SU2C Canada Cancer Stem Cell Dream Team Webinar

Question and Answers

TEAM COMPOSITION

Q-1. Who can apply for this funding opportunity?

Applicant eligibility criteria for all Genome Canada and CIHR research funding programs apply.

The research opportunity is in support of one integrated and cohesive pan-Canadian Dream Team that will undertake cancer stem cell genomics research. Each Team must include:

- **Dream Team Leader** (an independent researcher at a Genome Canada/CIHR eligible institution);
- **Dream Team co-Leader** (an independent researcher at a Genome Canada/CIHR eligible institution, preferably from an independent Institution and different regional jurisdiction from that of the Dream Team Leader);
- **At least four team members** (i.e., Dream Team Principals other than Dream Team Leader and Dream Team co-Leader) at least one of whom should be an expert in translational research);
- **At least one Young Investigator;** and
- **At least one End-User and One Patient Engagement Representative**.

Q-2. What are the differences between the different categories of participants?

Dream Team Leader (DTL). The Dream Team Leader is responsible for the intellectual direction of the proposed research and assumes administrative and financial responsibility for funds which will be paid to their institution.

Dream Team Co-leader. A Dream Team Co-leader should be designated to assist in directing the scientific and technical work of the Team. A Co-leader will serve as an alternate contact person for the funders.

Dream Team Principals (DTPs). Dream Team Principals are senior investigators who will lead a component(s)/subproject(s) of the Dream Team research project.

End-Users. End-users are defined as organizations and/or individuals who are able to use the deliverables generated through the research to make informed decisions on issues such as practice guidelines and standards, policies, programs, and product development. They will enable the Dream Team scientists to see their research through the eyes of the target audience and integrate these perspectives into the direction of the Dream Team research.

Patient Engagement Representatives. Include individuals with personal experience of a health issue and/or informal caregivers. Patient Engagement Representatives are defined as individuals who are able to actively collaborate in the governance, priority setting, and conduct of research as well as in summarizing, distributing, sharing, and applying its resulting knowledge. Patient Engagement Representatives will enable the Dream Team scientists to see their research through the eyes of the target audience and integrate these perspectives into the direction of the Dream Team research. Patient

Engagement Representatives do not represent the viewpoints or issues of any one organization nor their individual personal perspectives.

Investigators. Senior investigators, other than the DTL, Co-leader, and DTPs, who contribute substantively to the Dream Team research project.

Young Investigators. Junior faculty (i.e. independent investigators who have completed their training no more than 5 years prior to the start of the research funding term), postdoctoral fellows, clinical research fellows, or any other researchers-in-training who are working under the direction of a scientific mentor (i.e., a DTL, Co-leader, DTP, or Investigator) may be included as members of the Dream Team.

Collaborators. A Collaborator is an individual who is not involved in the day-to-day execution of the research but whose role is to provide a specific service or expertise (e.g., access to equipment, provision of specific reagents, training in a specialized technique, statistical analysis, access to a patient population, etc.).

Q-3. Can the team include members from the same institution?

Yes. It is expected that additional Investigators from the DTL's or DTP's institutions may be involved in the Dream Team research project, and there is no limit to the number of Investigators from each of the collaborating institutions; however, no Dream Team will have more than **two Leaders or Principals from the same or affiliated institutions.**

Q-4. What is the definition of pan-Canadian?

For this program pan-Canadian means that the team must include Principals from AT LEAST three different provinces/territories. Nevertheless the intent is to be as inclusive as possible.

Q-5. Can the team include International and non-Academic members?

Dream Teams may include international, private sector (for-profit organizations), or federal laboratory scientists. However, SU2C Canada, Genome Canada and CIHR funding is restricted to work performed within Genome Canada/CIHR eligible institutions.

Q-6. Can applicants be on more than one SU2C Canada- Sponsored Dream Team?

A researcher may not be on more than **one currently funded SU2C Canada-sponsored Dream Team**. No more than fifty percent of the Principals (including Leader and Co-leader) from a previous or current Dream Team may apply as a group on a new Dream Team proposal.

ELIGIBLE RESEARCH AREA

Q-7. What is the main focus of this funding opportunity?

The focus of this opportunity is to address the role of CSCs and stem cell programs on resistance and treatment failure in cancer.

Q-8. Does the project need to include a genomic component?

Yes, the research program must include genomic approaches as essential components in terms of importance to the overall outcomes of the research program.

