

Background

We are pleased to announce the call for proposals for **CanVECTOR Emerging Research Leaders Initiative (ERLI) Competition**.¹ The Canadian Venous ThromboEmbolic Clinical Trials and Outcomes Research (CanVECTOR) Network is a pan-Canadian, patient-oriented Community Development Program centered on Venous Thromboembolism-related research, training, and knowledge translation. Our mission is to decrease the health, social and economic burden of venous thromboembolism (VTE) on affected individuals, their families, and on Canadians as a whole.

The purpose of the ERLI competition is to support early career launch of new investigators. Through this funding opportunity, CanVECTOR will provide establishment grant funds that will create a set of conditions conducive to the successful career launch of emerging research leaders in VTE research domains.

Timelines

August 15, 2018	Launch Date
September 15, 2018	Notice of Intent*
October 15, 2018	Application Submission Deadline (submit to info@canvector.ca)
February 1, 2019	Announcement of Funding Decisions
May 1, 2019	Funding Start Date

***Send an email to info@canvector.ca indicating your intent of submitting an application, and stating the title of your research program as well the name of your institution.**

Funding Details

Up to a maximum of \$150,000 over a maximum period of 3 years (\$50,000 per year) is available to fund **one (1)** application. A successful ERLI applicant is not permitted to renew for a second term or re-apply with a new research proposal. Funding in the third year of the ERLI grant is conditional upon proof of obtained operating grant funding or submission of an application for an operating grant either as Principal or Co-Principal Investigator to a recognized national granting agency within the first two (2) years of the ERLI grant.

Eligibility

- Principal Investigators will have a full-time academic or institutional teaching appointment in Canada, as of **May 1, 2019**, the start date of the grant. Any applicant in an adjunct position must submit a letter from their dean/chair/division director to clarify their specific appointment, i.e. amount of protected time available, local infrastructure in place.
- At the time of the submission deadline (**October 15, 2018**), no more than five (5) years may have passed since the date of the first faculty appointment at the Assistant or Clinical Assistant Professor level or equivalent. This would include Adjunct positions in a research track for which the applicant is eligible to write a Grant-in-Aid/operating grant (as a Principal Investigator).

¹ Adapted, with permission, based on program information guide originally developed by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, Canadian Lung Association and associated organizational partners.

- At the time of submission, principal investigators are ineligible if they hold or have already held a nationally peer reviewed grant either as principal or co-principal investigator in the amount of \$75,000 or more per year for a period of more than one (1) year.
- All time spent in research appointments will be taken into consideration when determining eligibility. Should an applicant hold or have held a part-time appointment, CanVECTOR will count that time as 50% (e.g., a one-year part-time appointment will count for 6 months towards the maximum). Leaves of absence will be considered in the calculation of eligibility (i.e., will not count towards the maximum) and should be included in the Employment section under Leaves of Absence in your Canadian Common CV (CCV).
- The applicant must have an MD, PhD, PharmD, or equivalent degree.
- ERLI applications must be supported by the university or institution at which the applicant will conduct the proposed research. The university or institution is expected to guarantee the applicant appropriate academic rank, integration, protected research time, structured mentorship, space, equipment, career path, and start-up operating support.
- The Dean and Department Head (or institutional equivalents) must guarantee protected research time for the applicants.
 - (i) Applicants with a health professional degree at a doctoral level (e.g. MD, PharmD; or other regulated accredited health professionals who have a PhD) who hold a license to practice in a province or territory of Canada must be guaranteed at least 50% protected research time.
 - (ii) Applicants with a PhD degree or applicants with a health professional degree at a doctoral level (e.g. MD, PharmD; or other regulated accredited health professionals who have a PhD) who do not hold a license to practice in a province or territory of Canada must be guaranteed at least 75% protected research time.
- The proposed research program must be within the scope and relevant to the CanVECTOR mission; that is to reduce VTE occurrence, improve the diagnosis and therapeutic management of VTE, and improve the safety of anticoagulant delivery and enhance the quality of life of those impacted by VTE, both in Canada and globally.

Evaluation Criteria

- a. All applications undergo peer review by expert reviewers.
- b. The major criteria in evaluating the ERLI applications will be:

Component	Weighting (%)
Academic and research background of the applicant	40
Institutional support including quality of the research environment, mentorship, career path, start-up operating/salary support, network mentorship and integration	20
Quality and originality of the research program	40

Application Requirements

a. Letter of Institutional Support

A letter, co-signed by the Dean and Department Head (or institutional equivalents), must be submitted confirming institutional commitment to meet the following conditions for the duration of the grant. The letter must clearly describe details on:

- Applicant’s confirmed, protected research time (this includes how that investigator’s research time will be funded (salary support));
- Integration into an established research team;
- Structured mentorship based on best practices;
- Adequate research space and equipment;
- Secured salary support (through peer-reviewed funding and/or institutional support);
- Clear career path with milestones/expectations; and
- Start-up operating support for the duration of the grant, consistent with institutional policy.

