

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

### THE TERRY FOX NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD (2023)

#### Purpose

To support outstanding new researchers as they develop their careers as independent research scientists or clinician scientists to undertake high-quality cancer research, while in close collaboration and mentorship with Canadian cancer research groups.

#### Scope

Support under this Request for Applications (RFA) is targeted at high-quality biomedical, clinical and/or translational research, providing information that may form the basis of innovative cancer prevention, diagnosis and/or treatment. The TFRI is looking for outstanding investigators to be mentored by two or more senior investigators of an established Canadian research group which may be funded by any combination of Federal, Provincial, or private research grants.

#### Support Offered

Awards of up to \$150,000 per annum are tenable for **three years** and provide:

- Research expenses, including research staff, consumables, and equipment<sup>1</sup>
- Travel and accommodation for scientifically justified visits<sup>2</sup>.

#### Funding Envelope

The Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI) has committed to fund up to three awards per competition for this particular RFA. Subject to availability of funds, this competition runs annually. When possible, TFRI will seek partnerships with other Foundations and Agencies to increase the number of awards made each year.

#### Eligibility

To apply you should:

- Hold either a PhD, MD, or the equivalent
- Hold a full-time appointment, or an equivalent that is leading toward to a full-time, faculty-level contract of employment at an eligible Canadian research institution<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A maximum of \$70,000 is permitted for equipment purchases as part of this RFA, to be requested in the first year of the grant. Details of allowable costs are included in the *Terry Fox New Investigator Application Guide (2023)*.

<sup>2</sup> A maximum of \$5,000 per year is allowed for scientific travel, including participation in the TFRI Annual Scientific Meeting.

<sup>3</sup> Your position should allow you to supervise or co-supervise research trainees. This usually means a graduate school cross-appointment in most Canadian institutions.



- Have made intellectual contributions to research that are published in leading journals, and be able to demonstrate your potential to carry out independent research
- Be within five calendar years from the start of your first faculty-level appointment.<sup>4</sup>

### **Ineligible to Apply**

- Applicants who currently hold or have held a Terry Fox New Investigator award
- Applicants who have applied unsuccessfully for a Terry Fox New Investigator award three times
- Applicants proposing mentorship at institutions located outside of Canada.

### **Sponsorship**

For your application to be eligible for consideration:

1. Mentorship to be provided by at least two senior investigators of a research group at any eligible Canadian Research Institution. This includes but is not limited to Terry Fox New Frontiers Program Project, TFRI Translational Program or a funded research team of a designated Marathon of Hope Cancer Centre project.
  - a. A letter from each of the Project Leaders of the sponsoring Program must accompany your full application outlining how your project, if funded, would be integrated into and contribute to that Program and how it will provide mentorship for your development as an independent researcher. Evaluation of the strength of the mentorship plan will be an essential review criterion for this competition.
  - b. Importantly, as of this competition year, mentorship by a TFRI-funded research project is no longer a requirement to hold a TFRI New Investigator Award.
2. An eligible Canadian research institution must sponsor your application and:
  - a. Guarantee that you have, or will have, a full-time, or an equivalent that is leading toward a full-time, faculty-level contract of employment with the institution.
  - b. Guarantee that you will devote a significant amount of your time to research and have adequate space for your research.
  - c. Demonstrate that the institution will provide adequate resources to you for the tenure of the award (e.g. start-up fund and so on).
  - d. Have completed a Memorandum Of Understanding with TFRI on terms and conditions of funding.

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<sup>4</sup> Interruptions in your work such as parental leave will be taken into account when determining eligibility. Applicants are advised to clearly and fully describe any interruptions or delays that affected the continuity of their work in the "Work Experience" section and may address it briefly in the "Personal Statement" section of the TFRI CV.



## How to Apply

1. A *Registration of Intent* is required electronically by **Thursday, June 30, 2022** (5:00 pm Pacific Time)
2. A *Full Application* is required electronically by **Friday September 9, 2022** (5:00 pm Pacific Time)
3. Peer review Committee meeting – **October/November 2022**
4. Funding Announcement – **Early December 2022**
5. Funding Start Date is – **January 1, 2023**

*The Terry Fox New Investigator Application Guide (2023)* will provide detailed guidance to assist applicants preparing their proposal.

