



## Research Grant Program 2020 Call for Applications

Bladder cancer is the fifth most common cancer in Canada, yet remains seriously underfunded, ranking 21st among the top 25 cancers in terms of research funding in Canada. The Board of Directors of BCC decided that grants like these are an important step towards improving this statistic and have made a commitment to funding research each year.

The BCC Research Grant Program has been established to support investigator sponsored research in the field of bladder cancer. The peer review process will be directed by members of the Bladder Cancer Canada Medical Research Board. BCC will receive, process, and evaluate the submitted proposals under the guidance of its established peer review panel, and will administer the funds and enter into investigator-initiated study agreements with the selected grant recipient(s).

### Key Dates

Application deadline	<b>March 31, 2020</b>
Notification Date	By June 26, 2020
Grant Issued	On or before September 1, 2020
Report submitted to BCC	Upon completion of the one-year grant

### Objectives and Scope

The objective of the BCC Research Grant is to support peer-reviewed research that promotes excellence in bladder cancer research with the ultimate goal of improving patient care and outcomes.

The program will support research from any field in bladder cancer.

Grant recipients are expected to demonstrate an outcome of improved understanding of the specific research area and/or contribute to improving patient care or outcomes. The grant will be awarded to the successful applicant (or applicant's institution on behalf of the applicant, if applicable). In 2020 BCC will fund up to **two grants** of \$50,000 CDN will be provided over a 12-month performance period.

## **Eligibility**

Proposals will be considered for a grant based on the following:

### **Eligible Applicants**

- Canadian residents.
- Faculty members at a recognised university, health care institution and voluntary health sector organizations or research institutes. Trainees are not eligible.
- M.D. or Ph.D. trained individuals.
- Agree to execute a Notice of Acceptance with BCC.
- Provide a progress report to BCC upon request and again at the conclusion of the project.
- Agree to participate in writing newsletter articles or submit photos as it relates to the research being conducted

### **Eligible Research Proposals**

All research proposals must be specific to bladder cancer.

The research proposal will be expected to meet the following criteria:

- The study must be completed by September 1, 2021.
- No renewals will be considered.
- The proposed application should pertain to a 'stand alone' project.
- The proposed Grant is not meant to complete funding for part of a larger project.
- Preference will be given to new/pilot projects.

### **Non-eligible Research Proposals**

The following types of proposals will not be eligible:

- Proposals for projects that have received funding from another source (previously or at the time of application), including government or industry sponsors, will not be eligible to receive a BCC Grant unless the prior funding is shown by the applicant to be directed to a portion of the overall project/research that is separate and distinguishable from the portion to which the proposal relates.
- Proposal budgets in excess of \$50,000 CDN will not be considered
- Proposals for pharmaceutical product development (including studies on non-approved indications for drugs) and/or product comparison, or product promotion will not be considered.

### **Guidelines for Application Submission**

- The research proposal should not exceed five (5) pages, including figures and references. A 250 word lay summary is required (in addition to the five pages). The completed application document should accompany the proposal.
- The applicant may include up to 3 published reprints (in addition to the above pages) or pre-prints relevant to his/her research. Hard copies are not accepted as our granting program has moved to an electronic submission only format.
- Margins should be one inch all around and font size should be 12.

- Common CV (CIHR format) or NIH Bio sketch is preferable, but no specific format is required (10-page maximum for each CV.)
- There is no requirement to attached submitted papers.

The grant will not fund Principal Investigator salaries or equipment. Up to 50% of funds may be applied to trainee salaries. Travel expenses should be limited to attending meetings to present study results (not to exceed 5% of total grant).

- The completed application must be received by Bladder Cancer Canada no later than **March 31, 2020**.
- The applicant must provide the name and contact information for three external reviewers.
- Documentation received after the submission deadline will be returned to the applicant. Incomplete applications or applications that do not conform to the formatting requirements (including page limit) will also be returned to the applicant. Applicants must submit their application electronically to the BCC office.

The following are suggestions for preparation of the research proposal:

The headings suggested include 1) Statement of Objective(s), 2) Recent relevant research by applicant, 3) Brief review of literature and background information, 4) Hypothesis(es), 5) Design and Methodology, 6) Analysis of Data, 7) Anticipated Timeline, 8) Impact, and 9) Budget.

Check list of documents that must accompany the application:

- Completed Application form,
- Research proposal (5 pages maximum),
- Lay Summary (max 250 words)
- Letters of collaboration.
- CV from Principal investigators and co-investigators with a 10-page maximum for each CV.
- Certificate of Ethics Committee approval if available at the time of application (Note: Funds will not be released until proof of approval is provided.)

Incomplete applications will be disqualified.

## Review Criteria

BCC Grant proposals will be reviewed and approved by the Bladder Cancer Canada Executive Committee after recommendation from the Peer Review panel.

Research proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Significance:

- Scientific merit (validity, integrity, originality)
- Contribution to advancement of scientific knowledge in relevant therapeutic field
- Clinical relevance or potential clinical value and applicability

Feasibility:

- Feasibility of study design, methodology, analysis
- Adequate power and sample size
- Study budget

- Proposed timelines

#### Scoring:

- Applications will be ranked on a scale of 1 to 10. The minimum score required for BCC to fund a grant will be 7.5.
- The following will be used to decide on an overall score
  - Originality of the research plan
  - Significance of the project to bladder cancer research
  - Strengths and weaknesses of the proposal
  - Ability of investigator to conduct the research in his/her research environment
  - Any overlap of the application with current grants or pending applications

#### Scientific Officer Report

No scientific officer report will be provided.

#### Conditions of the BCC Research Grant Program

##### *Financial Considerations*

The amount of each Grant should include direct costs (labour and study costs) and study drug costs (if applicable). Indirect costs are not eligible under this grant (publication, software license fees, and REB fees).

Each payment will be made in a lump sum. **Institutions are required to waive overhead fees.**

##### *Contract Administration*

A copy of the 'Notice of Acceptance', signed by the Grant recipient must be returned to BCC prior to disbursement of Grant funds. Studies must be designed to be completed within 12 months after receipt of funding, yielding results that would merit submission as an abstract to a scientific meeting and subsequent publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

##### *Progress Reports*

The Grant recipient must provide a progress report, including an accounting of funds to the Chair of the BCC Medical Research Board after one year or upon request in the interim.

The recipient must be willing to present the research results at the Canadian Bladder Cancer Forum if requested.

##### *Publications*

Grant recipients are expected to present their findings at the BCC Medical Research Board meeting (during CUA conference) as well as other scientific meetings, and to submit their work for publication in peer-reviewed journals. All publications that result from a project supported by the BCC Research Grant should carry the following acknowledgement:

"This research was supported by the *Bladder Cancer Canada Research Grant Program*"

##### *Grant Recipient Responsibilities*

The following responsibilities must be assumed and carried out by the Grant recipient:

- Review and execution of the Notice of Acceptance
- Proof of Research Ethics Board submission and approval (if applicable)
- Health Canada Clinical Trial Application (CTA) submission and approval (if applicable)

- Study-related activities such as data management, statistical analysis, medical writing, monitoring, etc.
- Safety Reporting to Health Canada
- Communication of progress updates to BCC
- Forward copy of abstract(s)/manuscripts(s) to BCC upon submission to congress/journal

## **Serious Adverse Events and other Product Safety Information Reporting**

### **Required to be collected AND reported to Health Canada**

#### *Serious Adverse Events (SAE) and Lack of Therapeutic Efficacy*

The grant recipient is responsible for reporting **SAEs** and **Lack of Therapeutic Efficacy** directly to **Health Canada** (pursuant to the Canadian *Food and Drug Regulations*) and to the local REB, as required.

A **Serious Adverse Event** is any untoward adverse event/adverse drug reaction that at any dose, results in death, is life threatening, requires inpatient hospitalization or prolongation of existing hospitalization, results in persistent or significant disability/ incapacity, is a congenital anomaly/birth defect, or results in other medically important events.

**Lack of Therapeutic Efficacy** – If a health product fails to produce the expected intended effect, there may be an adverse outcome for the patient, including an exacerbation of the condition for which the health product is being used. Clinical judgment should be exercised by a qualified health care professional to determine if the problem reported is related to the product itself, rather than one of treatment selection or disease progression since health products cannot be expected to be effective in 100% of the patients.

### **Required to be collected by the Independent Investigator**

**Product Safety Information (“PSI”)** including but not necessarily limited to:

1. Death (*always considered serious*)
2. Abuse/Misuse/Overdose
3. Medication Errors (in prescribing, dispensing, or administration)
4. Drug Exposure during impregnation, pregnancy, breastfeeding or as a result of one’s occupation
5. SAE’s reported in association with suspected or confirmed quality defects or counterfeit reports
6. Suspected transmission of an infectious agent

### **Notification of BCC Research Grant**

Public notification of the Grant will be made in the BCC newsletter, on the website and via social media, after prior notification to both the successful and unsuccessful applicants who will also receive a summary from the peer review panel.

### **Complete submissions should be sent electronically to:**

Bladder Cancer Canada  
 Chair, Medical Research Board, Dr. Peter Black, M.D., FRCSC  
 c/o grants@bladdercancerCanada.org