



Alberta  
Innovates  
Health  
Solutions

# Alberta Innovates Health Solutions


## Opportunities Launch

### January 2012

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FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH Endowment Fund  
Government of Alberta

- 
- “The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty”.

Winston Churchill and/or Harry Truman!

- “Rather than focusing on success, let’s strive for significance”

Loosely adapted from Dewitt Jones

# AIHS Vision

*Transform Health and  
Well-being through  
Research and  
Innovation*

## AIHS Mandate (**operationally**)

“**Support**, for the economic and social well-being of Albertans, **health research and innovation activities** aligned to meet Government of Alberta priorities, including, without limitation, activities directed at the development and growth of the health sectors, the discovery of new knowledge and the application of that knowledge”.

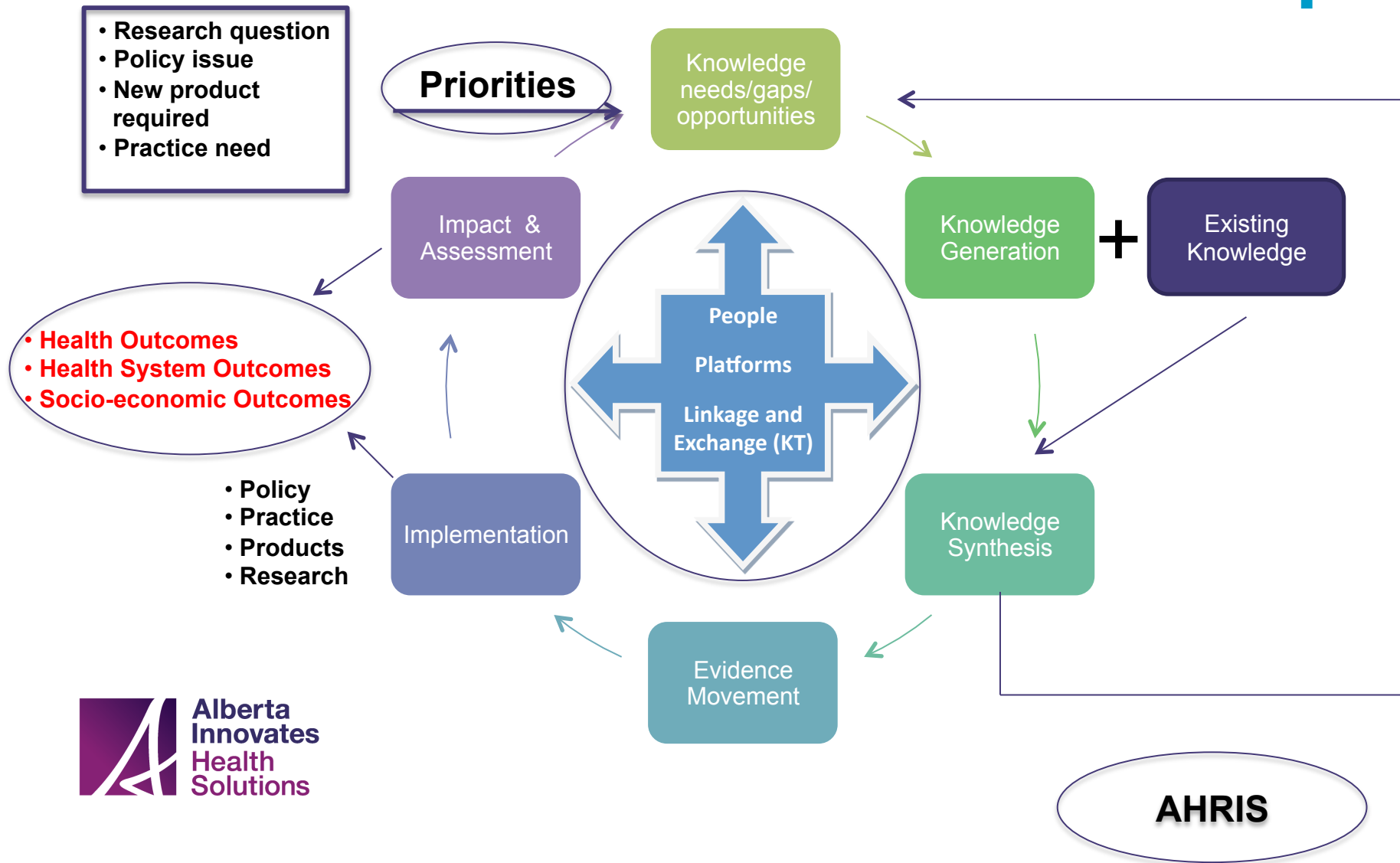
# AIHS Mandated Roles

- To create value through:
  - **Investing** in excellence
  - Focusing our **investments**
  - Optimizing the capture of benefits from these **investments**
  - Demonstrating accountability for, and impact of the **investments**
  - Enhancing the potential for the private sector in Alberta

