



## **Innovation Funds to support research on the Cardiovascular Complications of COVID-19**

The devastating toll of the global COVID-19 pandemic continues. Recognizing the enormity of the challenge, a growing number of calls for research have been launched, with new calls continuing to be announced.

The Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research's Executive Committee has determined that rather than launch an independent call for its own research competition, it will offer **Innovation Funds of up to \$500,000 as funds in support of research projects submitted to other competitions**, for innovative, impactful research project(s) that focus on **cardiovascular complications** of COVID-19. Where appropriate, funds may be used to match or augment funds already received from other organizations, or fund high-ranking, high-quality projects that could not be funded by the other competitions. As the latter requires direct coordination between the Ted Rogers Centre and other research funding organizations, it may not be possible in all cases – but the Ted Rogers Centre is prepared to make best efforts to attempt this for projects deemed to be of particular interest and with potential for impact.

Eligible projects are those submitted to COVID-19 research calls from recognized organizations such as the University of Toronto COVID-19 Action Fund; Ontario Together fund; CIHR; NSERC; MSH UHN AMO; etc. Eligible projects **must focus on addressing cardiovascular (CV) complications in patients with COVID-19** including (but not necessarily limited to) innovations aimed at the following 4 priority areas: **(i)** identification of patients at high risk of developing CV related complications; **(ii)** early detection of CV complications in patients with COVID-19; **(iii)** prevention of CV related complications in patients with COVID-19; and **(iv)** treatment or management of CV complications in patients with COVID-19, including longer term sequelae and follow up.

### **Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research**

The Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research (TRCHR) is focused on transforming the prevention and management of heart disease – in particular, heart failure. The Centre's mission includes children and adults, with an over-arching goal of addressing **heart failure across the entire lifespan**. The Centre's current research programs are organized along three main themes:

- *Precision Medicine and the Cardiac Genome Clinic* apply novel biology-driven approaches to finding new therapies for infant and childhood onset heart failure and support adult and pediatric genomic studies intended to decipher the genetic basis of heart failure in those with congenital heart disease and cardiomyopathies.
- *Integrated Program for Excellence in Heart Function* will optimize heart failure outcomes, improve quality of life and reduce readmission to hospital. Its goal is to reduce re-hospitalizations for heart failure by 50% in 10 years.
- *Translational Biology and Engineering Program* examines how genes, molecules and cells function during cardiovascular development, wellness and disease to uncover strategies to repair, regenerate or replace heart tissues.

More information is available <https://tedrogersresearch.ca/>.

### **Innovation Funds for research on cardiovascular complications of COVID-19**

**For applicants:** If you are interested in being considered for Ted Rogers Innovation Funding for a COVID-19 project submitted to a recognized research call, send an email to Dr. Mansoor Husain, Executive Director, Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research, [Mansoor.Husain@uhn.ca](mailto:Mansoor.Husain@uhn.ca) and cc Linda Donovan, Planning & Operations Manager, TRCHR [linda.donovan@tedrogersresearch.ca](mailto:linda.donovan@tedrogersresearch.ca) noting the following information: (a) principal investigator name and contact

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information; (b) project title; (c) how your research project focuses on cardiovascular complications of COVID-19; (d) timelines of the proposed project; (e) name of the funding organization and funding call you have or will apply to; (f) funding organization's contact information; (g) amount of funding requested from the funding organization; and (h) amount of funding requested from TRCHR; and (i) what additional TRCHR funding would enable; by **May 1, 2020 4pm EST**. Include with your email: a) a copy of the application you have (will) submitted to the other COVID-19 research call; b) your Ted Rogers COVID-19 application form. The TRCHR COVID-19 application form should be used to provide information/address questions not covered in your other application, or to provide additional information not included in your other application due to space constraints etc.

**For funding organizations:** If you are interested in learning more about accessing Ted Rogers Innovation Funding as an additional funding source for your COVID-19 research competition, please send an email to Dr. Mansoor Husain, Executive Director, Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research, [Mansoor.Husain@uhn.ca](mailto:Mansoor.Husain@uhn.ca) and cc Linda Donovan, Planning & Operations Manager, TRCHR [linda.donovan@tedrogersresearch.ca](mailto:linda.donovan@tedrogersresearch.ca) noting the following information: (a) name of your COVID-19 research call; (b) focus of the call and eligible projects; (c) funding available per project and total funding envelope; (d) your contact information; by **May 1, 2020 4pm EST**. Please also include with your email, a copy of your research call and application form.

Expedited review will be undertaken by the TRCHR's Executive Team, with the objective of providing funding on an expedited basis.