

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

CIHR Project Grant Fall 2024 Workshop and Panel Q&A

A workshop and Panel Q&A is being hosted for the CIHR Fall 2024 Project Grant competition. It is a wonderful opportunity for both current and potential applicants to interact with successful Project Grant recipients and members of the peer review committee (including Scientific Officers/Chairs). Participants shall have the opportunity to gain significant insights and ask questions about the CIHR application and peer-review process. The workshop will also cover information on sex and gender consideration in health research and other special considerations during application development.

Date: 25 July 2024

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Location: HLTH 1130 (E-wing), Health Sciences Building

Register: [Online](#)

(Light Refreshments will be served.)

Workshop Agenda

1:00-1:45 PM:

Welcome; Program Overview/Updates; Amplified Internal Review

- Darcy Marciniuk, Associate Vice- President Research and CIHR Delegate
- Manisha Jalla, Research Development Specialist (CIHR), Office of Vice President Research
- Special Consideration in Application Development (including sex and gender component in health research):
- Robin Thurmeier, Research Facilitator, College of Nursing

1:45 – 3:00 PM: Panel Discussion and Q&A

Moderator: Darcy Marciniuk

Panelists:

- Deborah Anderson – Division of Oncology, Saskatchewan Cancer Agency
- Adam Baxter-Jones - College of Kinesiology;
- Linda Chelico – Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology, College of Medicine;
- Antonio Ruzzini – Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Western College of Veterinary Medicine
- Jessica Sheldon– Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology, College of Medicine

[Timelines](#) and [Notice of Intention](#) (NOI) form for Fall 2024 Project Grant competition are available on [USask Tri Agency website](#)

Questions can be sent to Manisha Jalla, at manisha.jalla@usask.ca

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@usask.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](#).

Application deadline: 30 August 2024.

If you have any questions regarding the Alliance Society Catalyst Program or your application, please contact راسي.اسك@usask.ca.

International Opportunities and Updates

IDRC: Research Award Recipient (RAR) Opportunities

IDRC's research awards application process for 2025 is now open! This year IDRC will offer research awards related to these development areas or themes:

[Climate-Resilient Food Systems \(based in Nairobi\)](#)

[Democratic and Inclusive Governance \(based in New Delhi\)](#)

[Education and Science](#)

[Ethics in Development Research](#)

[Global Health](#)

[Policy and Evaluation](#)

[Sustainable Inclusive Economies](#).

All awards will be based in Ottawa except for two awards that will be based in two of IDRC's regional offices. Please note that we have a hybrid work model, and awardees should report to the office a minimum of 3 days out of 10. If your research proposal is selected, you will join IDRC as a Research award recipient for a period of 12 months from January to December 2025 to undertake research on the topic you have submitted. You will receive hands-on experience in research and program management, monitoring, evaluation and learning, and the creation, dissemination, and use of knowledge from an international perspective. You can find more information [here](#).

Who can apply

- **For the awards based in Ottawa:** Canadian citizens, permanent residents of Canada, temporary foreign workers with a valid work permit and students from low or middle-income countries enrolled in a Canadian university with a valid study permit.
- **For the awards based in the regions, the candidates must hold citizenship of that country.**
- Students who are finishing a master's program or researchers who have completed a master's program within the last three years
- Preference will be given to candidates who have completed a master's degree.

Funding Amount: depends on the award type

Award Duration: 12 months from January to December 2025

External Deadline: 22 September 2024, 23:59 EST

BrightFocus Foundation: Macular Degeneration Research Program Request for Proposals

BrightFocus provides research funds for **U.S. domestic** as well as **international** researchers pursuing pioneering research leading to greater understanding, prevention, and treatment of age-related macular degeneration. BrightFocus is committed to supporting scientists from diverse backgrounds to foster creativity and innovation in addressing complex scientific challenges. The applications are encouraged from individuals who are from groups underrepresented in the field of age-related macular degeneration research. The [Macular Degeneration Research Program](#) offers three types of awards:

A. Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

Scope: This fellowship program is intended to support young postdoctoral researchers during their final stages of mentored training. The award provides salary support for a young scientist to conduct postdoctoral studies in an established laboratory focused on research contributing to understanding the biological causes and/or new clinical treatment of macular degeneration and should also serve as the basis for the applicant's own independent research career.

Proposal Length: Two-page description of the proposed research

Award Amount: USD \$100,000 per year (total value USD \$200,000)

Duration: 2 years

B. New Investigator Grant Program

Scope: This research grant is intended to support investigators during their early years as an independent investigator involved in studies that have an impact on the causes and/or treatment of macular degeneration.