# Guiding Principles for AIHS

- Provincial level integration (AHRIS, CA)
- Ultimately, innovation is linked to outcomes
- Delivery of value-added impact (5 levels)
- Collaboration is key to solutions
- Partnership and leverage are good
- Focus, Balance and Flexibility
- Consideration of both strengths and needs in investing

# Knowledge (research) to Innovation



# AHRIS: Areas of Strategic Priorities

## Wellness at Every Age

- Child and Maternal Health
- Mental Health and Addictions
- Chronic Disease
- Infectious Disease
- Health Promotion
- Vulnerable Populations
- Injury Prevention
- Environmental Health

## Innovative Health Service Delivery

- Personalized Medicine
- Chronic Disease Management
- Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Innovative Delivery Models

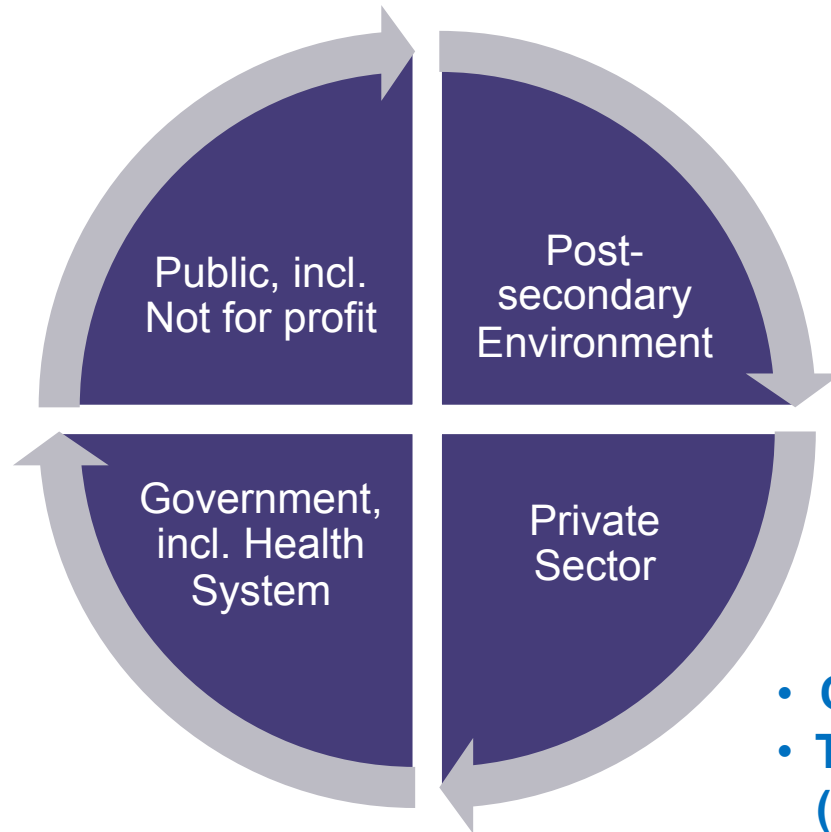
## Socio-economic Benefits

# AIHS Strategic Implementation Process

- Approach is through broad Stakeholder engagement in enabling actions and thematic areas of AHRIS
- Creation of Oversight Committee to develop process and help review its progress to ensure its timeliness
- Creation of Working Groups to present position papers for broader input leading to development of initiatives in foundational and thematic areas

