

Alberta/Pfizer Translational Research Fund Opportunity Overview and Guidelines for Application

OBJECTIVES:

Pfizer Canada Inc. (Pfizer), Alberta Innovates - Health Solutions (AIHS), Alberta's Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology (AET) and Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) have created the joint **Alberta/Pfizer Translational Research Fund**. The funding opportunity it provides will focus on the development and commercialization of innovations in health that support the interests and priorities of Alberta and Pfizer thereby acting as a catalyst for innovative research in Alberta.

This opportunity, or grant program, is designed to support innovative translational research projects in areas of unmet health or health system need that have a strong likelihood for technology transfer and commercialization.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Support will be provided for translational research projects with a strong potential for technology transfer and commercialization over the short or medium term (2 to 5 years). Research projects will be assessed on the basis of their outstanding translational/commercial potential, relevance to the health priorities of the Alberta/Pfizer Translational Research Fund, scientific quality, and their uniqueness. Priority will be given to projects of relevance to the technology platforms and clinical theme areas of interest to Pfizer and Alberta. It should be noted that any existing or newly developed intellectual property through this grant funding remains with the investigator and/or institution.

Applicants will be asked to describe their project within a vision of the research to technology transfer or commercialization continuum and to propose a structured plan of action based on expected deliverables, short-term timelines as well as appropriate and specific milestones.

PRIORITY TOPIC AREAS

The scope of the program will be focused on the development, use and/or application of innovative technological platforms including and not limited to: metabolomics and other 'omics' platforms that facilitate personalized medicine strategies, drug discovery, information and communication technologies, nanotechnology or health systems based research approaches (for example data based population studies) in the creation of new knowledge and its potential transfer to use (commercialization).

Relevance to the following clinical priority topic areas will form part of the assessment criteria (at the Letter of Intent stage)

- Neuroscience/Alzheimer's Disease/neurodegeneration/neurological diseases;
- Pain and sensory disorders;
- Immunology and autoimmunity;
- Inflammation and remodeling;

- Diabetes and cardiovascular or other chronic disease issues as they relate to the consequences of diabetes;
- Orphan and genetic diseases; and,
- Other disease areas and technologies could also be considered based on the potential for commercialization.

RESEARCH LOCATION

An Alberta-based comprehensive academic research institution or an Institution administered by Alberta Health Services.

TYPE OF RESEARCH GRANTS

Translational research grants will be offered for a maximum of 18 months and for a maximum amount of \$200,000. Payments of the grants will be based on an agreed upon set of milestones and deliverables and the submission of periodic reports outlining progress towards the expected milestones/deliverables.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

- Salaries of research personnel essential to the project (excluding the principal investigator's), including the support of graduate and post-graduate trainees,
- Purchase and/or leasing of equipment required and justified in the proposal for funding,
- Research material (including cost for access to data) required for the research project,

Indirect costs related to the pursuit of research projects are **NOT** eligible costs.

REVIEW PROCESS

Review Panel

The review panel will be appointed by AIHS based on recommendations from the Alberta/Pfizer Translational Fund Research Steering Committee. The review panel will bring a proven track record of scientific, technology transfer as well as pharmaceutical R&D and commercialization expertise to bear to assess the proposals. The review panel may solicit additional scientific review or relevant advice by external expert reviewers. The review panel will take into account the review criteria outlined below, and submit comments, a ranking list, and recommendations for each phase of the review to the Steering Committee.

Application Process

The application process for the Alberta/Pfizer Translational Research Fund Opportunity will be a two phase process consisting of a Letter of Intent (Phase 1) and a Full Application (Phase 2).

Letter of Intent (Phase 1)

Phase 1 of the review process will provide an initial determination of the eligibility of the applicants for support and will focus on the relevance of the proposed project to the program's objectives and the priority thematic areas outlines above.

Review Criteria

- Translational potential of the project including such components as: intellectual property; commercial/market potential and medical need; competitive advantage; and potential for commercialization and/or technology transfer.
- Alignment of the project to the Alberta/Pfizer Translation Research Fund priorities.
- Expected outcome of the project and the possible next steps upon achievement of the milestones proposed here.
- Applicant's eligibility and expertise in relevant area including complementarity of expertise assembled if more than one investigator

Only applicants whose Letters of Intent are selected by the review panel for eligibility and relevance will be invited to provide a Full Application.

Comments and recommendations from the review panel (Phase 1) will need to be considered by the applicants in the submission of their Full Application.

Full Application (Phase 2)

Full applications will be reviewed on the basis of the following criteria:

Review Criteria

- Translational potential of the project including such components as: intellectual property, commercial/market potential and medical need; competitive advantage; and potential for commercialization and/or technology transfer.
- Alignment of the project to the Alberta/Pfizer Translation Research Fund priorities.
- Expected outcome of the investment and the possible next steps upon achievement of the milestones proposed.
- Project Plan - the quality of the plan and the achievability of the milestones: Clarity of research objectives, questions and/or hypothesis; Appropriateness of the research protocols proposed to meet the objective; Milestones need to be clearly defined and these must be quantifiable outcomes; Go/no go points must be associated with the milestones and must be clearly defined; A valid and realistic timeline and budget. Securing IP could be considered as a go/no go decision point.
- Expertise and track record of the researcher(s).
- Originality and uniqueness of the proposed project.

The review criteria will be weighted proportionally in favour of projects with high potential for commercial development and alignment with Alberta's health priorities.

TIMELINES

The deadline for submission of Letters of Intent for the first competition is **March 30, 2012**. Full applications will be requested from successful Phase 1 applicants by **June 29, 2012**.

GRANTS ADJUDICATION PROCESS

The assessments of the review panel (in the form of a rating and ranking list) will be submitted to the Alberta/Pfizer Translational Research Fund Steering Committee. The list will form the basis for funding recommendations (confirming the scope, schedule and proposed budget for each recommended project) by the Steering Committee to be sent to the Board of AIHS for final approval.

APPLICANT'S AGREEMENT

In accepting a translational research grant, the awardee agrees to abide by the Terms and Conditions stipulated in the program guidelines.

In particular, awardees must submit all material developed for public disclosure (including publications, meeting presentations etc.) based on the project as part of this program to the Alberta/Pfizer Translational Research Fund Steering Committee at least 30 days before disclosure. This process will not affect the intellectual property rights pertaining to the project, nor the researcher's ability to publish the results of the study.

The grant will be revoked if the awardee fails to observe the Terms and Conditions of the grant.