Memo

Date: September 27, 2017

To: Academic Faculty

From: David Evans, Vice-Dean, Research

Re: Funding opportunity for research infrastructure: the Canada Foundation for Innovation John R. Evans Leaders Fund

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) is a valuable opportunity to secure funding for research infrastructure. Detailed information on the JELF program can be found on the following websites:

- Canada Foundation for Innovation
- UA Research Services Office
- FoMD Office of Research

FoMD receives a funding allocation which is based on its share of Tri-council funding at the University of Alberta. As per the attached memo, the FoMD funding allocation for 2017-2020 is $3,584,693. This is only the CFI allocation (40%) with the other portions typically coming from the Government of Alberta (40%) and supplier discounts/other sources (20%). Thus, this allocation translates into almost $9 million of new research infrastructure for FoMD.

There are three opportunities to apply for JELF funding from this current allocation with calls announced in the fall of 2016, 2017, and 2018 corresponding to the CFI submission deadline in June 2017, 2018, and 2019. The JELF funding is intended to be spread across these 3 competitions. Last fall, 8 applications were approved to apply for $1.2 million in CFI project funding and are currently under review at CFI.

The FoMD is pleased to announce that we are inviting requests to apply for JELF funding as per the guidelines outlined below:

Eligibility

All full-time research-intensive faculty members with a primary appointment in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry are eligible to apply for a JELF grant. Applications can be submitted with co-principal investigators from other faculties, however, due to the coordination required please contact Mark Taylor as soon as possible if you are considering such an application. New assistant professors must have a confirmed start date no later than January 1, 2018 to be eligible for the current internal competition. Projects can have a maximum of three (3) principal investigators. Applicants may wish to list other secondary users to justify the need for the equipment.
Due to the recent hiring of many new assistant professors, there is considerable pressure on the current allocation and these assistant professors will be given priority for funding. Collaboration between established and new professors who have a similar need for equipment is strongly encouraged.

**Budget & Equipment Justification**

Eligible costs for a JELF grant can be found on the [CFI JELF website](#). The maximum request for a JELF grant is $2 million in total project cost, however, the average FoMD JELF grant is much lower (typically less than $400K total project cost). Equipment requested in a JELF application can be placed in a faculty member's lab or in a shared space (e.g. FoMD core facility). As required by CFI, the CFI grantee(s) will have priority but not exclusive access to the equipment if it is placed in a core or other shared space.

Please be advised that the FoMD review committee will be looking carefully at the availability of similar equipment in FoMD and at the UA. Applicants must consult the [FoMD equipment database](#) to determine if similar equipment is currently in place. All equipment requests must be well justified, particularly when similar equipment is available elsewhere.

**Application Process**

Full applications must be received by the deadline, and must include the following:

1. Completed request-to-apply form
2. Curriculum Vitae of all principal applicants (in Common CV format, if possible).

Although not required, applicants are strongly encouraged to append letter(s) of support demonstrating the need for the equipment from their department chair and/or director of a FoMD research group, centre, or institute. A letter from the core manager (or equivalent) can be provided if the equipment is to be placed in a core facility.

**Submission Process**

Submit all documents electronically (Word or PDF) by **Friday, October 27, 2017** to:

Mark Taylor
Director of Research
mtaylor4@ualberta.ca
(780) 492-9720

**Review Process**

All JELF applications undergo review at the faculty, university, CFI and provincial level. A sub-committee of the Faculty Research Committee will assist in the review of these requests at the faculty level.

Timeline of review and submission to CFI:

- October 27: Submission of the request-to-apply form to the FoMD Office of Research
- December 1 (approximate): confirmation of FoMD requests approved to proceed to a full application
- December 8 (approximate): FoMD to notify RSO of all FoMD applications to be submitted by the following May
- April 1: Submission of draft application to FoMD
- May 1: UA RSO (final draft application)
- June 15: CFI deadline (final application)