# AIHS Opportunities: “market” segments

- Collaborative Opportunities
  - ✓ Projects
  - ✓ Programs
  - ✓ Teams



- Sustainability Grants
- Graduate + and PDF support
- Chairs

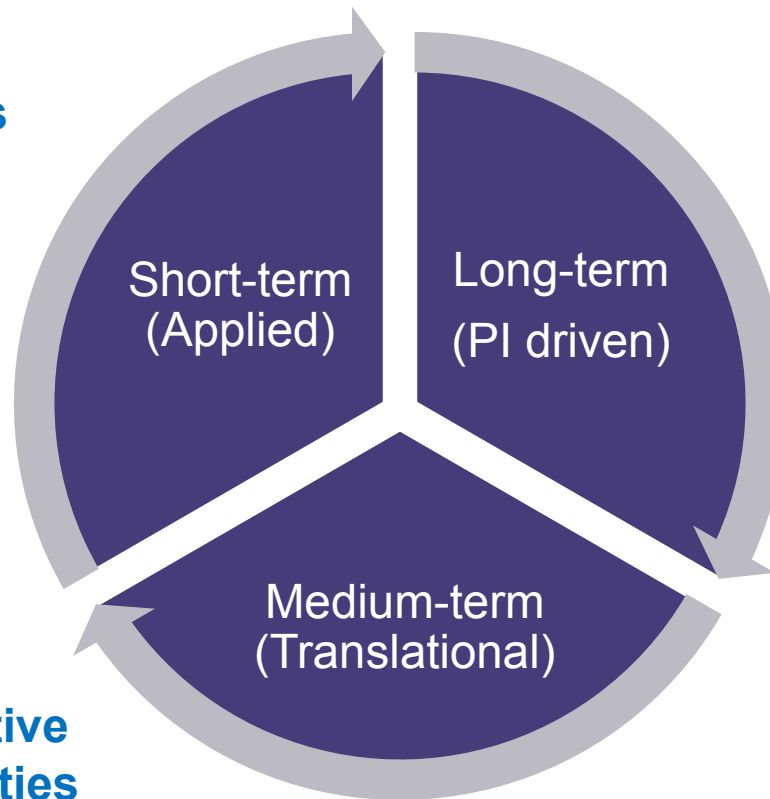
- Catalyst Opportunities
- Translational Fund (Rx&D)
- Training (internships)



- ✓ Integrated Knowledge Translation
- ✓ Excellence and Relevance to Needs
- ✓ Collaborative Activity is Key to Solutions

# AIHS Opportunities: a Balancing Act

- Catalyst Opportunities
- Translational Fund
- Training (internships)



- Sustainability Grants
- Graduate + and PDF support
- Chairs

- Collaborative Opportunities
  - ✓ Projects
  - ✓ Programs

- Collaborative Opportunities
  - ✓ Teams



- ✓ Integrated Knowledge Translation
- ✓ Excellence and Relevance to Needs
- ✓ Collaborative Activity is Key to Solutions

