



The Terry Fox Research Institute  
L'Institut de recherche Terry Fox

## **THE TERRY FOX RESEARCH INSTITUTE'S RESEARCH PROJECT IDENTIFICATION & SELECTION PROCESS**

### **Our Mission and Vision**

The Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI) seeks to improve significantly the outcomes of cancer research for the patient through a highly collaborative, team-oriented, milestone-based approach to research that will enable discoveries to translate quickly into practical solutions for cancer patients worldwide.

### **TFRI Investment in Translational Cancer Research**

While the pace of scientific discovery has grown exponentially over the past decade, in part due to the development of new genomic and information technologies, the pace of translation of this new knowledge into the health system has lagged. In other words, good science is necessary, but has not been sufficient to move an innovation into the health system.

TFRI will invest in *tumour-site specific translational cancer research* which develops the knowledge and evidence, and facilitates the activities that are necessary to accelerate the transfer of innovations into products and services for cancer control.

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#### **Note:**

TFRI accepts **full project proposals by invitation only** from faculty at institutions which are signatories to the TFRI Node Memorandum of Understanding. Please refer below to the three step process used. Refer also to (i) the list of projects and projects under development (Appendix 1), and (ii) the separate but related 'add-on' project process (Appendix 2).

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### **Characteristics of Projects in TFRI's Portfolio**

Each project within the TFRI portfolio defines how it will make a measurable impact by:

1. Reducing the number of individuals diagnosed with cancer; or
2. Improving the quality of life or survival of patients being treated for a particular cancer.

Key project characteristics include:

- a tumour-specific focus
- projected measurable impacts and translational deliverables defined up front
- strong clinical and scientific leadership of interdisciplinary research teams
- a managed approach, with milestone-driven plans
- strong collaborations between research institutions and health centres between TFRI Nodes, AND

- potential for/ or existence of strategic partnerships with other organizations pursuing the same or closely connected goals.

### **STEP ONE - Project Identification and generation of a Project Outline: at any time**

The TFRI considers two overlapping approaches to identify a theme for project development:

1. discussion of a strategic theme / approach at the Institute's Annual Scientific Meeting; and/or
2. championship of a strategic theme / approach by the TFRI Scientific Director and/or a Node Co-ordinator to be followed by a workshop of interested researchers resulting in a viable 3- to 5- page project outline.

### **STEP TWO - Project Selection & completion of an R&D Plan: by invitation only**

Only following the TFRI's review of a 3- to 5-year project outline, will a research group be invited to prepare a *Research and Development Plan*. The group will be given 6 months in which to prepare and submit a plan based on guidelines provided by TFRI ([www.tfri.ca](http://www.tfri.ca)). The size and scope of these plans will vary, but will not normally be less than \$400,000 per year (based on a 3- to 5-year plan).

Based on its review of the outline, the TFRI may offer to fund a short pilot project of up to 1 year focused on:

1. Accelerating development of the collaborations necessary for a larger project,
2. Ramping-up of essential competencies (i.e., validating clinical samples and datasets) necessary to start a larger project, or
3. Advancing "Go/No Go" deliverables upon which a larger translational cancer research project may depend.

To shorten review timelines, TFRI will work with the project team to identify a project champion and provide content expert(s) to act as consultants and reviewers to the developing Research and Development plan.

### **STEP THREE - Project Approval**

Final International Peer Review (IPR) will only be taken when the Research and Development Plan is judged to be ready, based on the comments of the content experts, the champion and TFRI.

The TFRI Board of Directors will receive a report from IPR and a recommendation on funding before funding commences.

*Friday, April 4, 2009*

## **Appendix 1- Project Identification: Project Ideas in Development & Contact Names**

*(This list is updated from time to time.)*

<b>Funded Projects:</b>	
Anorexia Cachexia: Molecular mechanisms & treatment options	Pelletier, Jerry
Breast Cancer: Therapeutic manipulation of insulin/IGF-1 receptor pathways	Pollak, Michael
Colorectal Cancer: Clinical development of Irinophore C	Waterhouse, Dawn
Lung Cancer: Early detection of	Lam, Stephen
Myeloma: Predicting benefit from high dose therapy & transplantation	Stewart, Doug
Prostate Cancer: Phase II Clinical Study of OGX-427	Chi, Kim
TFRI/OICR selective therapies target identification program	Rottapel, Rob
<b>Pan-Canadian Biomarker Initiative: Projects in Development</b>	
Breast Cancer: Biomarkers of Therapeutic Response	Watson, Peter
Ovarian Cancer: Canadian Ovarian Cancer Research Consortium	Mes-Masson, Anne-Marie
Prostate Cancer: Prostate Cancer Biomarker Network	Saad, Fred

For more information on funded projects and the pilot projects TFRI has funded please refer to the TFRI website at [www.tfri.ca](http://www.tfri.ca)

Investigators who have novel ideas or resources to contribute to projects underway or under development are encouraged to read Appendix 2 and contact TFRI directly. Either contact Stephen Herst at TFRI ([sherst@tfri.ca](mailto:sherst@tfri.ca)) or the project leaders above.

## **Appendix 2- TFRI's INNOVATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT IDENTIFICATION & SELECTION PROCESS ('ADD-ON' PROJECTS)**

The Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI) seeks to improve significantly the outcomes of cancer research for the patient through a highly collaborative, team-oriented, milestone-based approach to research that will enable discoveries to translate quickly into practical solutions for cancer patients worldwide.

### **TFRI Investment in Innovation**

In addition to its investment in large-scale tumour-specific projects, the TFRI is interested to use its team-oriented approach to test and validate innovative technologies opportunistically with which to accelerate the transfer of innovations into products and services for cancer control.

### **Characteristics of eligible Innovative 'Add-On' Research Projects**

Innovative Research Projects must bring together an innovative technology team with an existing TFRI-funded research project. The innovative technology team may be new to TFRI or already be part of the TFRI-funded project. Please note that TFRI accepts *proposals by invitation only* from faculty at institutions which are signatories to the TFRI Node Memorandum of Understanding (see Project Identification below for more detail).

Key innovative project characteristics include:

- a novel, academic-based technology / platform
- a requirement for validation of the technology in a defined, tumour-specific population
- projected measurable impacts and translational deliverables defined up front
- strong clinical and scientific leadership of interdisciplinary research teams
- a managed approach, with milestone-driven plans
- potential for/ or existence of strategic partnerships with other organizations pursuing the same or closely connected goals.

### **STEP ONE - Project Identification: Completion of a Concept Outline**

Concepts may be presented at any time. Concept outlines can be presented by an existing TFRI-funded research project leader, or by the innovative technology team leader. If the innovative technology team leader does not have a collaborating TFRI research project leader, the TFRI will seek to identify one as part of its Executive Committee review. Concept outlines should be presented as a 2 – 5 page one year project 'add-on's to an existing TFRI project.

### **STEP TWO - Project Selection and Review: R&D generation and approval**

Following TFRI review of the viable concept outline, the collaborative team may be invited to complete a 1 year, <\$100,000 *Research and Development Plan* to be submitted within 2 months. The Research and Development Plan will be reviewed by content experts and the TFRI Executive. If approved, the innovative project will be folded into the larger TFRI-funded project.

*Friday, April 3, 2009*