

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

THE TERRY FOX NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD (2024)

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 Terry Fox Research Institute (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 equipment¹
- Travel and accommodation for scientifically justified visits².

Funding Envelope

TFRI intends to support 3-5 awards annually depending on application pressure and partnerships.

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 institution³
- Have made intellectual contributions to research that are published in leading journals, and be able to demonstrate your potential to carry out independent research

¹ 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 (2024)*.

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

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



- Be within five calendar years from the start of your first faculty-level appointment.⁴

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 mentors 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. 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 which will have begun on or before January 1, 2024.
 - 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.

⁴ Interruptions in your work such as parental leave and/or COVID-19 related research delays 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 29, 2023** (5:00 pm Pacific Time)
2. A *Full Application* is required electronically by **Wednesday, September 6, 2023** (5:00 pm Pacific Time)
3. Peer Review Committee meeting – **October/November 2023**
4. Funding Announcement – **Mid December 2023**
5. Funding Start Date is – **January 1, 2024**

The Terry Fox New Investigator Application Guide (2024) 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 commitment 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) 3rd edition (2023) and the Canadian Biosafety Handbook (CBH), 2nd edition (2015). (<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/canadian-biosafety-standards-guidelines.html>)
- 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. (<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 – TCPS 2' (2022) (https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique_tcps2-eptc2_2022.html). 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/en/resources/national-standards/>) 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. *Data Management and Sharing Plan*. TFRI requires funded projects to create a data management and sharing plan which will identify the data to be generated, and any appropriate metadata and documentation, along with software or code needed to access the data. The plan should ensure that the data are stored and maintained in a manner which is consistent with standards appropriate to that type of data, and with a clear plan for deposition of data in an accessible, secure, and curated repository for use by the research community. In particular this is an absolute requirement for data which supports published research findings. For research involving human subjects, researchers must respect ethical, legal and commercial obligations that apply to sharing data. Controlled access repositories are acceptable for data from human participants in order to comply with ethical and informed consent requirements. Applicants are referred to the Tri-Agency Statement of Principles on Digital Data Management (<https://science.ised-isde.canada.ca/site/science/en/interagency-research-funding/policies-and-guidelines/research-data-management/tri-agency-statement-principles-digital-data-management>) as well as the NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing (<https://sharing.nih.gov/data-management-and-sharing-policy/about-data-management-and-sharing-policies/data-management-and-sharing-policy-overview#after>) for further information. TFRI recognizes that Data Management plans are evolving documents and that specific standards vary between research domains, but compliance with this goal in a manner appropriate to their specific research data is required.
- f. *Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Research*. TFRI endorses the guidelines set forward by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research on 'Human Pluripotent Stem Cells' integrated into the 'Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2), Chapter 12, Section F'



(https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/tcps2-eptc2_2022_chapter12-chapitre12.html). 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.

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 people⁵.

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



THE TERRY FOX RESEARCH INSTITUTE
L'INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE **TERRY FOX**

For inquiries, please contact:

Vivian Lee, BSc

Projects Manager and Data Analyst

Terry Fox Research Institute | l'Institut de recherche Terry Fox

675 West 10th Avenue

Vancouver, BC V5Z 1L3 CANADA

☎ Telephone: 778-652-2586

✉ Email: vlee@tfri.ca

Last Updated: May 23 2023