

Call for projects 2018-2019 - Inter-network initiatives Cardiometabolic Health, Diabetes and Obesity Research Network (CMDO) and the Quebec Cell, Tissue and Gene Therapy Network (ThéCell)

This joint program between the CMDO and ThéCell Networks aims to promote interactions between researchers from Quebec networks who carry out research on issues common to both partner networks. Proposed projects must be aligned with the networks' mission and focus on the respective research themes of the concerned networks. This funding should be used for at least one of the following purposes:

- Generate knowledge and data that can lead to a concrete clinical or health care application;
- Obtain sufficient preliminary data to allow the team to submit funding requests to granting agencies;
- Serve as leverage for larger grants from partners to conduct a long-term research program;
- Allow Quebec researchers to establish their leadership at the national and international levels in the targeted research themes;
- Allow, as much as possible, to have an activity or a product dedicated to knowledge transfer toward users or target populations.

A project corresponding to the research areas of the networks and tied to at least one of the above objectives will be funded based on excellence. This project must involve at least one regular member of each network (CMDO and ThéCell) coming from two different institutions of the province of Quebec. The project may involve more than two Quebec research center, as well as other centers in Canada (e.g. with a member of Diabetes Action Canada or Stem Cell Network) or internationally. Projects may come from any research axis: 1) pre-clinical; 2) clinical; 3) health system / care organisation and 4) population intervention and sharing / use of knowledge. The eligibility criteria and the evaluation method are described below. One project of excellent scientific quality demonstrating a structuring effect for research within the two networks will be funded at the level of \$ 20,000 for one year.

The deadline for submitting applications is November 12th, 2018, for funding beginning no later than March 1st, 2019.

Requests submitted late, incomplete or that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be evaluated.

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria:

1. The application must involve two principal researchers: a regular member of the CMDO and a regular member of the ThéCell;
2. **Only one application per year as a principal investigator** can be submitted for the Inter-Network Initiatives competition. There is no limit as a co-investigator. Researchers who have obtained funding for a structuring intercenter project in 2018-2019 may submit a new project to this Inter-Network competition if the nature of the project and the team is sufficiently different from the projects already funded.
3. Requests for funding for new collaborations between researchers will be favored;
4. The inclusion of at least one young researcher eligible for the FRQS Junior 1 will be considered favorably (5 points);
5. For this program, the two principal investigators must be from two different institutions / research centers of the province of Quebec;
6. Applications may include additional centers in Quebec, in Canada (*eg, a member of Diabetes Action Canada or Stem Cell Network*) or internationally;
7. The application should involve at least one student, postdoctoral fellow or resident (*registered at a Quebec university*) (5 points). In addition, it is highly recommended that one or more knowledge users be involved in the project (5 points). The student and the knowledge user (if any) must be identified when the application is submitted;
8. Demonstration of the structuring effect for research within the networks, according to their objectives (*eg establishment of new inter-sectoral collaborations within the network or internationally, standardization of methods, implementation platform or common resources*);
9. Demonstration of a clear plan for obtaining subsequent funding from an external organization other than the CMDO or ThéCell (*eg, CIHR, private partner or other*);
10. It is the responsibility of researchers to ensure that they follow good research practices and obtain and maintain all necessary certifications from their respective institutions (*eg, radiation protection, biosafety, animal or human ethical committee approval, authorizations associated with controlled substances used in the project*). Verifications could be made with the affiliated research centers.

Duration of awards:

The \$ 20,000 award is granted for a period of one year. Expenditures must be made during this period and must comply with FRQS policies. The grant may be extended by up to one year (without budget increase), but only if adequately justified to the networks.

Obligations of researchers towards the program:

By applying to this program and if they are subsidized, the researchers commit to:

1. Acknowledge networks support as an initial funding agency in any publication (eg abstract, peer-reviewed article) or poster or oral presentation resulting from this research;
2. Produce a progress report at the end of the year (at the end of the funding period). This report will summarize the status of the research results, including copies of articles published as a result of this research. In addition, annual monitoring for another three (3) years will be conducted to document the impact of this project;
3. Produce financial reports at its home network at the end of each fiscal year in which funds were used (March 31 and at the end of the project).
4. Participate in the annual retreat or scientific day of its home network in order to keep all members informed of the results of the funded project;
5. Notify the Networks of any positive decision of granting agencies related to the subsidized project.

Documents required for submission:

1. The electronic form "Request for funding of the inter-network program" duly completed online (*see the web link below*);
2. Accompanying documents :
All these documents (in PDF format) must be sent by email to lucien.junior.bergeron@rrcmdo.ca or fpfau@loex.qc.ca
 - a. An up-to-date curriculum vitae (FRQS version *including the Detailed Contributions section* or CCV (<https://ccv-cvc.ca>) along with a publication list for the last 5 years) for every the researchers participating in the application. For all researchers outside Quebec, an equivalent of one of these CV model is accepted.
 - b. Figures grouped into a single PDF file (if applicable).

