

### Overview

Rare diseases affect 1 in 12 Canadians—a significant but underserved number, with untold costs to families, society, and the health-care system. The rarity of these diseases means that diagnosis is an odyssey of genetic and other testing that leads to a definitive diagnosis for fewer than 50 per cent of patients, while treatments remain scarce. Hope for patients lies in the defining moments of clinical care: diagnosis and treatment. Our patients inspire us to push harder for the research discoveries that will improve their lives. One of the biggest challenges medical researchers face, particularly in underfunded areas like rare disease research, is securing the grant funding to get a novel idea off the ground. Seed funding gives life to the most innovative, high-risk ideas that are hard to fund through grants or other sources.

Can-GARD is led by Drs. Monica Justice, Head of the SickKids Genetics and Genome Biology (GGB) Program, James Dowling, Physician in the Department of Neurology and Senior Scientist in GGB, and Roberto Mendoza-Londono, Chief of the Clinical and Metabolic Genetics Division at SickKids. Can-GARD has two core beliefs: that every individual with a rare disease deserves (i) an accurate genetic diagnosis and (ii) appropriate treatment. These ambitious goals will be realized nationally across the pillars of research, education, and training. Can-GARD aims to fund proposals that would eliminate barriers in the diagnostic or treatment journey for rare disease patients. It is anticipated that *approximately 3 grants* will be awarded in this competition. *Any topic: Basic research, clinical application, population studies, and machine learning approaches will be considered.* Can-GARD has partnered with The [Rare Disease Models and Mechanisms \(RDMM\) Network](#) who will match one grant which will be made to an RDMM investigator, aiming to take their research on rare disease diagnosis or treatment to the next level.

### Type

Accelerator award for early-stage, potentially transformative research that has the promise for future funding.

### Funding

The maximum amount per grant\* is \$75,000 CDN per year over a one or two year period, depending upon scope and quality.

*\*RDMM/Can-GARD Connect Award – One of the total awards will be supplemented by the RDMM Network. Maximum amount of this joint award will be \$100,000 CDN per year.*

### Eligibility Criteria

The award is open to MD, PhD or MD/PhD investigators who hold an independent faculty position in the field of rare disease at a Canadian health research institute for the duration of the award.

In applications involving multiple institutions and/or investigations, a lead investigator must be named who will assume the administrative and financial responsibility for the grant, which will be paid to that individual's institution (the Institution Paid).

**Note:** each co-investigator must be an independent researcher who has a PhD or equivalent, or a health professional degree (MD).

### Conditions of the Award

- 1) The grant must be relevant to paediatric health.
- 2) The Principal Applicant (PA) must agree to submit a Final Report due within four weeks of termination of the grant. The Report shall include a summary of the project including methods and findings, and list any applications to granting agencies, or any abstracts or manuscripts, which resulted from the funding provided by this grant. Further details on the reporting structure will be provided to awardees.
- 3) The Principal Applicant may be invited to present a project summary at an Annual Symposium.
- 4) There must be no other funding available to support this project.
- 5) Funds for the first year will be sent at the beginning of term to the PA's institution. Release of first year funds will be subject to receipt of relevant ethics approvals from the supervising PA's institutional review committees, where necessary (for use of human subjects, research animals, or hazardous materials). Note, the PA will be responsible for ensuring that relevant ethics approvals have been obtained at each participating institution. Release of any subsequent year funding will be released upon receipt of completion and review of progress report.

- 6) The Principal Applicant must acknowledge Can-GARD and/or RDMM in any presentations, invited/ submitted posters, publications.

### **Application Process**

Documents should be prepared using standard type font **Arial-11 point**

Pages are to be numbered and have minimum margins of **0.5"/1.27 cm** on all sides.

All pages to be submitted should be included in one pdf file.

Please submit your applications for review in the following order:

1. Research Plan (**Maximum 5 pages** *which includes all tables, charts, figures, etc.*)

The research plan should be appropriately referenced. Please use a format that includes the title of the reference. The Bibliography is not included in the total page count.

