



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Program Name:** Catalyst Grant Program

**Sponsor:** Lupus Canada

### Important Dates

<b>Funding Opportunity Launch</b>	October 29, 2018
<b>Registration Deadline</b>	January 18, 2019
<b>Application Deadline</b>	February 15, 2019
<b>Anticipated Notice of Decision</b>	April 1, 2019
<b>Funding Start Date</b>	May 1, 2019

*\*Note Registration submissions are not adjudicated, but must be completed in order to submit a full application.*

### Program Description

Lupus Canada is a national voluntary organization dedicated to improving the lives of people living with lupus through advocacy, education, public awareness, support and research.

The Lupus Canada Catalyst Grant Program was launched to support high calibre start-up projects that have the potential to significantly advance the field or impact the lives of persons living with lupus and their families. This grant provides support to investigators to initiate new research ideas and projects and is intended to complement rather than compete with traditional sources of funding such as the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR). Our hope is that investigators who receive a Lupus Canada grant will have greater success in obtaining larger multiyear grants from traditional funders.

### Objectives

Catalyst grants are intended to help kick start a new project or research idea focused on discoid or systematic lupus erythematosus (SLE). This could include, but is not limited to:

- pilot or feasibility studies
- development of new research methodology
- development of new research technology, tools or devices
- novel partnerships/collaborations

This Request for Applications is intended to support any of the four pillars of health research: biomedical, clinical research, health systems/services or social, cultural, environmental and population health so long as there is a clear tie to advancements in Canadian lupus research. Our hope is that these grants will seed additional funding and that the program of research will substantially impact the lives of Canadians living with Lupus and their families.

## Funds available

The Lupus Canada Catalyst Grant Program is the first major initiative in what we hope will be a growing portfolio for the organization. Applications to the Catalyst Grant Program will be adjudicated through a peer reviewed process. There is a total of \$35,000 available to fund projects for a term of 1 year. We anticipate that we will be able to fund 1-2 grants, depending on the amount requested. Grants are non-renewable and cannot be carried forward.

## Eligibility

All applicants and co-applicants must hold an academic appointment at a Canadian university, teaching hospital or similarly accredited institution (i.e., an institution eligible to hold tri-council funding). Candidates in postdoctoral training are eligible to apply, but must have a co-Principal applicant with an academic appointment in order to receive funds at their institution.

All applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents. Collaborators may be from outside of Canada, however no funds from Lupus Canada may be transferred outside of the country.

Principal Investigators are permitted to submit up to a maximum of 1 applications per competition.

## Allowable costs

Funding will be provided to support only direct costs of research. Typical costs are summarized below:

	<b>Eligible expenses</b>	<b>Ineligible expenses</b>
<b>Compensation related expenses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Salary</li><li>• Benefits</li><li>• Stipends</li><li>• Honorarium</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Release time</li><li>• Administrative/management fees</li><li>• Severance and separation</li></ul>
<b>Travel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Travel related to field work, data collection, or research subject participation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Travel, meals and accommodation related to research conferences, collaboration</li><li>• Commuting costs</li></ul>
<b>Supplies &amp; Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Computers and electronic communications including tablets and other hardware and specialized software</li><li>• Cellular phones, smartphones or other electronic devices when necessary for research purposes (e.g., data collection)</li><li>• Training for use of equipment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Standard monthly connection feeds</li><li>• Installation of phone lines</li><li>• Construction feeds</li></ul>
<b>Research Dissemination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publication and open access fee</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Translation</li></ul>
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regulatory compliance</li><li>• Hospitality costs related to research networking</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alcohol</li><li>• Entertainment or gifts</li><li>• Professional development</li></ul>

*Items not addressed here, will remain under the discretion of Lupus Canada.*

## **Review Process and Evaluation**

Registration submissions will not be adjudicated, but will be used for administrative purposes.

All applications that meet the eligibility requirements will be adjudicated through a standard peer-review process. The panel will include a minimum of two experts with content expertise in lupus (medical and/or research) and with methodological knowledge sufficient to adjudicate health research, as well as an informed patient (Canadian persons impacted directly by Lupus). The review process will include independent scoring against evaluation criteria and a joint discussion of top ranked applications by the full panel.

The advisory committee will be asked to adhere to the standards of peer-review, including confidentiality and fairness as discussed in CIHR's peer review manual for grant applications (<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/4656.html>).

## **Evaluation Criteria**

The review panel will evaluate applications against the following criteria:

- **Relevance\*** – The project and program of research is directly related to advancements in lupus research in the Canadian context. The focus of the project should be on discoid lupus or systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), not related autoimmune conditions.
- **Scientific Merit** – The approach to research is sound and feasible. The research questions / aims are clear as is the rationale for the approach and methodology. The research design and methodology are appropriate and feasible. Limitations have been appropriately identified and addressed.
- **Potential Impact\*** – The research proposed has the potential to address a significant need or gap for the field of lupus research and/or there is a potential for significant improvement to the health or lives of persons living with lupus and their families.
- **Innovation** – The study is original, it explores a new direction or approach, or an improvement over an existing product or service. There is promise that if funded will stimulate further research and development.
- **Credibility** – The research team is suitably qualified and able to complete the study as proposed.
- **Likelihood** that the project will lead to subsequent external funding.

*\*Informed patients (Canadian persons impacted directly by Lupus) will play a critical role in adjudicating applications through assessment of the relevance of the proposed project and the potential impact. Applicants are advised to pay particular attention to their lay summary of research for this purpose.*

## **Reporting and Publication Requirements**

Information provided in reports will be used by Lupus Canada on our website, newsletters and other communication mechanisms to both promote our role in lupus research and increase transparency to our donors. Funding for the Catalyst Grant Program has been generously provided by Lupus Canada donors. As such, the financial support awarded by Lupus Canada must be acknowledged in all forthcoming publications and presentations.

**Contact Information**

For questions about this funding opportunity, application instructions or peer review process, please contact:

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