Applications Assessment Process:

An external scientific committee will be formed to evaluate all applications submitted. The co-chairmanship of the committee will be held by a member of the executive committee of each network who has not submitted an application. Competition results will be announced in February following the submission date.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1) Originality of the request and scientific merit of the project (30 points):

- **Clarity and testability of hypotheses (10) :**
 - *Originality of the hypotheses, clarity of the research question and clarity of scientific rationale ;*
 - *Feasibility of the methodological approach in the proposed financial framework.*
- **Realistic and well-defined objectives (10) :**
 - *Appropriate experimental design to attain objective.;*
 - *Potential to create new knowledge.*
- **Methodology and analysis (10) :**
 - *Novelty of the approach, new methodologies, or new application of existing methodologies including participant recruitment, access to databases, laboratory methods or any other data collection method.*

2) Competence and complementarity of the research team (35 points):

- **New collaboration, quality of research teams and multicentricity (20) :**
 - *The relevance of each Research Theme/Networks should be clearly identified in this section ;*
 - *Establishment of new intersectoral local or international collaborations ;*
 - *Scientific achievements, history of publication, funding and students training;*
 - *Complementarity of the participating teams (eg how the expertise of each will be used to carry out the project).*
- **Integration of a Young investigator (5).**
- **Student training and implication of one or more knowledge users (10) :**
 - *Importance given to the training of students (5).*
 - *Immediate involvement and future role of the knowledge user (5).*

3) Potential impact and structuring effect for research within networks (25 points):

- **Relevance, scientific or clinical impact of the project related to the participating networks and their themes (15) :**
 - *Immediate or potential impact of the proposed project on research within the networks, according to their objectives ;*
 - *Standardization of methods, establishment of a platform or common resources.*
- **Plan to obtain external funding for the project (10) :**
 - *Clarity and feasibility of the plan to obtain future or concomitant funding from sources external to CMDO / ThéCell Networks (e.g. CIHR, foundations, private partners).*

4) Realism of the budget proposal (10 points):

- **Budget justification (10) :**
 - *Relevance of the proposed use of the funds.*

Any request for additional information may be directed to the **Scientific Coordinator** of the FRQS CardioMetabolic, Diabetes and Obesity Health Research Network (CMDO), **Lucien Junior Bergeron, PhD**, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Université de Sherbrooke, Endocrinology Department, CRCHUS, Tel: 819-346-1110 ext. 12703, email: Lucien.Junior.Bergeron@rrcmdo.ca or to the **Coordinator** of the Quebec Cell, Tissue and Gene Therapy Network (TheCell), **Friederike Pfau**, Tél.: 418-649-0252 ext. 61685, email: fpfau@loex.qc.ca.

CMDO/TheCell Inter-Network Initiatives

Instructions for the application form

[THE FORM MUST BE COMPLETED ONLINE, CLICK HERE](#)

The form can be saved in order to complete it later.

WARNING :

- To save your application to complete it later, you must click on the icon *Finish later* (a username will be asked from you, as well as a password), then exit by closing the program.
- If you have saved your application and click *Exit and delete* your answers, all saved data will be erased.

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS (CMDO AND THÉCELL NETWORKS)

Name of the Principal Investigator from **CMDO (Regular Member)**: max. 100 characters including spaces

Main affiliation: max. 120 characters including spaces

I am a young researcher (eligible for the FRQS Junior 1): Yes or No

Affiliation to other research networks (several possible choices):

- Another FRQS Network (which one or which ones?);
- Action Canada Diabetes Network;
- Others.

Name of the Principal Investigator from **TheCell (Regular Member)**: max. 100 characters including spaces

Main affiliation: max. 120 characters including spaces

I am a young researcher (eligible for the FRQS Junior 1): Yes or No

Affiliation to other research networks (several possible choices):

- Another FRQS Network (which one or which?);
- Stem Cell Network
- Others.

2. GENERAL INFORMATIONS

Project title in English: *max. 256 characters including spaces*

Project title in French: *max. 256 characters including spaces*

Theme(s) CMDO Network (several choices possible):

- Cardiometabolic health
- Diabetes
- Obesity

Theme(s) ThéCell (several choices possible):

- Cell therapy: Musculoskeletal and nervous system
- Cellular therapy: Cardiovascular, pulmonary and renal system
- Tissue regeneration: Skin, cornea, gastrointestinal system
- Cell therapy: Hematology, Oncology and Immunology

Axes (several choices possible):

- Fundamental and pre-clinical research
- Clinical research
- Nutrition, physical activity and human pathophysiology
- Lifestyle habits, risk factors and population interventions across life cycles (Population Health)
- Organization of care (Health System), sharing and use of knowledge

Possibility of 7 co-investigators:

Co-investigator's Name: *max. 100 characters including spaces*

Affiliation: *max. 120 characters including spaces*

I am a young researcher (eligible for the FRQS Junior 1): Yes or No

Affiliation to research networks (several possible choices):

- CMDO network;
- ThéCell network.
- Another FRQS Network (*which*);
- Action Canada Diabetes Network;
- Stem Cell Network;
- Others (*which*).

For applications with more than 7 co-researchers, please contact CMDO coordinator Lucien.Junior.Bergeron@rcmdo.ca.