Proposal Length: Two-page description of the proposed research

Award Amount: USD \$150,000 per year (total value USD \$450,000)

Duration: up to 3 years

C. Innovative Research Grants

Scope: This program is intended to provide support for high-risk/high-gain age-related macular degeneration research. We hope to attract established investigators to apply for this support, but the aims of the application must contain outside-the-box ideas that are novel in the field. Applicants who are experts in

another field are encouraged to apply their talents to proposing innovative research in the macular degeneration field.

Proposal Length: Three-page description of the proposed research

Award Amount: USD\$200,000 per year (total value USD\$600,000)

Duration: up to 3 years

Intent to Apply Deadline: 25 July 2024

Internal Deadline: 21 November 2024

Full Application Deadline: 05 December 2024, 5:00 p.m. EST

BrightFocus Foundation: Alzheimer's Disease Research Program Request for Proposals

BrightFocus provides research funds for **U.S. domestic** as well as **international** researchers pursuing pioneering research leading to greater understanding, prevention, and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. The applications are encouraged from individuals who are from groups underrepresented in the field of Alzheimer's disease research. The [Alzheimer's Disease Research Program](#) offers two types of awards:

A. Standard Awards

Must be allowed by institution to apply for and manage a grant award and mentor students.

The standard award provides significant funding for researchers who have already generated some amount of preliminary data, but are often required to demonstrate additional, significant progress before they can apply to governmental or industrial funding agencies.

- **Award Amount:** USD \$300,000
- **Duration:** 3 years

B. Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards

Must be within 5 years of degree conferral.

Postdoctoral fellowship awards are intended for young researchers in their final stages of mentored training. These awards fund projects in an established laboratory that will serve as the basis for the applicant's own independent research career.

- **Award Amount:** USD \$200,000
- **Duration:** 2 years

Intent to Apply Deadline: 02 August 2024

Internal Deadline: 06 December 2024

Full Application Deadline: 20 December 2024, 5:00 p.m. EST

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany: 2024 Research Grants

Since 2018, the foundation is offering a series of research grants to stimulate innovative research in challenging areas of future importance. Grants of up to 500,000 € per year for up to 3 years have been made available. In 2024, grants are available in the area as further specified below:

- **Discovery strategies for molecular glue degraders and other protein-protein-interaction stabilizers** - 1 grant comprising up to 100,000 €/year for up to 3 years with potential further collaboration
- **Augmented Reality Digital Twin** - 1 grant comprising up to 120,000 €/year for 1 year with potential further collaboration
- **AI-Driven Drug Discovery** – up to 3 grants comprising AIDDISON software licenses for one year with potential further collaboration

This research grants program is open to scientists in all career stages who are affiliated with any research-based institution, university or company. You can find more information [here](#).

In **the first stage** of the Research Grants applications process, applicants submit their application containing non-confidential information only. You may apply for more than one grant or submit your application for more than one category. If your application is successful, you are invited to submit a full proposal under confidentiality and join a deep-dive workshop. All applicants are informed about the decision of the selection committee.

The second stage of the Research Grant process is a collaborative step, the deep-dive workshop. Finalists submit their full proposals and then work together with our managers and scientists to jointly optimize submitted project proposals. All teams reaching this stage will be informed in October. The deep-dive workshops are currently scheduled to take place in November 2024. The culmination of the deep-dive workshops will be the selection of the research grant winners.

The third stage of the Research Grants process is the Research Grant funding phase. To enable pay-out and project start, we enter into bilateral collaboration agreements with the winning recipients. Our collaborative Research Grants are a unique opportunity for researchers who are interested in working with our scientists and receive guidance from industry. During the Research Grant funding period, there will therefore be regular meetings with our scientists.
Submission deadline.

Funding Amount: Depends on the type

Project Duration: depends on the type

Internal Deadline: 16 August 2024

External Deadline: 31 August 2024

Biocodex Foundation: Transformation of bile acids by the gut microbiota: Functional implications for the host and consequences for human health

The Biocodex Microbiota Foundation funds research projects focused on human gut microbiota related to health and disease. Every year, the call for proposals covers a specific theme chosen by an International Scientific Committee. Either clinical or fundamental research proposals can be submitted.

The maximal duration of the project will be 3 years. You can find more information [here](#).

The applicants

The grant is open to physicians, PhD's and Pharm-D's working in the subject area (gastroenterology, pediatrics, microbiology, infectious diseases and internal medicine, etc). There are no geographic limitations of applicants. Candidates from all countries are potentially eligible. A principal investigator having already received a Biocodex Microbiota Foundation international grant cannot apply anymore. However, principal investigator of a National Grant can apply for the International Grant.

The grant

The annual grant is set at €200,000 VAT included, independently of the duration of the project (between 1 and 3 years). When the duration of the research is longer than one year, the payment of the grant will be spread annually and according to the provisional budget, under the condition that Biocodex Microbiota Foundation receives annual interim reports. The grant will be awarded to researchers within universities, hospitals or other research settings in order to finance equipment, operations or staffing costs associated with the project. However, the grants will not be awarded to an individual.

