

August 18, 2015

ONF-REPAR Team Support: An ONF-REPAR Partnership
REVISED Application Guidelines for Funding

The ONF-REPAR Partnership is represented by the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF) and the Réseau provincial de recherche en adaptation-réadaptation (REPAR).

In 2007, ONF and REPAR jointly funded six cross-provincial research teams with the goal of strengthening capacity and developing a culture of research collaboration between rehabilitation-based researchers in Quebec and Ontario working in the areas of Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) and Acquired Brain Injury (ABI). Due to the success of the six teams in collaboration and capacity building in their areas of expertise from 2007-2010, ONF and REPAR determined that these teams would be supported with renewal funding for three years from 2011-2014 to further build on their developments.

ONF and REPAR, as distinct organizations, want to continue to promote research collaboration between Quebec and Ontario through the creation of innovative research teams in neurotraumatology rehabilitation in order to produce high quality inter-provincial projects in the specific fields of spinal cord and brain injuries. The collective intent of ONF and REPAR is to continue to build capacity between Quebec and Ontario, and to support neurotrauma rehab researchers to excel, tackle research questions of importance to their provincial jurisdictions, promote leverage in capacity and resources and bolster Quebec/Ontario leadership in national and international efforts.

The aim of the third phase of the ONF-REPAR Partnership is to strengthen and further build on what has already been achieved through support from ONF-REPAR, while ensuring alignment with new national neurotrauma endeavours.

Considering the major initiatives that are coming (SPOR Networks in Chronic Disease: Neurotrauma to Neurorecovery, and others), ONF and REPAR wish to create synergy, while enhancing leverage and reducing duplication.

The third phase of the ONF-REPAR Partnership will support two teams (one in SCI and one in TBI) for a period of one year, to start. Two nation-wide teams will be funded that align with the SPOR initiative. The teams are encouraged to include members from across Canada, but they must be co-led by at least one researcher in Quebec and one in Ontario. The leaders will need to demonstrate their leadership and clearly show their commitment to the team and have support from their colleagues.

This third phase will be a step-wise process. As a first step, each team in SCI and TBI must provide the name of one researcher in Quebec and one in Ontario, who will jointly be responsible for the initial funding (\$10,000/team), to bring members together in a meeting to discuss the opportunity and identify the leaders.

PHASE 3 EXPECTATIONS, YEAR 1:

In their respective fields, for Year 1 the two teams will be provided with \$60,000 (including the initial \$10,000), which is designed to create this new team; showing how it will further enhance collaboration between the two provinces, capacity building and impact on patients.

The **expectations** are that each team will collectively provide for **May 1, 2016 and September 30, 2016:**

- Strengths and weaknesses in the literature aligned with the SPOR initiative;
- Identification of one or more rehabilitation/community priorities that will be the focus of the team moving forward in years 2 and 3;
- A strategic plan to address the gaps, and determine ways to study these priorities and further conduct clinical trials of interventions that will have real impact on the respective fields;
- A communication platform between members;
- A plan to sustain and build capacity between both provinces while including expert members from other provinces in the identified priority areas;
- Identification of funding agencies (e.g. CIHR, Rick Hansen Institute) or initiatives (e.g. SPOR Networks in Chronic Disease: Neurotrauma to Neurorecovery, if funded), where the studies and trials could be submitted or aligned;
- Preparation of a position paper for publication on the priorities identified.

Considering the actual context of these major developing initiatives in the neurotrauma domains, both ONF and REPAR partners agree to wait until May 30, 2016 before launching the guidelines for Years 2 and 3. These guidelines will take the **May 1, 2016 Interim Report** into consideration, as well as the status of the SPOR application, to ensure that ONF and REPAR provide the teams with the optimal networking situation to continue to work on activities for the addressed priorities.

TIMELINES	
July 23, 2015	Release of Guidelines for Application for Funding
October 30, 2015	Each team in SCI and TBI must provide the name of one researcher in Quebec and one in Ontario, who will jointly be responsible for the initial funding (\$10,000/team) and the information of the administrative organization and person contact for the funds.
January 20, 2016	Submission date for applications: Identification of the Year 1 team leaders and members, detailed planning of meeting and organisation.
February 1, 2016	Notification of decision
February 2016	If approved, remaining Year 1 funds flow to the named team leaders.
May 1, 2016	Submission of Interim Report demonstrating progress towards the expectations mentioned above and the timelines proposed.
May 30, 2016	ONF and REPAR provide responses to Interim Report and Guidelines for Years 2 and 3.
September 30, 2016	Submission of Report on Year 1 and full plans for Years 2 and 3

Contact Person

All requests for information regarding this program should be directed to Corinne Kagan, Senior Program Director at ONF, by e-mail to corinne@onf.org or by telephone at (416) 422-2228, ext 204.

Information for Public Purposes

By applying for funds from this program, the applicant(s) accept that if awarded funding, information regarding the research will be made publicly available by ONF and REPAR. This information includes the names of the investigator(s), the organizations where the research will be conducted, the title of the research and a summary appropriate for general audiences, the amount and length of funding.

Note: In accordance with confidentiality policies, the names of applicants that apply for funding but are not awarded are never made public.