# 2012 AIHS Opportunities

# AIHS Opportunities

Sustainability Funding Opportunity

Training and Early Career Development Programs

Collaborative Research and Innovation Opportunities

Industry Partnered Translational Fund

Catalyst Opportunities

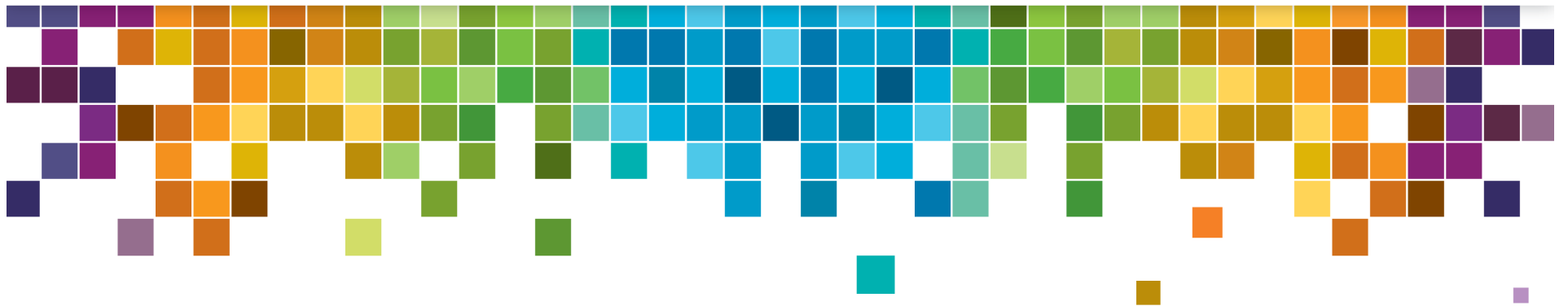
Translational Health Chairs



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# Sustainability Funding Opportunity



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# Sustainability Fund

## Objective

- Provide **interim support** to primary investigators with lapse in grant support from CIHR or NSERC
- Support activities that **maintain research momentum** and lead to more **competitive** grant re-submission

## Process

- Applications evaluated by University based on eligibility criteria
- Funds available for application to 2011 competitions

# Sustainability Fund

## Key Features

- 2011/2012 Funding Allocation: \$1.2 Million
- Program approved as a three-year pilot (2011-2014)
  - Evaluation planned prior to March 31, 2014
  - Key Performance Indicators: # grants, \$ provide, # of HSP supported, success rates, and outcome of reapplication.
- *Total value:* Up to \$50,000.
- *Term:* Up to one year.

# Sustainability Fund

## Eligibility

- Full-time university-based independent investigator
- Application to a peer-reviewed, individual research grant renewal in the **CIHR Open Operating** or **NSERC Discovery** grant competitions within the prior year
- Application to the Tri-Council agency's competition was ranked in the **excellent range but not funded**
- Intent to reapply for grant renewal (specific plans must be provided to VP Research)
- Initial renewal application was internally peer-reviewed



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# Training and Early Career Development Programs

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# Training and Early Career Development

Graduate Studentship

Postgraduate Fellowship

Clinician Researcher Training Stream

MD-PhD Studentship

Clinician Fellowship

# Graduate Studentship

## Objective

- Support the development of high quality, broadly trained graduate level health researchers

## Key Features

- Focus on the development of the individual
- Emphasis on multi-faceted mentorship
- Facilitate career and professional development
- Up to 4 years towards PhD
  - Stipend \$30,000
  - Research and Career Development Allowance \$2,000



# Graduate Studentship

## Eligibility

- Enrolled in a graduate degree program (thesis-based)
- Support candidates who have completed 1<sup>st</sup> year of graduate studies
- Tenable only in Alberta
- Incentive award structure: with receipt of comparable peer-reviewed award
  - \$12,000/year
- Maternity leave policy: 1 year support

# Graduate Studentship: The PLUS Option

## Objective

- Allows for student to customize training experience with additional training and career development opportunities
- PLUS option can be utilized at any point(s) during tenure

## Key Features

- Up to one additional year of support may be requested to allow for opportunity to gain relevant experience beyond that acquired through direct graduate training
  - Academic environment (MBA/MBT, Education), Industry, Government, Health Policy, Clinical Practice, Not-for-Profit

# Postgraduate Fellowship

## Objective

- Attract and develop high quality, broadly trained health researchers in Alberta.