## Application Advice

Reviewers assess:

- The potential impact of the research and the fit to the scope of the RFA,
- The caliber and potential of the applicant,
- The excellence and scientific merit of the proposed research, and
- The suitability and support of the sponsors (research environment, mentorship plan and institutional support).

Applicants may only apply for one New Investigator award at a time. Awards are not renewable.

Reviewers will assess the strength of the Sponsor's offer to support and mentor the applicant as part of a long-term commitment to help the applicant realize their career development in research.

## Conditions of Funding

Applicants and sponsoring Institutions are expected to observe TFRI's Research Administration Policy. This includes:

### 1. Certificates

Before funding is made available, the Applicants must obtain from the sponsoring Institution all applicable certificates, including:

- a. *Biohazards*. For projects involving use of biological material, a certificate guaranteeing that the project will be conducted under conditions which satisfy the Canadian Biosafety Standard (CBS) 2nd edition (2015) and the Canadian Biosafety Handbook (CBH), 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2015). (<http://canadianbiosafetystandards.collaboration.gc.ca/>)
- b. *Animal Care*. For projects involving use of experimental animals, a certificate guaranteeing that all animals will be cared for and studied under conditions meeting the standards set forth in the Canadian Council on Animal Care's "Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals" Vol 1 (1993). (<https://www.ccac.ca/>)



- c. *Human Studies*. For projects involving human subjects, a certificate stating that the protocols and methods have been reviewed by the Institutional Research Ethics Board and found to be acceptable in accordance with current edition of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada: 'Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans' (2014) ([www.pre.ethics.gc.ca](http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca)). If studies use investigational compounds, regulatory approval from Canada's Health Protection Branch is also required.
- d. *Use of Human and Biological Samples*. TFRI is committed to ensuring that high quality bio-specimens are used in research it funds, as these yield high, reproducible quality data. For this reason, TFRI requires all applicants for funding to certify that (i) all prospective (new) bio-specimens included in the TFRI-funded research will be collected in accordance with the standards set by the Canadian Tissue Repository Network (<https://www.ctrnet.ca/resources/operating-procedures>) and/or the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments Act (CLIA) of the United States (<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/CLIA/index.html>) and/or (ii) all retrospective (old) bio-specimens used in the TFRI-funded research have come from a CTRNet or CLIA-certified bio-repository. Links to the CTRNet certification program and registered biobanks can be found at <https://biobanking.org/webs/certification>. Applicants are required to submit evidence of current certification and participation in external quality assurance programs with the proposal.
- e. *Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Research*. TFRI endorses the guidelines set forward by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research on 'Human Pluripotent Stem Cells' now integrated into the 'Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2), Chapter 12. Section F (2nd edition) (<http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-eptc2/Default/>). Applicants are required to contact TFRI before submitting an application for support of cancer research requiring any use of human pluripotent stem cells.

## 2. Reporting

Annual Scientific Research Progress Report, Annual Research Metrics Report, and Quarterly Financial Statements. TFRI also expects the New Investigators to contribute/present at TFRI Annual Scientific Meetings during the term of the award.

## 3. Project Title & Use of TFRI logo

Funded Applications are to be called 'The Terry Fox New Investigator in [title of program]'. Investigators are expected to comply with TFRI's Visual Identity Guidelines to be found at [www.tfri.ca](http://www.tfri.ca).

## 4. Employment Equity

TFRI is committed to compliance with the Canadian [Employment Equity Act](#) and to ensuring that our funded research programs provide equal employment opportunities to women, Indigenous persons,



persons with disabilities, and members of visible minorities. All Funded Applications are required to employ non-discriminatory hiring practices in their workplaces.

#### 5. Inclusion of sex and gender in research design where appropriate

Applicants are expected to include a statement in the proposal that they have considered sex- and gender-based analysis (SGBA) as appropriate. The purpose of SGBA is to promote rigorous science that is sensitive to sex and gender and therefore has the potential to expand our understanding of health determinants for all people<sup>5</sup>.

For inquiries, please contact:

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<sup>5</sup> Please refer to <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50836.html> for more resources on SGBA.