor to help develop the next generation of leaders in DIPG research.

**Funding Amount and Duration:**

- US\$300,000 over 3 years (maximum of \$100,000 per year) for post-doctoral fellows
- US\$200,000 over 3 years (maximum of \$67,000 per year) for pre-doctoral fellows

**Internal Deadline:** 30 August 2024

**Application Deadline:** 13 September 2024

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## Eurofins Foundation Project Grant



The **Eurofins Foundation** (Belgium) supports initiatives aiming at protecting the environment, improving nutrition and health, helping nonprofits and social businesses working in the fields of environment or health protection and nutrition improvement, promoting inclusion, diversity and equality and all levels of society, supporting students who study or carry out research in fields aiming at contributing to safer and healthier lives but who lack sufficient financial resources, and helping charities active in the local communities where Eurofins companies' laboratories operate and their staff live and work.

Applications are open each year from March to October and a decision on funding for selected projects is made in Q4.

**Funding Amount:**

- Maximum 25% of a project / initiative cost and no more than 30,000€
- Grants can have varying amounts.
- Contributions are usually one-off and mostly non-recurring (except funds to universities, which provide grants to their students).

**Internal Deadline:** Ten business days prior to external deadlines

**External Deadline:** October of each year (details TBC)

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