2016 Physiotherapy Clinical Research Innovation Fund

Purpose
The Clinical Research Innovation Fund is a research grant opportunity that has been made possible through a partnership between TD Meloche Monnex, Physiotherapy Alberta, and the University of Alberta’s Department of Physical Therapy. Two research operating grants of up to $15,000 and one or more not to exceed $10,000 are available to support clinically relevant research by clinicians within the physiotherapy community. The purpose of the fund is to:

- Provide academic support to clinicians, such as methodological design advice, data collection, analysis, etc., to advance clinical research.
- Foster partnerships between the physiotherapy clinical and academic communities
- Fund methodologically sound research into the appropriateness, effectiveness, and safety of assessment and treatment methods with the goal of advancing evidence-based practice and knowledge mobilization.

Applicant Eligibility
Principal applicants must include a physiotherapist, registered on the general register, and practicing clinically in Alberta. To assist with meeting the ethical approval and financial reporting requirements of research, team members and/or co-principal applicants must include at least 1 faculty member from an academic or research institution in Alberta. Clinicians, knowledge users, and other stakeholders may be included in the research team, depending on additional expertise needed. Potential applicants who are interested in linking with researchers at an academic institution can contact the Rehabilitation Research Center by email at RRC@ualberta.ca. The Rehabilitation Research Centre is a research consulting center that assists with developing links between the university and clinical communities to facilitate clinically relevant rehabilitation research (see: http://rehabilitation.ualberta.ca/research/institutes-and-centres/rehabilitation-research-centre)

Areas of Clinical Interest
The following areas are of interest to the partners for consideration in 2016:
- Patient safety and transitions of care
- Healthy aging
- Seniors health including stroke rehabilitation and falls prevention
- Pediatrics
- Chronic disease management
- Pelvic health
- Physiotherapy in Aboriginal/Indigenous health programs
- Community and primary care physiotherapy service delivery
- Evaluating use of social media in clinical settings
- Physiotherapist use of diagnostic imaging
- Vestibular rehabilitation
- Oncology rehabilitation

Evaluation Criteria
All proposals will undergo a scientific review process, including two reviewers with expertise in clinical research methodology and knowledge of the physiotherapy profession. An external reviewer may be sought if additional content expertise is needed. Judging will be based on:
- Relevance of the study to the daily clinical practice of physiotherapy
- Quality of study design
- Feasibility of plan
- Final product planned (for example, presentation at national meeting, submission to professional journal, use of pilot project data to develop a full scale proposal to a specified major funding agency)
- Expertise/capability of investigators and other team members involved to carry out proposed research
**Procedures and Proposal Preparation**

Please send an electronic copy of the proposal with supporting materials as either a WORD or PDF document to Meagan Simon (Research Assistant for the University of Alberta’s Department of Physical Therapy) at mesimon@ualberta.ca. Meagan is also available to answer questions about the process or to provide feedback on a draft application.

The research proposal should not exceed 4 pages excluding references and Appendices. The proposal should include:

- Abstract (up to 250 words)
- Background and Significance (should include appropriate literature review)
- Study Purpose and Specific Objectives
- Study Methodology
  - Design, Sample and sample size justification, Data collection procedures, Analysis
- Budget (with justification for expenditures)
- Time Frame of the Proposed Study
- Final Product Planned (presentation, publication, pilot work for inclusion in proposal for full scale study, etc.)
- Appendices (use judiciously)

Formatting requirements: double spaced type, size 12 font, with 1-inch margins.

Supporting materials should include:

- Curricula vitae of principal investigator and co-investigators (each not to exceed 3 pages),
- Letter of support from any individual or organization whose support is needed for the success of the project, and:
- Certificate of ethical approval where required (does not need to accompany the application, but must be submitted before funding is released as applicable).

**Grant Recipient Responsibilities:**

Acceptance of the grant must be acknowledged in writing by the principal investigator before funds are released. This letter should be viewed by the principal investigator as a contract binding him or her to complete the project, as funded, in the allotted time.

Principal investigators are required to submit quarterly updates and a final report (including a financial report) within two months from completion of the grant period. Investigator(s) also agree to present their work at a future Physiotherapy Alberta educational event.

Abstracts/reprints of all presentations and publications resulting from the funded work should be sent to the Fund at the address noted earlier and such reports should acknowledge financial support from the Fund.

**Application Deadline:**

March 24, 2016 (review will take 3 weeks)

Granting period is not to exceed 2 years past the date of agreement signing.