## Key Features

- Focus on the development of the individual
- Emphasis on multi-faceted mentorship
- Facilitate career and professional development
- Up to 3 years towards postgraduate training
  - Stipend \$50,000;
  - Research and Career Development Allowance \$5,000



# Postgraduate Fellowship

## Eligibility

- Must hold a PhD, and/or professional health degree (eg. MD, DDS, DVM or D.Pharm. without clinical accreditation) and have been accepted to or currently hold a postdoctoral appointment
- Tenable only in Alberta
- Incentive award structure: with receipt of comparable peer-reviewed award
  - \$15,000/year
- Maternity leave policy: 1 year support

# MD-PhD Studentship

## Objectives

- Support for trainees to pursue combined MD-PhD

## Key Features

- Focus on the development of the individual
- Emphasis on multi-faceted mentorship
- Eligibility: formally enrolled in a combined MD-PhD
- Up to 6 years support of the MD-PhD
  - Stipend \$30,000;
  - Research and Career Development Allowance \$2,000

# Clinician Fellowship

## Objective

- Provide opportunity for support to clinician researchers in training to pursue research

## Key Features

- Clinician broadly defined to be inclusive of MD and (regulated) allied health professions
  - Nursing, pharmacy, optometry, dentistry, veterinary medicine, chiropractic, or rehabilitative sciences
- Up to 3 years towards postgraduate training
  - Stipend \$70,000;
  - Research and Career Development Allowance \$5,000

# Clinician Fellowship

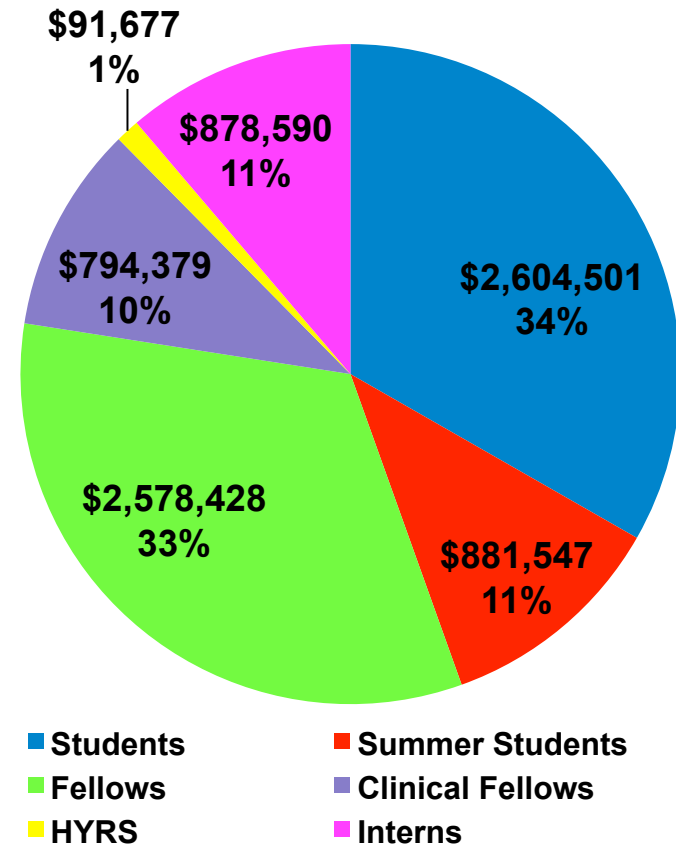
## Eligibility

- Hold or be completing a health professional degree or health professional degree-PhD
- Have completed all Canadian clinical requirements and must be licensable in Alberta
- Tenable beyond Alberta (where justified)
- Incentive award structure: with receipt of comparable peer-reviewed award
  - \$15,000/year
- Maternity leave policy: 1 year support



# AIHS Training Program Portfolio

- Currently supporting **287 trainees**:  
163 students; 90 fellows; 24 clinical fellows;  
10 MD-PhD students
- October 2011 competition results: 28 studentships, 14 fellowships, 3 clinical fellowships
- New program implementation underway: increased stipend and research allowance
- 2012 anticipated funding allocation: \$10m



# 2012 Training Award Competitions

## Application Process

- 2012 Deadlines **April 1<sup>st</sup>**, October 1<sup>st</sup>
- 2013 One competition / year