Q-9. Do teams need to propose clinical trials as part of their application?

The Dream Team must present a plan for how the Dream Team's discoveries can be translated into applications and clinical utility. While Clinical Trials are certainly one way to demonstrate translation into application and clinical utility, it is not the only approach.

Q-10. Are there additional eligibility criteria?

The Dream Team must also:

- **Build a pan-Canadian program** which brings together interdisciplinary research groups to answer questions that will significantly advance the field of CSC research (e.g., specific disease areas, underlying cellular mechanisms, etc.);
- **Be integrated and cohesive**, based on excellence and innovation, and be highly networked across the country and to include existing platforms and resources, as well as those to be developed;
- **Address issues of importance to end-users**, including industry, health care administrators, and oncology practice guideline panels;
- **Demonstrate engagement with industry** including: areas of collaboration, sharing of resources and expertise, and provision of co-funding; and
- **Include mechanisms for sharing resources and platforms** (knowledge, talent, tools, technologies, etc.) and for developing or incorporating new methods and technologies.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Q-11. How much funding is available for the Program?

There are currently **$10.6 million** available for this SU2C Canada Cancer Stem Cell Dream Team, with funds from the CSCC (through Genome Canada and CIHR) and SU2C Canada .

In addition to the funds available from the CSCC (through Genome Canada and CIHR) and SU2C Canada, the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR) has made available **up to $3 million** of supplemental funds to support clinical trial activities should the successful proposal include clinical trial activities

within the province of Ontario http://www.genomecanada.ca/medias/pdf/en/SU2CCanada_OICR_Supplemental_Funding_Guidelines. Pdf .. It should be noted that clinical trial activities in any region of the country can be supported by the $10.6 million available from Genome Canada, CIHR and SU2C Canada. Continued efforts to partner and collaborate with other organizations to support the objectives of the SU2C Canada Cancer Stem Cell Dream Team, though partnerships on specific projects, are ongoing

Q-12. Is there a co-funding requirement for this program?

No specific co-funding ratio has been set for this program. Applicants are encouraged to explore potential partnering and collaboration opportunities AND projects must demonstrate engagement with industry to be eligible, including; areas of collaboration, sharing of resources and expertise, and **provision of co-funding**

Q-13. What type of co-funding from Industry satisfies the above requirement (see Q-13)?

Industry can provide cash and/or in-kind contributions to the project. In-kind contributions, are defined as non-cash eligible budget items which can be given a cash value (such as salaries for company personnel working on the project, libraries and compounds held by the company etc.).

Q-14. Will the inclusion of co-funding from sources other than industry be an evaluation criteria and provide an advantage to teams?

Co-funding from sources other than industry is not an eligibility requirement for this program and therefore is not part of the evaluation criteria and by itself provides no advantage to a team. Nevertheless appropriate partnerships and collaborations, that support the objectives of and strengthen the proposal, that may include co-funding, could provide additional overall value to a team that would be taken into consideration in the review.

Q-15. Are there conditions associated with the supplemental OICR funding?

The financial contribution from OICR is available for clinical activities conducted in Ontario associated with Dream Team projects. To be eligible for OICR funding teams require an Ontario Clinical Trial Lead (i.e., A Dream Team member (Dream Team Leader/Co-leader or Dream Team Principal) who will lead the clinical trial activities in Ontario). The Ontario Clinical Trial Lead must have demonstrated expertise, a track-record in conducting clinical trials and be connected to the Ontario clinical research community. This expertise should be evident in the submitted biographical information. Letters of support from the other clinical trials collaborators in Ontario should confirm the Clinical Trial Lead's commitment to patient accrual.

APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

Q-16. What is the Application Process?

This will be a two-stage process: Letters of Intent (LOIs) and Full Proposals.

Q-17. How will the Letters of Intent be reviewed?

The SU2C Canada Scientific Advisory Committee (CSAC), chaired by Dr. Phil Sharpe and co-Chaired by Dr. Alan Bernstein, and the Cancer Stem Cell Subcommittee will review LOIs for eligibility and overall merit of the proposed research, and potential for the Dream Team's discoveries to be translated into applications and clinical utility.

Q-18. How many Letters of Intent will be invited to submit a full application?

At least two, and up to three, of the most meritorious LOIs will be invited to submit full proposals.

Q-19. What is the role of the Workshops?

