



CANVECTOR

Request for Applications

We announce a special call for proposals for **CanVECTOR COVID-19 VTE-related rapid response funding**.

Background

The Canadian Venous Thromboembolism Research Network (**CanVECTOR**) 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.

Preliminary observational studies from various countries have reported high rates of clinical VTE and arterial thrombosis in COVID patients and evidence of coagulation activation as well as microthrombi in the lungs and other affected organs. There is an urgent need to better understand the pathobiology and the clinical implications of the viral infection that leads to the thrombosis-related morbidity and mortality seen with COVID-19.

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support research projects to enable CanVECTOR scientists to collect data to improve our understanding of COVID-19 in relation to VTE risk, diagnosis, prevention, management and pathogenesis.

Because of the urgency of this issue, we are seeking innovative, highly feasible, impactful short-term proposals (12 months) which can show progress within the period of this award.

Funding Details

A total of \$100,000 is available to fund studies at up to \$50,000 each between October 2020 and September 2021. Funding for individual projects will be awarded over one year.

Eligibility

Applicants

- The project team for the study will include a senior or mid-career investigator, plus an early-career investigator or thrombosis fellow/trainee. If applicable, a methods expert should be included on the team.
- At least one of the investigators on the team must be a CanVECTOR member.
- Any investigator on the team can be the lead investigator for the application.
- Inclusion of investigators from less-established research sites is encouraged.
- International collaboration is encouraged, if appropriate.
- Trainees / Fellows are encouraged to be included in the project study team, though not required.

Projects

- Clinical or basic science/translational projects that are conducted at one or more CanVECTOR sites will be considered.
- Studies that rely on biological samples, secondary data, or access to participants of larger research studies will be considered, provided that:
 - they are answering a research question that is distinct from the main study



CANVECTOR

Request for Applications

- there is no overlap of the requested CanVECTOR funds with the funding/budget of the larger project
- A brief letter from the PI of the larger research study is included that attests to the feasibility and interest of the secondary study
- Top-up funding to support partially-funded studies will be considered provided that strong justification and details of the funding that has already been secured is included in the budget.
- The project must be completed within one year.
- The research focus should relate to improving our understanding of COVID-19 in relation to VTE risk, diagnosis, prevention, management and pathogenesis.
- CanVECTOR is committed to conducting research that is meaningful to patients and their families. One or more CanVECTOR patient partners will review applications. For prospective clinical studies, applicants are encouraged to connect with the Patient Partner platform to identify patient partner collaborators in the design and execution of the research project.

Research Project Application Requirements

Please send completed applications to info@canvector.ca

Format

The Research Proposal should be no more than **4 pages** (single-spaced, size 11 Arial font, 1 inch margins). References may be included at the end. Additional appendices may NOT be included. The application can be collated as a single electronic (PDF) copy or may be submitted as separate (PDF) documents: 1) Application Form, 2) Research Proposal and references, 3) Lay Summary, 4) Budget, and 5) Letter of Support (only from the PI of a larger study if the proposed study is a sub-study)

Submission Requirements

1. Application form (**1 page**)

The application form can be downloaded from the CanVECTOR website: [Application Form](#)

2. Research proposal - recommended content (maximum **4 pages**)

- Study overview (1 paragraph)
- Background and rationale
- Research question(s) and specific aims
- Significance and novelty of research question(s)
- Description of the investigator team
- Study design
- Study population and sample size
- Intervention studied (if applicable)
- Measurement of outcomes
- Planned analyses
- Description of any potential ethical issues and how these will be addressed
- Description of the potential next steps, if applicable
- Detailed timeline for each specific aim



CANVECTOR

Request for Applications

Please spell out all acronyms in the proposal and lay summary.

3. References

References to the proposal may be included after the proposal and do not count towards the 4-page limit.

4. Lay summary (maximum **1 page**)

The lay summary is a brief summary of a research project that is used to explain complex ideas and medical and scientific terms to people who do not have prior knowledge about the subject.

In language suitable for a lay audience, describe the following:

- Purpose of the research
- Relevance of the research
- General approach (methods)

5. Budget and budget justification (maximum **2 pages**: spreadsheet + justification)

Budget items must *specifically relate to the project*, and may include:

- Costs of research personnel or trainee salaries (e.g. research assistants, study coordinators, graduate students, technicians, programmers, statisticians) and benefits (according to institutional rates)
- Supplies and expendables
- Equipment (carefully justified, with cost quotations provided)
- Participant costs (e.g. reimbursement for hospital parking)
- Patient partner costs (e.g. honorarium, reimbursement for transportation)
- Presentation/Publication (to a maximum of \$1500)

Ineligible expenses:

- Institutional or administrative overhead (any indirect costs)
- Salary support for investigators
- Meals, alcohol, employee recognition

The applicant must state in the Budget if part of the proposed study will be funded from another source and justify the other source(s) of funding.

Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by 3 peers, either within the CanVECTOR network or international colleagues, who meet the following criteria:

1. No direct conflict of interest
2. Has relevant research expertise in the field (clinical or basic science/translational VTE research)

Applications will also be reviewed by 2 CanVECTOR Patient Partners.



CANVECTOR

Request for Applications

Evaluation Criteria:

Component	Maximum Points	Considerations
The research team	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The project team for the study will include a senior or mid-career investigator, plus an early-career investigator or thrombosis fellow/trainee. If applicable, a methods expert should be included on the team.• The team has the necessary knowledge, skills, and access to resources to successfully complete the study.
The research proposal	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The research question clearly addresses an unresolved need and the study has the potential to benefit patients in Canada with COVID-19.• The research focus should relate to improving our understanding of COVID-19 in relation to VTE risk, diagnosis, prevention, management and pathogenesis.• The methods for the study are scientifically sound.• The recommended content for the research proposal was included, according to the Request for Applications.
Feasibility of the study	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The project has a clear timeline for each specific aim and the overall project appears to be feasible within a 1-year timeframe.

Competition Timelines

Application deadline: August 10, 2020

Notifications of decisions: September 7, 2020