## Assessment Criteria

- Academic track record
- Relevant work and/or research experience
- Career development plans
- Supervisory team, research and mentorship environment
- Research proposal



# Collaborative Research and Innovation Opportunities

# Collaborative Research and Innovation Opportunities (CRIO)

## Objective

- Catalyze and support collaborative, interdisciplinary, multi-sectoral and/or multi-institutional research with a focus on solutions for complex health problems or issues
- Engage knowledge or end-users in process to ensure impact
- Provide opportunities for interdisciplinary research training and mentorship
- Encourage opportunity to connect to national and international initiatives

# Collaborative Research and Innovation Opportunities (CRIO)

## Key Features

- Flexibility to fit the opportunity as the NEEDS identified
- Excellence remains as key determinant for investment in any AIHS activity
- Solutions focused
- Potential for timely health/health system/societal impact (socio-economic)
- Opportunity for partnership development

# Collaborative Research and Innovation Opportunities (CRIO)

## Collaborative Project

Up to \$150,000  
Up to 3 years

- Small group of collaborators (approx. 3 collaborators)
- Defined project

## Collaborative Program

Up to \$500,000  
Up to 5 years

- Group of collaborators (approx. 3-5 collaborators)
- Complex program of interdisciplinary research

## Collaborative Team

Up to \$1,000,000  
Up to 5 years

- Large collaborative team or network
- Complexity of the health issues of interest will require the involvement of many stakeholder groups

# Collaborative Research and Innovation Opportunities (CRIO)

## Eligibility

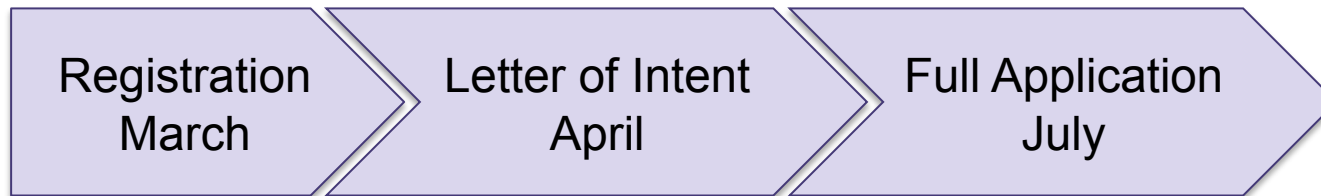
- Collaborative Leader(s): established individual with demonstrated leadership
- Can lead or co-lead only one CRIO at a time
- Collaborative members (as needed to address objective)
  - May be from outside Alberta
- Knowledge- or end-user involvement
- Encourage interdisciplinary, multi-institutional activity
- Collaborative Program and Collaborative Team requires project manager, defined governance structure

