



Request for Applications (RFA) Options

1. Collaborative Grant Awards – one type of grant is available:
 - a) Collaborative Innovation grants
2. Trainee Awards – two types of matching trainee awards are available:
 - a) post-doctoral fellowships, and
 - b) graduate studentships – Master’s and Doctorate

Please refer to page 2 for a description of the awards. **Please note:** Quebec Rehabilitation Research Network (REPAR - Réseau Provincial De Recherche En Adaptation-Réadaptation) members are only eligible to apply for collaborative innovation grant awards. Proposals may be submitted in either English or French.

Request for Proposal (RFA) Objectives

CPSR invites innovative, collaborative proposals focused on stroke rehabilitation and recovery that follow five basic principles:

- Research supports improved physical, cognitive, psychosocial outcomes; research will preferably target multiple outcomes
- Research focuses on all types of stroke, including covert and overt stroke
- Combination approaches are encouraged, where appropriate
- Research must be collaborative, within and preferably across institutions
- Translational research will accelerate ideas through the research pipeline into clinical trials and the patient population

CPSR intends to fund grants of high scientific excellence and trainees of high scientific calibre whose projects have great potential to positively impact stroke patients, now or in the future. The expectation is that applicants will be able to explore truly novel ideas and use these results to support applications to other agencies (e.g., CIHR, HSFC).

Both applied translational and basic science research are equally encouraged, provided a clear rationale is included as to potential future impact of the research for stroke survivors.

CPSR Platforms and Resources

CPSR has three platform infrastructures that may be of benefit to researchers and trainees:

- 1) animal stroke model testing facility and preclinical brain imaging platform;
- 2) human brain imaging analysis pipeline; and
- 3) stroke rehabilitation clinical trial infrastructure.



Each CPSR platform is a shared resource available to all and while not required, should be considered when designing projects. There are multiple ways to use these platforms, including directly (e.g., project data mining, image analysis) and indirectly (e.g., experimental training, advice and guidance). More information on each platform can be found on our website www.canadianstroke.ca/research/platforms).

In addition, CPSR has a Stroke Community Advisory Committee consisting of people living with stroke and caregivers. This committee can provide a valuable resource to those applicants interested in engaging the stroke community in their projects. For questions about CPSR platforms and resources, please email Farrell Leibovitch, CPSR Director Research and Training Programs: farrell@canadianstroke.ca.

Description of Awards

1. CPSR Collaborative Innovation Grants:

Approximately 5-10 awards of up to \$50,000 per grant to support innovative research activities (including multi-site projects) for 18 months (September 2018 – March 2020).

CPSR collaborative innovation grant awards are intended to provide seed funding to encourage investigator-driven early stage, innovative and collaborative research in stroke rehabilitation and recovery.

Innovation grants can also be used as seed funding for research studies investigating innovative strategies and approaches to facilitate implementation and adoption of evidence-informed stroke rehabilitation and recovery knowledge.

Highest priority will be given to projects that are *truly innovative*, collaborative and with significant potential to positively impact stroke survivors.

Through this program CPSR intends to stimulate new ideas and new discoveries that will advance our mission to identify, support and share game-changing stroke recovery research.

2. CPSR Trainee Awards:

CPSR will award approximately 10-20 matching awards to support:

- a. **Post-Doctoral Fellows:** Up to \$20,000 will be available for post-doctoral fellows, with at least equal matching funding provided by the supervisor (or their institution), for one year to support stroke recovery research activities (e.g., September 2018 – August 2019, although the start date could be any time prior to December 31, 2018).
- b. **Graduate Students:** Up to \$8,750 for Master's and \$15,000 for Doctoral graduate students will be available, with at least equal matching funding provided by the supervisor (or their institution), for one year to support stroke recovery research activities (e.g., September 2018 – August 2019, although the start date could be any time prior to December 31, 2018).

Eligibility & Conditions of Funding

CPSR Collaborative Innovation Grants

- Nominated PIs who hold an active CPSR catalyst grant (including extensions) are ineligible to apply.
- Each grant application must have only one nominated principal investigator (PI)
- Nominated PI must have an appointment at a CPSR partner site, or be a member of REPAR. Nominated PI must be able to hold a grant and have it administered through that partner or REPAR member site as a PI (current list of CPSR partner sites can be found on the CPSR website: www.canadianstroke.ca/en/about-us/our-partners/).
- REPAR Members applying for a grant must also have a Co-PI from a CPSR partner site.
- Nominated PIs can only submit one application (although can be Co-PI, Co-I or Collaborator on more than one application) but collaborations are strongly encouraged.
- Funding for this project must not overlap with funding from another source
- Grant eligible expenses include HQP & trainee salary support, research supplies, services and equipment, research travel or other relevant research expenses related to this grant
- Indirect costs will not be eligible for funding
- There is a strong expectation of attendance and presentation at CPSR's Annual Scientific Meeting; if required, a portion of this budget can be reserved for this purpose.

CPSR Trainee Awards

- Trainees who hold an active trainee award (including extensions) are ineligible to apply.
- A nominated supervisor can only be on a maximum of three applications for trainee awards; however, if successful, the nominated supervisor can only receive up to a total maximum amount of \$24,000 for their students (e.g., one PDF application, or two MSc students).
- Each trainee application must have one nominated principal supervisor (although the nominated supervisor can be a co-supervisor on more than one application)
- Nominated principal supervisor must have an appointment at a CPSR partner site. The nominated principal supervisor must be able to hold a grant and have it administered through that partner site as a PI (current list of CPSR partner institutions can be found on the CPSR website: www.canadianstroke.ca/en/about-us/our-partners/).
- Trainees applying for graduate studentships must be enrolled in a full-time training program.
- Trainee awards may only be used towards trainee salary support
- There is a strong expectation of attendance and presentation at CPSR's Annual Scientific Meeting



Application Guidelines

Deadline for submission of applications is no later than 5pm (EST) on **Monday June 18, 2018**. Submit completed applications to Farrell Leibovitch, CPSR Director, Research and Training Programs at farrell@canadianstroke.ca. Applications should use at least 11-point Arial font with minimum of one-inch margins on all sides. Page and word limits must be adhered to (see below). Any sections that exceed their specific limits will be deleted prior to sending for review. Each application must address all sections described below. Please submit separate applications for innovation grants and trainee awards (if applying for both, text cannot simply be copies of each other). Applications can be submitted in either English or French.

Collaborative Innovation Grant Applications - complete sections 1 to 8.

1. General Information

Please provide the following:

- Name, title, and institutional affiliation of nominated principal investigator; for REPAR members applying as a nominated PI, you must also include information for the co-PI who must be from a CPSR partner site.
- List of names, titles and institutional affiliations of any additional investigators or collaborators. Note: *CVs of PI, Co-PI and all co-investigators (but not collaborators) should be included in the appendix section*

Note: Investigator vs Collaborator – Is there a difference? Yes. All investigators (including PIs) are named on the grant submission, and you need to submit CVs for them. For collaborators (people who may help but are not being named as an investigator), you do not need to provide their CV with your application.

- Project title
- Description of the skills/experience of the proposed project team, including specific roles and responsibilities for nominated PI, co-PI (if applicable) and all investigators and collaborators, and the value-added of proposed collaborations (½ page max)
- Name of primary institution for research project (must be administered through a CPSR partner or REPAR Member site)
- Signature(s) (digital or scanned) of the nominated Principal Investigator
- PI (and all co-PIs) must include a copy of the “Summary of Research Proposal” or similar summary for each grant held or applied for (e.g. CIHR, HSF, etc.)

2. Lay Project Summary (up to 300 words maximum)

This section should be written for the layperson (e.g. avoid scientific jargon) and will be posted on the CPSR website if the application is successful.

- Please provide a lay summary of the objectives, research questions, rationale, methodology, and expected outcomes of the proposed project.



3. Research Project Description (3 pages maximum)

Please describe the project and ensure to:

- Clearly state the objectives of the project and research questions being proposed, the rationale behind the approach, the methodology, and the expected outcomes for the project
- Describe what makes the project innovative
- Describe new or strengthened collaborations resulting from this project
- Detail what training opportunities will arise from this project
- If applicable, describe how the research builds on previous CPSR-funded research, and how it is a novel avenue of exploration (and not simply an extension of previous work)
- If applicable, explain how CPSR resources (e.g., platforms) will be leveraged in this project
- List realistic milestones achievable within the 18-month time period: to ensure REB approval, meet recruitment targets, analysis and publication time

Note: Two additional pages total will be allowed for figures or tables, and 1 additional page for references.

4. Potential Impact for Stroke Survivors (1 page maximum)

This section should be written for the layperson (e.g. avoid scientific jargon).

This section should clearly describe the potential impact of the proposed research for helping stroke survivors, now or in the future.

Please ensure to:

- Explain the potential impact for stroke patients or their recovery in terms of new breakthroughs, innovations in clinical practice, or knowledge translation/application
- Identify specific actions that will be undertaken (both within and beyond the scope of this application) to ensure that the potential impact is realized

5. Budget (1 page maximum)

- Please provide a brief but specific budget that includes the levels of salary support for personnel/trainees, research equipment and materials, and other expenses.
- Justify the proposed expenditures.
- If any partner funding will be used towards the research project, please indicate the level of both in-kind and cash contributions anticipated.
- If the funds will be flowing to multiple sites, provide a clear breakdown of where the funds will be flowing.

Please note that: personnel funding levels should be consistent with the applicant's institutional minimum and maximum limits for research staff and trainees; trainee stipend amounts should be consistent with the higher of either the applicant's institutional minimums or minimums recommended by Tri-Council Policy; proposed expenditures should be consistent



with the applicant's institutional guidelines on eligible expenditures for research funding programs; and indirect costs shall not be considered eligible for funding.

6. Curriculum Vitae

- Please provide short (<10 pages) CVs for the PI and all listed co-investigators (e.g., NIH or OOGP Biosketch). Do NOT send full common CV format.

7. Letters of Support

- Letters of support are not required, but can be included as additional pages.

8. Additional Supporting Documents

- Additional supporting document such as questionnaires, assessment forms, etc., may be attached in the appendix.

Trainee Award Applications – complete sections 1 to 9

1. General Information (no specific page limit)

- Name of trainee applicant and type of award being applied for (i.e., post-doctoral fellowship or graduate studentship (specify whether MSc or PhD))
- Name, title and institution of the nominated principal supervisor
- Title of trainee's research project
- Description of the research environment including space, facilities, and personnel support available to the trainee during their training (½ page max)
- Signature(s) (digital or scanned) from the trainee applicant
- Signature(s) (digital or scanned) from the nominated principal supervisor

2. Lay Project Summary (up to 300 words maximum)

This section should be written for the layperson (e.g. avoid scientific jargon) and will be posted on the CPSR website if the application is successful.

- Please provide a lay summary of the objectives, research questions, rationale, methodology, and expected outcomes of the proposed project.

3. Research Project Description (2 pages maximum)

Please describe the project and ensure to:

- Clearly state the objectives of the trainee's project and research questions being proposed, the rationale behind the approach, the methodology, and the expected outcomes for the project.
- Detail the trainee's specific role and any specific experiences/training afforded to the trainee
- Describe how the project is innovative



- If applicable, describe how the research builds on previous CPSR-funded research, and how it is a novel avenue of exploration (and not simply an extension of previous work)
- If applicable, explain how CPSR resources (e.g., platforms) will be leveraged in this project
- List realistic milestones achievable within the 12-month time period: to ensure REB approval, meet recruitment targets, analysis and publication time

Note: One additional page will be allowed for figures or tables, and 1 an additional page for references.

4. Potential Impact for Stroke Survivors (1 page maximum)

This section should be written for the layperson (e.g. avoid scientific jargon).

This section should clearly describe the potential impact of the proposed research for helping stroke survivors, now or in the future.

Please ensure to:

- Explain the potential impact for stroke patients or their recovery in terms of new breakthroughs, innovations in clinical practice, or knowledge translation/application
- Identify specific actions that will be undertaken (both within and beyond the scope of this proposal) to ensure that the potential impact is realized

5. Curriculum Vitae & Summary of Research Proposals

- Attach an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae of trainee applicant (including complete list of publications)
- If applicable, include copies of “Summary of Research Proposal” or similar for any other grants or personnel awards the trainee currently holds or has applied for (e.g., CIHR, HSF, etc.)
- Attach a condensed CV or Biosketch of trainee’s nominated primary supervisor (e.g., < 10 page total); Do not send full common CV format.
- If applicable, include copies of “Summary of Research Proposal” or similar for any other grants or personnel awards related to this trainee or project that the nominated principal supervisor holds or has applied for (e.g., CIHR, HSF, etc.)

6. Transcripts

- If applying for a graduate studentship award (*not required for PDF applications*), include copies of official transcripts of the candidate's complete academic record, including undergraduate and graduate studies (note: photocopies of official transcripts are acceptable).

7. Reference Letters

- Ensure two letters of reference are sent, preferably from people under whom the candidate has trained (preferably from the proposed supervisor if he/she has already been a supervisor to the trainee).



- If neither of the reference letters is from the nominated principal supervisor, ensure a letter of support is sent from the nominated principal supervisor

Signed reference letters should be sent directly to Farrell Leibovitch, Director, Research and Training Programs, scanned and emailed from the supervisor to farrell@canadianstroke.ca, or hardcopies mailed to: Farrell Leibovitch, Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery, 2075 Bayview Avenue, Room M6172, Toronto, ON M4N 3M5

8. Letter of Matching Financial Commitment

- Letter of commitment from the supervisor or partner institution confirming that at least equal matching trainee salary funding will be provided to the trainee.

9. Additional Supporting Documents

- Additional supporting document such as questionnaires, assessment forms, etc., may be attached in the appendix.

Evaluation Process and Criteria for Review

Collaborative Innovation Grant Applications

Innovation grant applications will undergo a standard peer review for scientific excellence and novelty of the project. Each application will also be evaluated for its potential to positively impact stroke survivors, now or in future. In addition, reviewers will assess the appropriateness of the proposed budget, the feasibility of completion within timeframe and the overall quality of the applicant and environment. Each application will be rated on a 5-point scale and top-ranked applications will be funded based on the total funding available (note: a minimum score of 4.0 is required to be eligible for funding).

The top-ranked collaborative innovation grant will receive distinction as the **2018 Dr. Tony Hakim Stroke Research Award**. This award honours Dr. Hakim for the outstanding qualities of leadership, vision and innovation that he demonstrated during his tenure as inaugural Scientific Director of the CPSR.

Trainee Award Applications

Trainee award applications will undergo a standard peer review to assess the applicant for academic excellence (applicant's track record and demonstrated interest in stroke recovery research), as well as assess the applicant's research project, and the suitability and excellence of the supervisor and research training environment. In addition, each application will also be evaluated for its potential to positively impact stroke survivors, now or in future. Each application will be rated on a 5-point scale and top-ranked applications will be funded based on the total funding available (note: a minimum score of 4.0 is required to be eligible for funding).

The top-ranked trainee applications will receive distinction as the **Martin Rothstein Postdoctoral Award (top-ranked PDF) and Luc Vanneste Graduate Student Award (top-ranked graduate student (MSc or PhD))**. The awards honour two former CPSR Board Directors, Mr. Martin Rothstein (former Chair of the Board), and Mr. Luc Vanneste (former Vice-Chair of the Board) for their significant leadership roles in the creation and growth of the CPSR.



Key Dates

Request for application issued	01 May 2018
Deadline for application submission	18 Jun 2018 (5pm EST)
Grant & trainee award results announced	10 Aug 2018
Funding start date	04 Sep 2018

General Information

Incomplete/Unacceptable or Late Applications: Incomplete, inappropriate or late applications will be declined by CPSR.

Public Information: CPSR may post the title, names and lay summary of successful applications on their website or in CPSR publications without notification.

Ethical Requirements: CPSR requires that all research studies and experiments must comply with the respective host institution (partner site) research policies and PIs and supervisors are responsible for obtaining human and/or animal ethical approval prior to study commencement. CPSR reserves the right to request this information at any time.

Contact Information

Please direct all questions concerning the RFA to:

Farrell Leibovitch
Director, Research and Training Programs
HSF Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery
Email: farrell@canadianstroke.ca
Phone: 416-480-6100 ext 7548