



**Alberta Health
Services**

2017 Seed Grant Competition

Call for Proposals

February 23, 2017

Scientific Office
Digestive Health Strategic Clinical Network

BACKGROUND

The Digestive Health Strategic Clinical Network (DH SCN) Scientific Office is pleased to announce the 2017 Seed Grant Competition. This funding call will serve to (1) advance research knowledge, (2) build research capacity, (3) enhance knowledge translation, (4) promote partnerships for research and innovation, and (5) support *high quality research* aimed at improving digestive health care in Alberta in accordance with the Health Quality Council of Alberta's (HQCA) six dimensions of quality: appropriateness, acceptability, effectiveness, efficiency, safety, and accessibility. All proposals must demonstrate direct alignment with one or more of these quality domains.

The DH SCN Scientific Office has a provincial mandate. As such, it is most interested in supporting clinician- and patient-driven research questions that are answered by collaborative investigative teams comprised of multi-site and multi-zone members from across the province.

ELIGIBILITY

Within the broad view of digestive health-related research, the DH SCN proposes to fund health services research projects that aim to improve digestive health care for Albertans. Examples of relevant research topics to be considered for this funding call include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Development or implementation of clinical pathways.
- Identification of unwarranted practice variations and strategies to reduce these variations.
- Strategies to reduce health care spending.
- Enhancing care transitions between digestive health specialists and primary care physicians.
- Development or implementation of the Choosing Wisely campaign.

All proposed research studies must demonstrate direct alignment with one or more of the Health Quality Council of Alberta's (HQCA) six dimensions of quality: appropriateness, acceptability, effectiveness, efficiency, safety, and accessibility.

All proposed research should serve to enhance clinical effectiveness and optimize the value of health care delivery for patients with digestive health conditions.

When considering proposals from applicants, the review process will consider the following criteria:

1. The investigative team must be comprised of more than one individual.
2. The investigative team is encouraged to include a trainee at any level (i.e., undergraduate student, graduate student, post-doctoral fellow, medical resident).
3. The investigative team is encouraged to include members from multiple sites across more than one AHS zone (i.e., cross-province collaboration).
4. The investigative team must be comprised of at least one member with an MD or a PhD in a discipline that is relevant to digestive health (i.e., content knowledge).
5. Team members must have past experience in conducting research relevant to digestive health.

RELEVANT TOPIC AREAS

Proposed research studies that align with the DH SCN priority areas will be eligible. The priority areas listed below were derived from consultation with stakeholders in digestive health including the DH SCN Executive team and the DH SCN Core Committee. In addition to the Health Quality Council of Alberta's six domains of quality, proposed topics must also align with certain priority areas:

- Endoscopic Utilization
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Colon Cancer Screening
- Chronic Liver Disease
- Wait Times or Access for GI Specialty Services
- Functional Bowel Disorders (e.g., irritable bowel syndrome, dyspepsia)
- Clostridium Difficile
- Celiac Disease
- Nutrition

FUNDING

The maximum amount of a single award is \$10,000; however, lesser amounts and co-funded projects are encouraged. The maximum amount of funds available in this competition is \$50,000 (i.e., 5 grants).

Funds must be expended within 12 months from the time they are made available and projects should be completed within this timeframe.

The time frame and associated expenses must be clearly justified in the budget.

The grant is non-renewable. Extensions of up to six months may be granted at the discretion of the DH SCN and pending demonstrated progress at the interim reporting period.

Funding may be requested for these items:

- Stipend support for trainees or salary support for research associates and technical or professional assistants.
- Research operating expenses, including general office supplies.
- Expenses for travel that is essential for the conduct of the study (such as data collection or to attend study training).
- Fees related to the publication of results in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Other expenses will be considered, but must be justified.

Funding will NOT be provided for these items:

- Expenses for travel to conferences, meetings, symposia, or presentations.
- Previously incurred expenses prior to implementation of the grant.

- Principal Investigator salaries.
- Legal or patent fees, membership fees, academic fees, secretarial support.
- Institution overhead.

REPORTING

Investigators will be required to keep separate, accurate, and up-to-date accounts and records of the receipt and expenditure of the funding monies received, as well as all invoices, receipts and accounts and any other relevant documents relating to the expenditure of the funding. The DH SCN will retain the right to review, at reasonable request, the accounts and records that relate to the expenditure of the funding and will have the right to hold copies of such accounts and records. Investigators will complete interim and final financial reports and submit them for review to the DH SCN.

Investigators will be required to closely monitor the delivery and success of the project throughout the funding period to ensure that milestones are being met and deliverables are being provided. Investigators will provide the DH SCN with interim (i.e., at 9 months) and final reports on completion of the funding period (i.e., 18 months), which will confirm whether the project has been successfully and properly executed. These reports, including names of successful applicants, will be shared with AHS senior leadership and more broadly within AHS. Any changes to the protocol or budget must be approved by the DH SCN prior to the commencement of the work.

All successful applicants will present their research results to the DH SCN Core Committee. This will provide an opportunity for knowledge translation and the opportunity to identify potential future collaborations.

All publications, including public messages, arising from this grant will acknowledge the support of the DH SCN. The following statement should be included in the Acknowledgements section of the publication:

“Research reported in this publication was supported by the Alberta Health Services Digestive Health Strategic Clinical Network (DH SCN). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the DH SCN or Alberta Health Services.”