- a) Research plan to include:
  - Background and Importance:** Provide a brief overview of relevant background information and/or rationale for the proposed research.
  - Goal(s) / Research Aims:** Indicate the broad goal(s) and specific research aims of the proposed research and clear linkage indicating how they fit the objectives of the CanGard call for applications.
  - Methods / Approaches / Expertise / Timeline:** Provide a brief overview of the preliminary data, methodology and population that will be used to address each of the research aims. This section may also include the nature of the core expertise being brought together to address the proposed research. Information may include important collaborations (within or outside of the research community) that will be accessed to achieve the outlined research goals.
  - Expected Outcomes:** Describe the expected outcomes of the proposed research highlighting the significance of the proposed research and how it will advance knowledge and/or its application to health care, health systems and/or health outcomes. Include continuation plans beyond the granting period and future directions.
2. **Budget FORM page (not to include** travel, PA salary, or indirect costs)  
Budget should clearly itemize proposed use of project funds under appropriate categories and consistent with CIHR approved expenditures: personnel (excluding PA and co-applicant salaries), laboratory equipment, consumable supplies, laboratory animals, other (including service contracts, service charges, publication costs, etc). Total budget requested should be clearly stated. No indirect costs are provided in these grants. Annual budget can range up to \$75,000 CDN (\$100,000 CDN if selected by RDMM) to be spent over 12 months. Equal amounts can be requested for the second year. A detailed budget justification should follow the itemized budget.
3. **Canadian CIHR Academic Common CV of Principal Applicant.**  
Include any co-investigators CIHR Biosketch

Complete applications are to be submitted via email to:

[Can.GARD@sickkids.ca](mailto:Can.GARD@sickkids.ca) **in PDF format by 11:59 pm (EST) April 9, 2020 (no exceptions).**

An email acknowledging receipt of the application will be sent to the submitter.

**Applications that do not comply with these instructions may be delayed or not accepted for review.**

### Scientific Review Process

1. Blinded review of all applications will take place in May/June 2020.
2. The three highest scoring proposals will be awarded an Accelerator Grant.
3. Awardee(s) will be formally announced on our website no later than July 1, 2020.
4. Grant monies will be transferred no earlier than July 2020. It is the responsibility of the principal applicant to ensure that, as applicable, all regulatory documents are in place by July 2020 (e.g., REB approval, material data transfer agreements).

### Important Dates

- Application deadline: April 9, 2020 (11:59 pm EST)
- Announcement of award: June/July 2020
- Earliest funding start date: July 2020

### Inquiries

Please submit all inquiries to :  
Can-GARD  
Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning  
686 Bay St., Suite 14.9705  
Toronto, ON M5G 0A4  
Email: [Can.GARD@sickkids.ca](mailto:Can.GARD@sickkids.ca)

Principal Applicant (Last, First, Middle):

<b>DETAILED BUDGET FOR INITIAL BUDGET PERIOD DIRECT COSTS ONLY</b>	FROM	THROUGH
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**PERSONNEL DIRECT COSTS:**

List all PERSONNEL (*Applicant organization only*)

Use % FTE Devoted to Project; Enter Dollar Amounts Requested (*omit cents*) for Salary Requested and Fringe Benefits

NAME	ROLE ON PROJECT	% FTE	SALARY REQUESTED	FRINGE BENEFITS	TOTAL
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL DIRECT COSTS</b>					<b>\$</b>

**NON-PERSONNEL DIRECT COSTS:**

CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES (*Itemize by category*)

SERVICES

ANIMAL COSTS

MINOR EQUIPMENT (< \$2,000CDN)

OTHER EXPENSES (*Itemize by category*)

<b>TOTAL NON-PERSONNEL DIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS FOR INITIAL BUDGET PERIOD</b>	<b>\$</b>