



**Alberta Health
Services**

**2017 Systematic Review Grant
Competition**

February 23, 2017

Call for Proposals

Scientific Office
Digestive Health Strategic Clinical Network

BACKGROUND

The Digestive Health Strategic Clinical Network (DH SCN) Scientific Office is pleased to announce the 2017 Systematic Review 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) encourage the development of implementable and scalable ideas that will improve the quality of digestive health care delivery within the Health Quality Council of Alberta's six domains of quality: appropriateness, accessibility, effectiveness, efficiency, safety, and acceptability. All proposals must demonstrate direct alignment with one or more of these quality domains.

ELIGIBILITY

When considering proposals for systematic literature reviews from applicants, the review process will consider the following criteria:

1. The review team must be comprised of more than one individual.
 2. The review team must include a trainee at any level (i.e., undergraduate student, graduate student, post-doctoral fellow, medical resident).
 3. The inclusion of a medical librarian on the review team is encouraged.
 4. The review 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. At least one team member must have past experience in conducting research relevant to digestive health.
 6. At least one team member must have past experience in conducting systematic literature reviews including experience in relevant statistical methods if a meta-analysis is proposed.
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TASKS TO BE PERFORMED

1. Clearly define the research question that is relevant to digestive health in Alberta, specifying inclusion/exclusion criteria (population, intervention/exposure, outcome).
2. Prepare a protocol and register the protocol on PROSPERO once funding is received.
3. Conduct a systematic search of the literature where information sources and search strategies are clearly described. The assistance of a trained medical librarian is encouraged for this process.
4. Employ strategies to mitigate publication and selection bias.
5. Describe and utilise a method to assess risk of bias of individual trials.
6. Describe and utilise a formal methodology for analyzing and summarizing the results.
7. Employ an accepted methodology for grading the level of evidence and the strength of recommendations of the findings.
8. Prepare a written report for the DH SCN Scientific Office that documents the literature review and analysis including the research question, methodology and conclusions.

9. Prepare an oral presentation to be delivered to the DH SCN Core Committee. Publication in a peer-reviewed journal and presentation at relevant conferences is also encouraged.

RELEVANT TOPIC AREAS

Systematic review topic areas 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 \$9,000; however, lesser amounts and co-funded projects are encouraged. The maximum amount of funds available in this competition is \$27,000 (i.e., 3 grants). Funds must be expended within one year from the time they are made available. The timeframe and associated expenses must be clearly justified in the budget. The grant is non-renewable.

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 and software.
- 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.
- Computer purchases.
- Principal Investigator salaries.
- Legal or patent fees, membership fees, academic fees, secretarial support.
- Institutional 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 Scientific Office 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 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 Scientific Office with a final report on completion of the funding period, which will confirm whether the project has been successfully and properly completed.

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 Systematic Review 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 Systematic Review Grant Competitions 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. 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.
5. Failure to submit a final report within 6 months of completing the systematic review will disqualify the applicant from future DH SCN funding.
6. Important changes to the proposed study protocol must be immediately reported to the DH SCN Scientific Office. If changes are substantial deviations from the original application, the grant may be closed and the funds will be returned.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

1. Systematic review 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

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

Principal Applicant Contact Information

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

Title of Proposed Review:

Review Team Members

(Please list the names of all review 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, Librarian, Reviewer.	e.g., Leading review, research design, study review and appraisal.	e.g., Associate Professor at University of Alberta

Experience of the Review Team

Please provide a brief summary of the experience your team has in conducting the proposed study. The review team should be comprised of members with sector experience in digestive health, members with experience/knowledge in conducting systematic literature reviews, an experienced librarian to supervise the search strategy and members with statistical experience to interpret quantitative analysis in the literature or perform analyses for a proposed meta-analysis.

Background and Rationale

Please provide a brief outline of the issue that this systematic review will address. Indicate the current state of existing evidence.

Research Question and Objectives

Please state the research question, and all objectives for the proposed research, and how it is relevant to digestive health care in Alberta, specifying inclusion criteria (e.g., population, intervention, exposure, outcome).

Review Methods

Please indicate how you will conduct the review using the following headings where appropriate.

Inclusion Criteria

Population

Intervention

Comparisons

Outcome(s)

Study designs to be included

Detailed Search Methodology

Study Selection and Quality Assessment

Data Extraction and Analysis

Subgroups and Sensitivity Considerations

Potential Impact for Digestive Health Care in Alberta

Please describe how the results from this review will impact health services delivery or policy creation/implementation for digestive health care in Alberta.

Timeline

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

Budget

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

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