Each top-ranked Team (at least two, and up to three, eligible and meritorious LOIs) will be invited to develop a full proposal through a workshop with stakeholders, end-users, and potential partners, including industry, industry associations, health-care administrators, and oncology practice guideline panels. The development workshops, which will take place independently for each potential Dream Team, will serve to develop the Research Program, refine Dream Team membership, identify additional sources of funding, optimize the proposal's alignment with the objectives of the call and relevance to stakeholders, end-users, and potential partners, and ensure its potential for research translation and end-user uptake.

Q-20. When will the workshops take place?

The workshops must take place between **February 23 and March 1, 2015**

Q-21. Who should participate in the Workshops?

The Workshops should include key members of the proposed team. The Leader and Co-leader candidates are required to attend. The workshops will be led by the Leaders of each successful LOI and supported by Genome Canada and CIHR. Representatives from the AACR International-Canada, SU2C Canada and other partners will be present as observers. The funders will cover the costs of the workshops including travel for key members of the team up to a maximum amount.

Q-22. How will the full applications be reviewed?

The full proposals will be reviewed for eligibility, relevance, and overall excellence as determined by the review criteria, by a committee comprised of the CSAC, the Cancer Stem Cell subcommittee, and the chair of the subcommittee reviewing the SU2C-Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation program. One pan-Canadian SU2C Canada Cancer Stem Cell Dream Team will be selected by the committee from the invited full proposals during a face-to-face meeting with the finalist Dream Teams.

Q-23. How do I apply?

Letters of Intent and full applications will be submitted to AACR Canada using the proposalCENTRAL website at https://proposalcentral.altum.com.

Q-24. What must be included in the LOI?

Submissions must demonstrate excellence in how they meet both the program specific eligibility criteria and the technical eligibility criteria, and include the following elements:

- Project Summary Statement – Briefly describe the idea for a pan-Canadian SU2C Canada Cancer Stem Cell Dream Team and provide justification for the suggestions with background information. Provide the rationale as to how the research groups, individually and together as one pan-Canadian Dream Team will advance the field e.g., what questions will be addressed and how this will advance the science in the CSC field?
- Impact for Patients – Describe how your proposed research as a pan-Canadian interdisciplinary, multi-institutional, and collaborative Cancer Stem Cell Dream Team would result in more rapid innovative advances in the field, and how the Dream Team's discoveries can be translated into applications and clinical utility.
- Approach – Describe the research approaches and identify key personnel, i.e., a Dream Team Leader, Co-leader, and other Principals, whose expertise would contribute successfully to the suggested research program. Each Team should consist of one Dream Team Leader, a Dream Team Co-leader, additional Dream Team Principals, at least one of whom should be expert in translational research, and at least one Patient Engagement Representative, and one end-user.
- Potential co-funding/partnering with stakeholders and end-users, including industry
- Plan for sharing resources and platforms, including plans for expansion of existing platforms or development of new platforms
- If applicable, OICR Supplementary clinical trials description should be included in the 3-page LOI.
- Key Literature References – References to publications supporting the proposal may be included.

Q-25. What is the length of the LOI?

Submissions must be in English no longer than three (3) pages and utilize no smaller than 11 point type (font) size. References are not part of the 3-page limit.

In addition, a 2-page biosketch is required for the Dream Team Leader, Co-leader, and Principals

Q-26. What is the LOI deadline date?

Letters of intent have to be submitted through proposalCENTRAL by 12:00 p.m. (noon) EST **Monday December 8, 2014.**

Q-27. What is the full application deadline date?

Only those applicants having successfully passed the LOI stage may submit a full application. Completed online applications must be submitted by **12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time on (Monday April 27, 2015)** using the proposalCENTRAL.

Q-28. What must be included in the full application?

All applications must be submitted in English.

The materials to be submitted in the order listed and using the templates provided, are:

- Signature Pages, with contact information and the original signatures of the Dream Team Leader(s), Principals, end user, patient engagement representative, and Institutional Signing Officials
- Lay Abstract
- *Research Project Proposal
- Budget
- Budget Justification
- Biographical Information of Dream Team Leaders and Principals
- Letters from Investigators and Collaborators
- Project Milestones
- Appendices, if applicable
- *Optional OICR supplemental funding:
    1) OICR Research Proposal (up to 4 pages) and OICR Budget Justification (up to 1 page)
    2) OICR Budget (Excel Sheet)

The full application forms are available on the proposalCENTRAL website at https://proposalcentral.altum.com