

## Research Challenge 2024 Application Instructions

This guidance document will outline the required and optional components that you will need for a Research Challenge application. Scanned or electronic copies of the signatures and all documents are acceptable.

1. Grant Cover Sheet (required)
2. Program/Dept. Manager Statement of Support (required)
3. Research Module (required)
4. Research Proposal (required)
5. Project Timeline (required)
6. Mentoring Plan (required)
7. Biographical Sketch (required for Principal investigator (PI), Co-PI and all Co-investigators)
8. Patient Engagement Module (recommended\*\*)
9. Appendices (optional)

### **1. Grant Cover Sheet (required)**

A Grant Cover Sheet will need to be submitted with this grant; depending on the PI's appointment either a UBC Research Project Information Form (RPIF), or a VCHRI Grant Cover Sheet. The research team is responsible for obtaining academic and/or clinical department signatures before the application is submitted. VCHRI will arrange for the faculty dean and ORS approval prior to submitting the application.

**Note:** Signatures will not be provided immediately. Please ensure you allow time for your application to be reviewed by your Academic and/or Clinical Department.

### **PI has a VCH appointment**

If the PI has a VCH appointment without a UBC appointment, then the PI must fill out VCHRI Grant Cover Sheet and obtain the appropriate signatures. The PI's VCH Program Director/Supervisor must still sign the research module and the supervisor statement of support.

### **PI has both a VCH and UBC appointment**

It will depend on the UBC appointment that the PI holds. If the PI has a UBC clinical assistant professor appointment or higher appointment, the PI will need to complete the **UBC Research Project Information Form (RPIF)**. The PI must obtain their academic department head's signature on the cover sheet, as well as on the research module.

### **2. VCH Program/Dept. Manager Statement of Support (required)**

This form ensures that you have the support of your Program or Department Manager. The Program or Department Manager should be at least one hierarchical level above your team members and will have the ability to schedule and/or budget your time and address any administrative issues that can arise with your project. Your Program or Department Manager should not be a member of your team.

### **3. Research Module (required)**

Please see the following guidelines when filling out the research module sections:

### **Signature pages**

- Signatures are required by the PI, Co-PI, and all co-investigators as well as the PI's Academic and/or Clinical Department Head, and, if applicable the applicant's Faculty Dean.

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## Summary of Research Proposal

- Summarize the objectives and research plan.
- Include a research question, hypothesis, clear methodology and analysis plan.
- Explicitly detail how the project plans to improve practice at VCH.

## Research Project Team

Clearly describe the various roles and responsibilities of all team members listed, including patient-family partners, and your team's capacity to complete this project in 18-months. Please indicate if the PI has protected research time.

## Budget

Remember to provide enough info in the budget justification section so the reviewers can understand the reasoning behind the costs, and can be confident that you really know what you need to do the project. In addition, please consider the following when putting together your budget:

- Release time:
  - PI: eligible for release time in the budget, and to a max of 50% of the total budget. Any potential release time arrangements (e.g. amount of time, reimbursement from grant, etc.) must be discussed with and approved by your Manager before you submit the application.
  - Collaborators, Co-investigators and Co-PIs: cannot be supported in any way with these grant funds
- Hiring personnel:
  - Personnel: this should include the rate, benefits and estimated hours.
  - If you plan to hire or contract with project staff as a result of this research grant, you must use either VCH or UBC HR processes. If you are intending to hire a VCH employee, offers of employment or contracted services must not be made without the involvement of your VCH HR advisor. Please talk to your Manager about this process.
- Travel:
  - Travel costs for investigators such as (but not limited to) mileage, conference fees/travel, are not eligible expenses and will be removed from the budget. Exception for the direct delivery of the research project (e.g. research participant's reimbursement for parking).
- Equipment:
  - Research equipment costs are not eligible expenses and will be removed from the budget; exceptions to this are small equipment that do not require ongoing maintenance costs.
- Honorarium payments:
  - Payments via honorarium to staff/subjects/participants are not eligible expenses, and will be removed from budget.
  - Patient-family partner honorarium is an eligible expense up to \$1,000. These top up funds will be held separately from the operating grant. Completion of the Patient Engagement Module is required to request additional funds.
- Patient engagement expenses:
  - Including, but not limited to, compensation for care attendants, transportation (e.g. bus, car mileage, ferries, parking, etc.), and accessibility services. Must have a receipt or invoice.
  - Costs related to the planning and conducting of patient engagement training, events or meetings.
- Additional Notes:
  - In-kind contributions:
    - Accompanied by a statement signed by the partner's appropriate authorized official certifying the value of the contributions.
    - Documented in the "In Kind" section of your budget in order to be recognized. The valuation of in-kind contributions must be stated either at the internal cost to the partner or at retail cost less 40%, whichever is less.

