

## Office of the Vice-President Research



# Research Funding and Support

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

### In this Issue – 15 July 2024

#### **USask Workshops and Support Services:**

- [CIHR Project Grant Fall 2024 Workshop and Panel Q&A](#)
- [NSERC Discovery Grants and Research Tools and Instruments Grants - Oct/Nov 2024 Application: Internal Review/Intention to Apply](#)

#### **Internal Research Programs:**

- [NSERC Alliance Society Catalyst Program – Call for Applications](#)

#### **Cross Disciplinary and Institutional Opportunities and Updates:**

- [Mitacs Accelerate Program Update](#)

#### **International Opportunities and Updates:**

- [Biocodex Microbiota Foundation International Call for Projects](#)
- [BrightFocus Foundation: National Glaucoma Research \(NGR\) Request for Proposals](#)
- [Global Affairs Canada: Unsolicited Proposal](#)
- [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\): Mechanisms of Inducing HIV Immunity in Early Life \(MIEL\) \(U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)
- [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\): Mechanistic Studies to Investigate the Interrelationship Between Sleep and/or Circadian Rhythms and Substance Use Disorders \(R01 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required\)](#)

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

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [rasi.support@usask.ca](mailto:rasi.support@usask.ca).

---

## Cross Disciplinary and Institutional Opportunities

### Mitacs Accelerate Program Update

For 2024-25, because of reduction in Mitacs budget from the Federal Government, and no changes to existing provincial commitment (various reasons – Provincial Elections in the Fall; current Minister retiring; further funding against this electoral backdrop is an unlikely option), the number of 4-6 months internship units (Units) for Saskatchewan has been reduced, resulting in reduction in proportion of number of Units to USask. Considering this practical constraint, here are some of the temporary changes (in consultation with Mitacs) that will be in effect until 31 March 2025 or until further notice. Only Mitacs Accelerate program will be affected by this change, excluding the Accelerate Indigenous Pathways and Accelerate Quantum.

For the remaining 2024-25 fiscal year, USask and Mitacs will only accept Accelerate applications as per the following guidelines:

- SK-based partner organizations (whether for-profit or not-for-profit, hospital or municipality);
- Named students and postdocs; and
- Smaller applications – maximum 3 units if the partner is a for-profit company, and maximum 1 unit if the partner organization is a not-for-profit organization.

USask and Mitacs will not be supporting any application to the Mitacs-NSERC Alliance program until 31 March 2025, or until further notice. Please note that the same Principal Investigator may submit multiple Accelerate applications, however, with a different partner.

NOTE: Please communicate either directly with Zsuzsa Papp, Senior Advisory, Business Development, Mitacs, or your respective Research Support Specialists at Research Acceleration and Strategic

Initiatives (RASI), USask before initiating a Mitacs Accelerate application to verify that there are Mitacs units available to pursue.

---

## International Opportunities and Updates

### Biocodex Microbiota Foundation International Call for Projects

[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 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.

**Project Duration:** 1- 3 years

**Funding Amount:** €200,000 total over the duration of the project

**Internal Deadline:** 15 November 2024

**External Deadline:** 30 November 2024

---

### BrightFocus Foundation: National Glaucoma Research (NGR) Request for Proposals

BrightFocus provides research funds for U.S. and international researchers pursuing pioneering research leading to greater understanding, prevention, and treatment of glaucoma.

BrightFocus is committed to supporting scientists from diverse backgrounds to foster creativity and innovation in addressing complex scientific challenges. We strongly encourage applications from individuals who are from groups underrepresented in the field of glaucoma research.

[National Glaucoma Research](#) offers two types of awards:

1. Standard Awards

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: \$200,000

Duration: 2 years

2. Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards

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: \$150,000

Duration: 2 years

**Internal Deadline:** 17 October 2024

**External Deadline:** 31 October 2024 5:00pm EST

---

## Global Affairs Canada: Unsolicited Proposal

There are many more needs and requests for support than any one donor can fund. We only fund select initiatives that strongly align with [Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy](#) and program priorities. You can view more information [here](#).

Before you decide to apply:

- Please note that the unsolicited proposal funding mechanism consists of a 2-step process. The first step is the submission of a concept note. If the concept note is of interest to GAC, you will be invited to submit a full proposal. Before you decide to work on a concept note, you may consult the full proposal form. It shows the level of detail you will need to provide in order to be considered for funding, if you are invited to submit a full proposal. **Do not use the full proposal form for your concept note.** See [Concept note guidance](#).
- Review the [general terms and conditions of the contribution agreement](#). Ensure that your organization understands and has the capacity to respect them if funding is provided.
- Verify the legal status of your organization. We can only provide funding to legal entities. Canadian organizations must also have a Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) number.

**Value:** Depends on the proposed project

**Duration:** Depends on the proposed project

**Deadline:** Ongoing

---

## National Institutes of Health (NIH): Mechanisms of Inducing HIV Immunity in Early Life (MIEL) (U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

The purpose of this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) is to support basic and applied research to define the mechanisms for establishing, developing and maintaining immunity to HIV in early life (from birth to less than 12 years of age), including the impact of prophylactic vaccination and broadly neutralizing HIV antibodies (bNAbs) to protect against acquisition of HIV infection. You can find more information [here](#).

**Project Duration:** Maximum duration is 5 years

**Funding Amount:** \$3 million USD has been allocated to fund 3 – 4 awards

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** 30 days prior to the application due date

**Internal Deadline:** 25 September 2024

**External Deadline:** 09 October 2024

---

## National Institutes of Health (NIH): Mechanistic Studies to Investigate the Interrelationship Between Sleep and/or Circadian Rhythms and Substance Use Disorders (R01 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required)

The purpose of this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) is to support basic science experimental studies involving humans to expand our knowledge of the interrelationships between sleep/circadian rhythms and substance use disorders (SUDs). These mechanistic studies will offer insights into the fundamental processes

that link SUDs to sleep/circadian rhythms and vice-versa, and may also have implications for managing risks associated with developing SUDs and/or identifying new targets for prevention and therapeutics. You can find more information [here](#).

**Project Duration:** Maximum duration is 5 years

**Funding Amount:** \$300,000 direct costs/year

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** September 29, 2024

**Internal Deadline:** 15 October 2024

**External Deadline:** 29 October 2024



BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS