Marshall Eliuk Fund for Clinical Innovation in Hematology
Request for Proposals – Fall 2017 competition

The Division of Hematology, University of Alberta and the University Hospital Foundation (UHF) are pleased to announce a Request for Proposals for the Marshall Eliuk Fund for Clinical Innovation in Hematology.

The UHF, the funder of this competition, has received a generous donation from Mr. Marshall Eliuk to support clinical research and innovation to be conducted at the University of Alberta. The Terms of Reference and Processes are outlined below.

Objectives:
To provide funding support for the development and establishment of innovative therapies or diagnostic tests in the field of Hematology at the University of Alberta.

Scope of support:
To provide seed funding to develop promising new treatments or diagnostic tests in the field of hematology, that are not currently available for patients with blood disorders in the Edmonton region. This may include:

a. Translational Research: Essential pre-clinical studies required to develop a novel treatment or diagnostic test. This may include laboratory-based research studies to establish the efficacy of a potential treatment or diagnostic test, or toxicology studies to evaluate the safety of a potential treatment, with the intention of taking a novel treatment to clinical trial.

b. Clinical trial: Support for an early phase clinical trial using a novel treatment. This must be a locally developed investigator-initiated project. External industry-sponsored or cooperative group based trials are not eligible.

c. Pilot project: Support for a pilot project to introduce a new treatment or diagnostic modality currently not available to patients in Edmonton.

d. Equipment: Purchase of essential equipment or supplies needed to establish a new treatment, or a diagnostic test influencing treatment, that is not currently available in Edmonton.

e. Quality improvement project designed to improve patient treatment outcomes.

Eligibility:
The research or clinical project must be based primarily at the University of Alberta or affiliated hospitals (UAH, KEC, Maz), and must be in the field of hematology. Proposals must fit within at least one of the categories as outlined above under Scope of Support.
For translational research or clinical trials (a and b above), the Principal Applicant and Co-Principal Applicant (if present) must hold a faculty appointment with the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta that permits applying for and holding research funding, as per the University’s Eligibility to Apply for and Hold Research Funding Policy (under UAPPOL).

For pilot projects, equipment requests or quality improvement projects (c, d and e above), any faculty or allied health professional at the University of Alberta Hospital may serve as the Principal Applicant or Co-Principal Applicant.

For all projects, either the Principal Applicant or Co-Principal Applicant must be a member of the Division of Hematology at the University of Alberta.

Awards and Budget:
The size of each award will depend on the specific project, but will generally not be more than $150,000 per year for a maximum of two years. Up to one major project (> $100,000) or 2-3 smaller projects will be funded per competition.

Funds may be used for the purchase of equipment and supplies directly related to the new project, treatment or diagnostic test, personnel support to perform the project (e.g. research assistant/associate, technologist, graduate student, data manager), and start-up funds and per case funding for clinical trials or pilot projects. It will not be used to provide salary support for the applicants, secretarial/clerical staff support, conference travel, computers, renovations or maintenance/installation of major equipment.

Application Process:
Full applications must be received by the deadline, and must include the following:
1. Completed and signed application form (see below).
2. Project proposal (maximum six pages, not including figures, tables and references). This should include the following:
   a. Background
   b. Rationale – For research projects, this should include a description of the issue or question to be addressed
   c. Specific objectives
   d. Detailed project outline with timelines
   e. Role of applicants and any personnel supported by the project
   f. Impact of project on patient treatment and care. For translational research proposals, this should include a clear indication of how the research will lead directly to clinical development.
3. Detailed budget with justification
4. Pilot projects involving introducing new treatments, or major equipment purchases to deliver new treatments or diagnostic tests, outside of clinical trials, should be
accompanied by a letter of support and approval from the appropriate person at Alberta Health Services (AHS).

5. Major equipment purchase requests (>\$10,000) should be accompanied by a quotation.

6. Biosketch of Principal Applicant.

Application forms must be signed by each Principal Applicant’s Department Chair or Section/Division Head. Research proposals must also have the completed form with signatures from the Research Service Office (RSO) at the University of Alberta, and the application be submitted to RSO for review at least 5 working days before the deadline.

**Submission process:**
Please submit the completed Application Form, along with the required material as outlined in the Application Process above, as a single electronic PDF file, to:

Gilda Stalker, Executive Administrator  
Division of Hematology  
4-112 Clinical Sciences Building  
11350 – 83 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2G3  
gstalker@ualberta.ca

The deadline for receipt of completed applications is **November 15, 2017 at 4:00 pm**  
Applications received after that date will not be considered.

**Review process:**
Proposals will be evaluated by a Review Committee within the Division of Hematology, and including external reviewers as required. Potential projects must meet the criteria outlined above under Scope of Support, and must be deemed of sufficient merit and importance by the committee to warrant funding. Emphasis will be on the magnitude of the potential impact on patient care. Announcements of awards will be made in early 2018.

**Awardee expectations:**
Approved clinical trials must receive subsequent approval from the relevant Research Ethics Board, as well as AHS operational approvals from NACTRC, prior to provision of funding.  
Translational research projects must have Research Ethics Board approval, as well as any relevant Biosafety and Animal Care approvals from the University of Alberta, prior to provision of funding. Clinical quality improvement projects must also obtain relevant approvals (e.g. ARECCI).

Pilot projects or equipment purchases utilizing AHS resources must receive operational approval from AHS, and a letter confirming this must be submitted prior to provision of funding.
Any two-year award will require a full interim progress report submitted prior to the end of the first year, with details of how funds have been utilized to date, in order to be awarded a second year of funding. Awarding of the second year will be contingent on demonstration of progress during the first year, in accordance with the objectives of the project proposal. A final report is also due at the completion of the award period. A one-year extension of existing funds may be granted if required for study completion; this will require a letter outlining the reasons for such an extension.

It is expected that any research presentations or publications arising from this work will provide acknowledgement of support from this Fund. Major equipment purchases to establish new treatment and pilot projects will provide acknowledgement of support from this Fund.
Marshall Eliuk Fund for Clinical Innovation in Hematology  
Application Form

Section A: Applicants

Principal Applicant:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title (e.g. MD, PhD)</th>
<th>University and/or Hospital Position</th>
<th>Division/ Department</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
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Mailing address: ______________________________________________________________
Tel: _____________________ Fax: ______________________
Email: _____________________

Co-Principal Applicant (optional):

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Title (e.g. MD, PhD)</th>
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Section B: Project information

Title of project: ________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Type of project (check at least one):

☐ Translational Research
☐ Clinical Trial
☐ Clinical New Pilot Project
☐ Quality Improvement Project
☐ Equipment Purchase only

Total amount of funding requested: Year one: __________
Year two (if applicable): __________

Section C: Signatures

Principal Applicant: __________________________

Co-Principal Applicant: __________________________

Co-Applicants: __________________________ Name: __________________________
_________________________ Name: __________________________
_________________________ Name: __________________________
_________________________ Name: __________________________

Department Chair: __________________________ Name: __________________________

Section Head (if no Dept Chair): __________________________ Name: __________________________