### Transplant Research Foundation of BC (TRFBC) Exceptions:

- To facilitate patient engagement, reasonable patient remuneration, over the \$1000 top up funds, will be considered an eligible expense under the TRFBC co-funded grants.

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## Budget Justification

- Include cost for each item within the area; for example, office supplies might be one item under “Materials.” Also include how costs were estimated (e.g. A quote from...)
- Provide enough detail and rationale for each item so that the review committee can determine the feasibility of the project, and whether the costs for each are reasonable and required.

## **4. Research Proposal (required)**

The research proposal is a required component of your application. The proposal should be a maximum of five pages. Additional pages may be included for references, tables, chart/figures, appendices etc. Please note that legends must be succinct, as details of methods and/or results should be included in the body of the proposal, not in the legends. The proposal should provide a clear and concise description of the actual research project to be undertaken, and should address the following:

- rationale - what makes it significant
- current state of knowledge (literature review)
- hypotheses/research question(s), objectives
- methodology (including sampling, data collection, data analysis etc.)
- potential outcomes and impacts on practice - explicitly detail how the project improves patient care at VCH.

\* **Note:** for TRFBC solid organ transplant projects, clearly describe how the project addresses one or more of the [transplant patient priorities](#).

## **5. Project Timeline (required)**

The project timeline illustrates the feasibility of your project as an 18-month project. This timeline must:

- be a maximum of 1-page, and can be in the form of a table or figure
- clearly illustrate how the project will be completed in the allotted time period

## **6. Mentoring Plan (required)**

The mentoring plan outlines how the mentor (Co-PI) will assist in the development of the proposal, submission of the application, and execution of the project (if funded).

## **7. Biographical Sketch (Required for PI, Co-PI and Co-Investigators)**

The PI, co-PI and all co-investigators must use the VCHRI Biographical Sketch for this competition. Instructions on how to complete each section of the template is provided on the VCHRI website.

## **8. Patient Engagement Module (recommended\*\*)**

VCHRI is committed to ensuring that meaningful patient and family engagement is adopted as a strategy in research projects and is collaborating with the BC SUPPORT Unit to provide training and supports to ensure teams are successful with patient engagement. If you are conducting patient-oriented research, please complete this module. It is highly recommended that you book a consultation with the BC SUPPORT Unit to help define the patient engagement for your project.

Patient-oriented research is “research done in partnership with patients that answers research questions that matter to patients and aims to improve health care”.

- POR engages patients beyond the role of research subjects, partnering with them as members of the research team. Patient partners can be involved at varying levels in POR projects. Details: [Levels of Patient and Public Involvement](#)
- POR ideally includes four stakeholder groups: patients, researchers, healthcare providers, and health system decision-makers. For the purposes of this award, projects *must* include patient partners and *should* include other stakeholders.
- Here is a [checklist](#) that can help identify how patient-oriented your research project might be.

## Lay Summary

- Provide a lay summary that offers a description for why the research is being done, what you are trying to achieve, how you intend to conduct the research, and what you expect to find. The summary should include a statement for how engagement of patients as partners in your research will contribute to the

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uptake of your research and improvements in patient care or services within VCH. The summary should be free of jargon, technical or undefined scientific terms, and be presented in a manner that can be easily understood by someone with no prior knowledge of the subject

- Here is a [guide](#) to support writing a plain language summary.

#### Patient Engagement Objectives

- Provide a brief summary of your objective(s) for doing patient engagement; describe how your research project will benefit from patient engagement.

#### Patient Engagement Plan

- Provide a concise overview of your patient engagement plan for your project. The summary should offer a description of the key roles and responsibilities that you envision for your patient partners, the stage(s) or phases in your research project where patients will be engaged, how the proposed engagement aligns with an [‘involve’ or ‘collaborate’](#) level of engagement, some indication of the specific methods used for engagement with patients, and how your plan aligns with the stated objectives. Where appropriate, the summary may include ideas for how to identify and recruit suitable patient-partners, and how to on-board and provide ongoing support for your patient-partners during the award period.
- Here is an interactive [roadmap](#) to help guide where and how patients could be included as partners on your research project.

\*\* Note: If applying for a TRFBC grant, completion of the patient engagement module is required.

#### **9. Appendices (optional)**

The appendices may only include data collection tools, and letters of support from key collaborators, programs or departments that will be involved in the research project. All other information included as an appendix will be removed from the application before being forwarded to reviewers.

#### **Contact Information**

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