Funding Amount: 200 000€

Project Duration: 1-3 years

Internal Deadline: 15 November 2024

External Deadline: 30 November 2024

Earthranger: 2024 Conservation Tech Award

The [Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence](#) (AI2)'s [EarthRanger](#) program is committed to helping protected areas and conservation organizations safeguard wildlife and their habitats through the advancement of technology. AI2 seeks to provide two (2) grants, **each in the amount of \$15,000 USD**, to organizations that deployed or developed technology to make a positive impact in conservation management, including but not limited to, the security of endangered animals, animal behavior research, anti-poaching enforcement, ecological management, and human-wildlife coexistence. The agencies are **specifically** looking to support existing efforts that have already demonstrated a measure of success and not for proposals of intended future work:

- **Technology Adopter Grant:** this grant is for an organization that adopted technology in new or novel ways for wildlife conservation purposes.
- **Technology Practitioner Grant:** this grant is for an organization that developed technology (e.g., software, applications, AI models/algorithms, hardware) to support conservation efforts.
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Applications must be fully completed by August 23, 2024 and include a point of contact on behalf of the organization. Note that applicants **need not be involved** with the EarthRanger program in order to apply. For more information about this grant program, please refer to our [FAQs](#).

Funding Amount: \$15,000 USD

Internal Deadline: 09 August 2024

External Deadline: 23 August 2024

NIH: RFA-DA-25-040: Translational Resource Centers to Build Bridges Between Substance Use Epidemiology/Etiology and Prevention Intervention Research (U24 Clinical Trials Not Allowed)

Effective translation and cross-fertilization between research disciplines are long-standing and challenging problems. The purpose of this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) is to seek innovative applications for Translational Resource Centers that will establish and support multidisciplinary research teams to conduct translational research between the fields of 1) *substance use epidemiology and etiology* and 2) *substance use prevention intervention*. Resource centers are expected to conduct activities that bring investigators in these fields together for active collaboration to develop research questions, design study approaches (with either collection of new data or analysis of existing data), and to develop strategies for application of findings from one field into research in the other field. Collaborative activities supported by the Center should have specific goals that lead to concrete products (e.g., publications, grant applications, intervention development or adaptation) and must include a plan for evaluating center success. You can find more information [here](#).

Funding Amount: Application budgets must not exceed \$350,000 in direct costs for any year of the project

Project Duration: The maximum project period is 4 years

Intent to Apply Deadline: 13 October 2024

Internal Deadline: 29 October 2024

Full Proposal Deadline: 13 November 2024

NIH: Mechanisms of Reciprocal Interactions between HIV Associated Neuroinflammation and CNS Persistence: Implications in HIV Neuropathogenesis and Cure

US National Institutes of Health opens two funding opportunities:

- A. [RFA-MH-25-180: Mechanisms of Reciprocal Interactions between HIV Associated Neuroinflammation and CNS Persistence: Implications in HIV Neuropathogenesis and Cure \(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\) \(nih.gov\)](#)
- B. [RFA-MH-25-181: Mechanisms of Reciprocal Interactions between HIV Associated Neuroinflammation and CNS Persistence: Implications in HIV Neuropathogenesis and Cure \(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\) \(nih.gov\)](#)

The goal of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is to examine mechanisms of reciprocal interactions between HIV-associated neuroinflammation and central nervous system (CNS) HIV persistence. In particular this NOFO encourages research focused on defining the role and mechanisms of defective pro viruses, HIV proteins and/or nucleic acids in inducing inflammation, immune activation and CNS co-morbidities. The impact of neuroinflammation in regulating CNS reservoir dynamics is also an area of interest. Novel therapeutic strategies targeting the reciprocal impact of persistent virus and associated neuroinflammation in the CNS compartment is also an area of high priority for this initiative. State of the art CNS cell systems, organoid models, post-mortem tissue, animal models and single-cell technologies can be used as potential tools to address this research area. Basic and translational research in domestic and international settings are of interest. Multidisciplinary research teams and collaborations are encouraged but not required. High

risk/high payoff projects that lack preliminary data are most appropriate for the [RFA-MH-25-181](#) R21 mechanism, while applicants with preliminary data should apply to the R01 mechanism, [RFA-MH-25-180](#).

Funding Amount:

R01: Application budgets are not limited but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project;

R21: No more than \$200,000 in direct costs may be requested in any single year

Project Duration:

R01: The maximum project period is 5 years;

R21: The maximum project period is 2 years

Intent to Apply Deadline: 8 October 2024

Internal Deadline: 24 October 2024

Full Proposal Deadline: 09 November 2024

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