# Collaborative Research and Innovation Opportunities (CRIO)

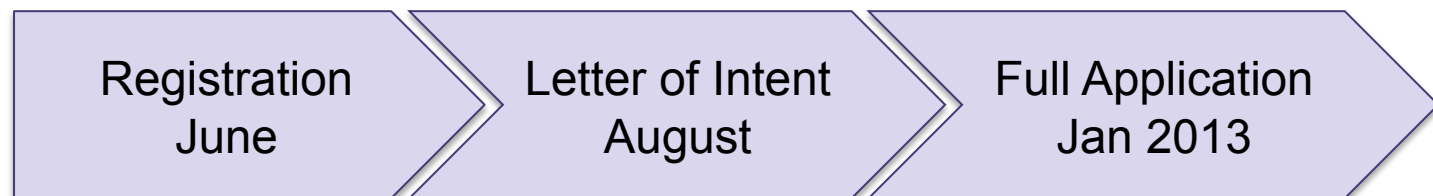
## 2012 Competition Opportunities

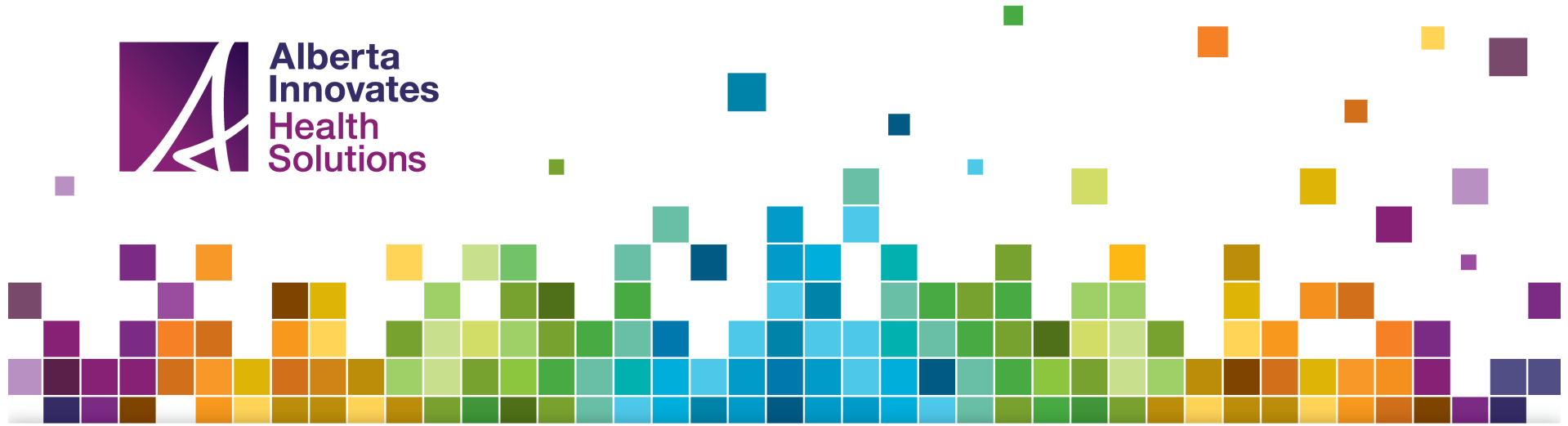
Anticipated 2012/2013 budget allocation: \$7 million

### Collaborative Project



### Collaborative Program and Collaborative Teams





# Industry Partnered Translational Fund



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# Industry Partnered Translational Fund

## Objective

- Support innovative translational research projects in areas of unmet health or health system with strong likelihood for technology transfer and commercialization
- Priority given to projects of relevance to the technology platforms and clinical theme areas of interest to industry partner and Alberta

Example:

- Dementias (Alzheimer's Disease), other CNS diseases
- Pain
- Diabetes and cardiovascular or other chronic disease issues as they relate to consequences of diabetes
- Rare diseases



# Industry Partnered Translational Fund

## 2012 Competition Opportunities

- Anticipated 2012/2013 budget allocation: \$2.5 Million
- Assessment criteria
  - translational potential, relevance to the health priorities, scientific quality of proposal, track record of PI, project plan, and innovation
- *Term* Up to 18 months
- *Value* Up to \$200,000