The institution must indicate the value of the start-up funds in cash that has been given to the applicant for their program. Provision of start-up funds by home institution will be considered in the assessment of the chance for success of the research programs that are being proposed.



b. Proposed Research Program*

A five (5) page detailed description of the proposed research program, identification of the applicant's role and how the execution of the research plan contributes to the applicant's development as an independent researcher. The research proposal must include the following:

- Background;
- Objectives;
- Methods;
- Anticipated results, and conclusions;
- Potential limitations;
- References.

*Further information about formatting and organization of the proposed research program can be found in Supplemental Information.

c. Scientific, Methodological or Budgetary Overlap: Current Funding and Pending or Contemplated Grant Submission

For each currently funded grant, grants under submission/in preparation, attach the necessary information to the ERLI application that describes whether/how there is any scientific, methodological, or budgetary overlap with the current application (i.e. registration copy from CIHR). A percentage of the degree of overlap must be provided on the application, where requested, under each of the three (3) categories.

d. Candidate's Statement

The candidate's statement should provide an overview that addresses their involvement in VTE research, outline their specific areas of interest within VTE research, and outline their future plans for research and overall career development. Please also describe your prior and/or future plans for involvement in the CanVECTOR network.

e. Primary Supervisor's Statement

The primary mentor should provide an overview of the applicant's qualification, long-term career goals, research and academic development plan. The primary mentor's statement must include the applicant's qualifications for research; the applicant's long-term career goal; the training/career development plan, including a plan for developing independence of the applicant; the applicant's research time commitment (indicate percentage of the applicant's time that will be made available for research. Describe all other duties of the applicant, including administrative, teaching and clinical); and availability of support for the applicant's research program.



e. Budget Request and Justification*

The ERLI establishment grant provides funding for up to \$50,000 per annum for up to three (3) years (maximum \$150,000).

Submitted budgets can exceed the \$50,000 per annum maximum; in such instances, funding from other sources and/or in kind contributions should be detailed and justified in the budget section of the application.

Rigorous justification of all proposed spending must be provided and will be thoroughly reviewed by CanVECTOR. Failure to provide detailed information and appropriate justification may result in budget cuts that could adversely affect the final budget awarded for the program.

- * Eligible expenses include salary for personnel, research operating costs including materials, supplies, equipment, and investigator travel up to a maximum of \$2,000. **Under no circumstance can funds be used to support the salary or benefits of the principal investigator/applicant.** For additional information on allowable expenses, refer to the Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/FinancialAdminGuide-GuideAdminFinancier/FundsUse-UtilisationSubventions_eng.asp

Incomplete/Unacceptable Applications

All applicants are strongly cautioned to carefully read and follow the instructions and requirements outlined in this guideline document.

In order to maintain the principle of fairness to all applicants, regulations must be adhered to in the preparation of the ERLI application. Any infraction of the rules will lead to the truncation or immediate rejection (without appeal) of the application.

- * CanVECTOR reserves the right to decline incomplete applications.

Application Checklist

- Letter of Institutional Support
- Proposed Reserch Program
- Scientific, Methodological or Budgetary overlap (if applicable)
- Candidate's Statement
- Primary Supervisor's Statement
- Budget Request and Justification
- Canadian Common CV

Contact Information

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

a. Proposed Research Program (Formatting)

- Text must be single-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman or 11 point Arial (including labels and descriptions, accompanying figures, tables, charts, photographs, etc.).
- Margin of 2 cm (3/4 inch) around the entire page.

b. Proposed Research Program (Organization)

- The Proposed Research Program should be predominantly text and is limited to **five (5)** pages. Pages beyond the five (5) page limit will **NOT** be evaluated by the reviewers.
- To improve the clarity of the proposal, figures, charts, tables, etc. may be included in the proposed research program or appended after the references. Please note that embedded figures, charts, tables, etc. count toward the five (5) page limit.
- References should be placed at the end of the proposed research program and **will not count** toward the five (5) page limit.
- Figures, charts, tables, etc. appended after the references must not exceed **two (2)** pages. Pages beyond the two (2) page limit will **NOT** be evaluated by the reviewers.
- Additional supporting documentation such as questionnaires, RCT methods, consent forms, etc. may be attached as a separate document.

Failure to adhere to the guidelines above risks the application being deemed unacceptable and removed from the competition.