Name of the student, postdoctoral fellow or resident directly involved in the project: *max. 250 characters including spaces*

Current study program and level of study: *max. 250 characters including spaces*

Affiliation: *max. 250 characters including spaces*

Name of the research director: *max. 250 characters including spaces*

Other students, postdoctoral fellows, residents or research professionals involved in the project, if relevant (Name, level of study in progress or position (function), name of research director and affiliation): *max. 256 characters including spaces*

Name of knowledge user(s) directly involved in the project: *max. 250 characters including spaces*

Affiliation: *max. 250 characters including spaces*

How many Quebec research centers are involved in the work: Select number: from 2 to 7+ centers

Quebec research centers directly involved in the work:

Choose from the research centers list for each involved center.

Research Center(s) outside Quebec directly involved in the work (optional):

Location (s) of Research: Name of the city (ies) (eg Sherbrooke and Quebec City) where research will take place and a short description if necessary. *max. 256 characters including spaces*

3. PROJECT SUMMARY

Provide a summary of the project to present the general idea of this Inter-Network Initiative.

max. 2200 characters including spaces

(Note: This summary may be evaluated by representatives of the general public, and abstracts of funded projects may be used as a press release and will be posted on our Networks' website).

Also provide a French version of this summary:

max. 2200 characters including spaces

(Note: This summary may be evaluated by representatives of the general public, and abstracts of funded projects may be used as a press release and will be posted on our Networks' website).

4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Provide a description of the project including scientific rationale, objectives and hypotheses, methodology and potential benefits. Please also include a paragraph that presents the originality of your project (*Potential for creating new knowledge, originality of hypotheses and research questions, novelty of the approach, new methodologies or new application of existing methodologies*). Please structure the text with the following sections:

- Objectives;
- Hypothesis ;
- Methodology ;
- Analysis;

Figures can be added as an appendix only, as a single PDF file (see *Documents required for submission* above).

max. 10 000 characters including spaces (excluding references - see section # 5)

Evaluation criteria:

Originality of the request and scientific merit of the project (30 points):

- **Clarity and testability of hypotheses (10)**
 - *Originality of the hypotheses and clarity of the research question and scientific rationale.*
 - *Feasibility of the methodological approach in the proposed financial framework.*
- **Realistic and well-defined objectives (10)**
 - *Appropriate experimental design to attain objectives.*
 - *Potential to create new knowledge.*
- **Methodology and analysis / Methodology and analysis (10)**
 - *Novelty of the approach, new methodologies, or new application of existing methodologies. including participant recruitment, access to databases, laboratory methods or any other data collection method.*

5. BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Provide all bibliographic references related to the submission.

max. 2800 characters including spaces

6. COMPETENCE AND COMPLEMENTARITY OF THE RESEARCH TEAM

Provide a description of the team formed and its complementarity, scientific achievements, history of publication, funding, and student training (*eg how each person's expertise will be used to carry out the project*).
max. 2800 characters including spaces

Evaluation criteria:

Competence and complementarity of the research team (35 points):

- **New collaboration, Quality of research teams and Multicentricity (20)**
 - *The relevance of each Research Theme / Networks should be clearly identified in this section.*
 - *Establishment of new local or international intersectoral collaborations.*
 - *Scientific achievements, history of publication, funding and training of students.*
 - *Complementarity of the participating teams (eg how the expertise of each will be used to carry out the project).*
- **Integration of a Young investigator (5)**
- **Involves knowledge user(s), and Contributes to training (10)**
 - *Importance given to the training of students (5).*
 - *Immediate or future involvement of knowledge user (5).*

7. STRUCTURING EFFECT FOR RESEARCH BETWEEN NETWORKS

Provide a description of the structuring impact of the research project in terms of the objectives of the networks (*eg establishment of new inter-sectoral collaborations within/between the networks or internationally, standardization of methods, implementation of a platform or common resources*).
max. 1400 characters including spaces

Provide a plan for obtaining external funding. Describe the strategies that will be used to obtain subsequent or concomitant funding from sources outside CMDO and TheCell.
max. 1400 characters including spaces

Evaluation criteria:

Potential impact and structuring effect for research within networks and external funding potential (25 points):

- **Relevance, scientific or clinical impact of the project related to the participating networks and their themes (15)**
 - *Immediate or potential impact of the proposed project on research within the networks, according to their objectives.*
 - *Standardization of methods, establishment of a platform or common resources.*
- **Potential for external funding following the pilot project (10)**
 - *Clarity and feasibility of the plan for obtaining future or concomitant funding*

8. BUDGETARY CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

Summary budget and complementary sources of funding:

Provide a summary description of the use of the funds. Indicate if any source of concomitant funding and the amounts that will be used for the progression of the project. Note that overheads are not eligible.

For the 20 000\$ granted, 10 000\$ comes from CMDO and 10 000\$ from ThéCell. Please provide the funds repartition between the co-applicants.

max. 1400 characters including spaces

Evaluation criteria :

Realism of the budget proposal (10 points):

- **Budget justification (10)**
 - *Relevance of the proposed use of the funds.*