TIMELINES

February 23, 2017	Call for Seed Grant Applications
May 1, 2017 17:00 MST	Applications Due
May 2 – May 31, 2017	Review of Applications
First week of June, 2017	Notification of Awards

PROGRAM POLICIES

1. Applicants may only apply once to the 2017 Seed Grant competition as a Principal Applicant but may be a Co-Applicant on multiple applications.
2. Principal Applicants must be affiliated with an Alberta-based academic institution.
3. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
4. Successful applicants must submit proof of relevant ethics approvals before funds will be released.
5. After the “notification of award”, important changes to the study design, including study population, recruitment or intervention, must be immediately reported to the DH SCN. If changes are substantial deviations from the original application, the DH SCN reserves the right to close the grant and request that all funds be returned.
6. Any unused funds at the end of the award term must be returned to the DH SCN Scientific Office for use towards future research funding opportunities.
7. Failure to submit a final report within 6 months of completing the study will disqualify the applicant from future funding provided by the DH SCN Scientific Office.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

1. Research proposals will be limited to a maximum of 5 pages using the provided template. References and Bio Sketches are not included in the 5 page limit.
2. Appendices of up to 3 pages are allowed. References and Bio Sketches are not included in the 3 page limit for appendices.
3. All members of the research team must submit a Bio Sketch using the template provided. No other Bio Sketches will be reviewed. There are no page limits for the Bio Sketch. Please note that, in applying for research funding from the DH SCN, research team member names will be included in the list of Alberta digestive health researchers maintained by the DH SCN. Contact information will not be shared beyond the DH SCN Scientific Office.
4. Complete budget details and justification must be included.
5. Email a PDF copy of the completed, signed application to susan.jelinski@ahs.ca.

SEED GRANT APPLICATION TEMPLATE

Principal Applicant Contact Information

Provide name, title, department, academic institution, mailing address, telephone number and email address.

Title of Proposed Research:

Research Team Members

List the names of all research team members, their roles, tasks, current job title, and employer using a table similar to the one provided below.

Title	Name	Role	Tasks	Current Job Title & Employer
Dr./Ms./Mr.	Xxx	e.g., Principal Applicant, Co-Principal Applicant, Co-Applicant Research Assistant, Trainee.	e.g., Leading study, research design, analysis, knowledge translation lead.	e.g., Associate Professor at University of Alberta

Lay Abstract

Using terminology suitable for a lay audience, describe the rationale for the proposed study, the research question, methodology, and the potential impact these proposed research results will have on digestive health care for Albertans.

Background and Rationale

Provide a brief outline of the issue that the proposed research study will address. Indicate the current state of existing evidence.

Research Question and Objectives

State the research question and all objectives for the proposed research, indicating how it is relevant to digestive health care in Alberta.

Study Design

Describe the study design that will be used.

Research Methods

Please describe the research methodology including (as applicable) a description of the study population, recruitment methods, sample size calculations, interventions, primary and secondary outcome measures and analysis plans.

Potential Impact for Digestive Health Care in Alberta

Describe how the results from this research study will impact health services delivery or policy creation/implementation for digestive health care in Alberta.

Knowledge Translation

Describe the knowledge translation plan beyond peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations.

Timeline

It is important that the review team has dedicated time to complete the proposed work. Please provide a timetable/schedule for all tasks included in the proposed study.

Budget

Please list and justify all requested funds (up to a maximum of \$10,000).

Alignment with the Health Quality Council of Alberta’s Six Dimensions of Quality

(By placing an “X” in the boxes below, please indicate how the proposed work aligns with priority areas and the HQCA’s 6 dimensions of quality)

	Acceptability Health services are respectful and responsive to user needs, preferences and expectations.	Accessibility Health services are obtained in the most suitable setting in a reasonable time and distance.	Appropriateness Health services are relevant to user needs and are based on accepted or evidence-based practice.	Effectiveness Health services are based on scientific knowledge to achieve desired outcomes.	Efficiency Resources are optimally used in achieving desired outcomes.	Safety Mitigate risks to avoid unintended or harmful results.
Endoscopic Utilization						
Inflammatory Bowel Disease						
Colon Cancer Screening						
Chronic Liver Disease						
Wait Times/Access						
Primary Care and GI Specialist Integration						
Functional Bowel Disorders						
Clostridium Difficile						
Celiac Disease						
Nutrition						

References

BIO SKETCH

NAME and ROLE	INSTITUTION/ORGANIZATION and POSITION TITLE
COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS, PHONE, & EMAIL	

A. Education/Training/Relevant Work Experience (List only work experience that is relevant to the proposed study.)

Institution/Location	Degree/Training/Position Title	Year	Field of Study

B. Research Theme(s) (Check all that apply to your research experience; adapted from CIHR.)

- Biomedical Research
- Clinical Research
- Health Services Research
- Social, Cultural, Environmental, and Population Health Research

C. Peer-Review Publications (Please list only those publications that are published or accepted, and are recent (last 5 years) or relevant.)

D. Research Funding

Period of Support	Funding Source	Project Title	Amount (CAD)	Role

E. Experience Relevant to the Project

Signature Page

Principal Investigator:

Signature

Date

University Department Head:

Signature

Date

University Associate Dean:

Signature

Date

University Research Office:

Signature

Date