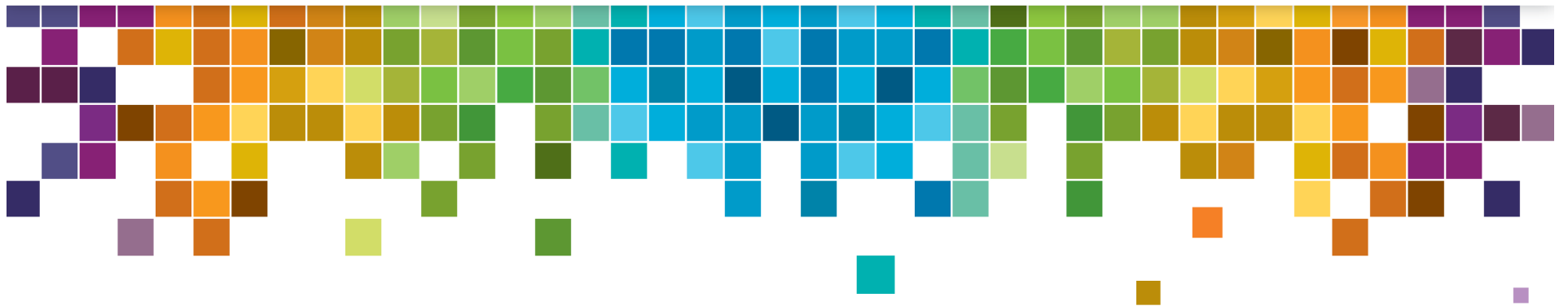




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# Catalyst Opportunities



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# Catalyst Opportunities

## Objective

- Support early stage investments in research to seed innovation
  - Pilot
  - High Risk
  - Proof of Concept
- *Term* Up to 18 months
- *Value* Up to \$150,000
- Anticipated 2012/2013 budget allocation: \$2 Million

Letter of Intent  
July 2012

Full Application  
Oct 2012



# Catalyst Opportunities: Adding Value to Great Ideas

## Pilot Grants

Provides seed funding to get a line of enquiry or activity solidly underway

OR

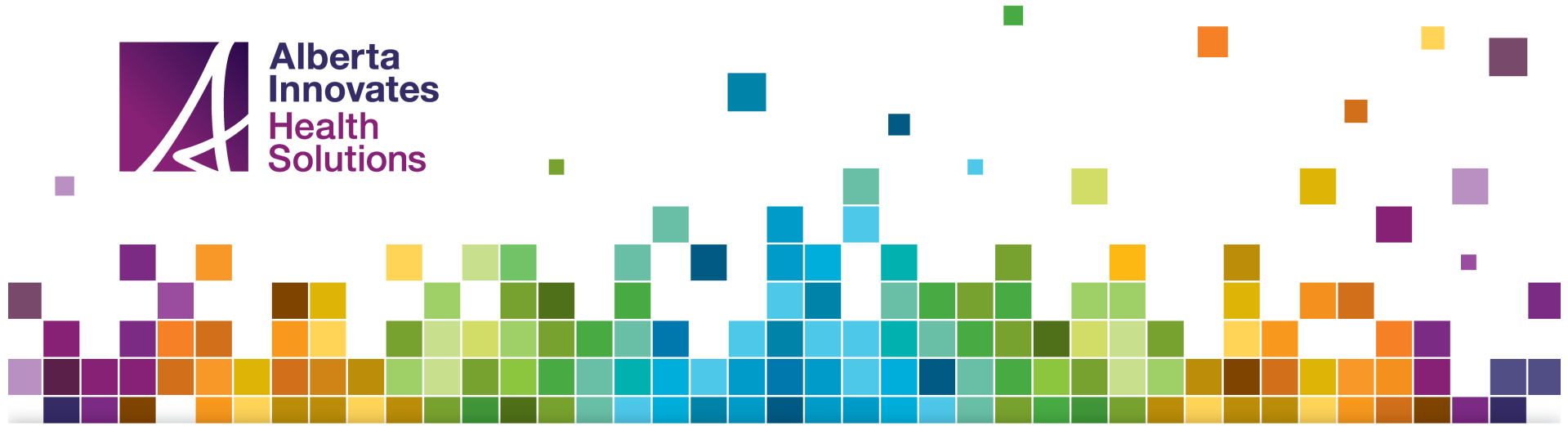
## Proof of Concept Grants

Helps move health research towards practical application

OR

## High Impact Grants

Supports the exploration and development of new approaches to health research challenges



# AIHS Translational Health Chairs



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# AIHS Translational Chairs

## Objective

- Recruitment of investigators in translational research

## Key Features

- Aligned to AHRIS priority areas
- Developed in collaboration with Campus Alberta
- Current faculty members are *not* eligible
- 2 levels of chairs (7 total years of support)

## Process:

- International review process (validation)
- Anticipated 2012/2013 budget allocation: \$6 Million



# Strategic Implementation Process II

- KT and IP Working Groups drafting position papers
- Consultation early February
- Recommendations to AIHS Board: March '12
- Additional Opportunities under development



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# Questions?



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