



Open Call Public Policy & ELSI Research in the Stem Cell Field

Program & Application Guidelines

Deadline for requesting an application form: **December 3, 2010**

Full application deadline: **January 13, 2011**

Funding period: **October 1, 2011 to March 31, 2015**

Overview

Funded by the Network of Centres of Excellence (NCE) (www.nce.gc.ca) since 2001, the Stem Cell Network (SCN)'s (www.stemcellnetwork.ca) mission is to act as a catalyst for enabling translation of stem cell research into clinical applications, commercial products or public policy. Now in its final cycle of NCE funding, SCN is conducting an Open Call for Public Policy & ELSI Research in the Stem Cell Field proposals. Successful proposals will be guaranteed the first six months of project funding starting October 1, 2011, with the balance contingent on the SCN securing its final NCE grant for the period April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2015. As such, successful projects will form an integral part of the SCN's revised strategic plan that will be submitted to the NCE Program in Fall 2011.

With a **total investment of up to \$1.4 million** for this open competition, SCN expects funding up to four Core research projects focused on Public Policy and Ethical, Legal and Social Issues related to the field of stem cell research. While projects are not required to form partnerships with industry, proposals must include specific plans to engage receptors such as basic scientists, NGOs & Industry representatives, policy makers or the public, as part of their research approach. Projects may contain several of, but not necessarily be restricted to, the following components: Autonomy/Privacy; Patient rights and access to therapies; Commercialization and intellectual property, including benefit sharing; Economic impact assessments; Stem cell tourism and unproven therapies; Incentives and impediments for translational research; Challenges to market acceptance of stem cell therapies; Risk analysis relating to clinical trials; Market failure for private investment in regenerative medicine; Role of Developing Countries in Stem Cell Research; Health policy and regulation; Interoperability and international governance; Research ethics; Regulatory challenges associated with stem cell therapies.

In this request for proposals, SCN requests applications for large Core projects involving a multidisciplinary team of investigators (a minimum of 4-5 investigators) funded for 3.5 years (from October 1, 2011 to March 31, 2015) with a total envelope of up to \$350,000 per team. Progress of Core projects will be evaluated twice yearly by the SCN Research Management Committee. Continued funding of projects will be contingent both on fulfilling management and reporting requirements, and substantive progress towards milestones and deliverables.

Please note that the Network will promote applications from strong multidisciplinary teams of investigators by providing, where necessary and justified, financial support to facilitate pre-submission meetings and discussions between investigators and with potential receptors. For more information, please contact Sophie Chargé at the Network office (scharge@stemcellnetwork.ca).

Please note that there is no Letter of Intent process. However, **applicants must request application forms** by December 3, 2010 by contacting Sophie Chargé at scharge@stemcellnetwork.ca.

Eligibility Criteria

- To submit a proposal, **Network Investigators** (Principal Investigators requesting SCN funding) must be eligible to receive grant funding from CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC. **Project Collaborators** (those not requesting SCN funding) do not need to be eligible for CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC funding. Any person can participate in more than one application.
- In order to receive funds, successful **Network Investigators** must execute a Standard NCE Network Agreement, through which they will become a member of the Stem Cell Network, and take on all of the associated rights and obligations. These obligations include the requirement to provide SCN office with a project report as requested.
- Project Leaders are strongly encouraged to identify “collaborators” from outside of Canada, so long as they are important to the project and will significantly augment its scope. Project Leaders should note that while International collaborators will not be eligible to receive Network research funds, some networking funding may be requested to support their participation in project team meetings.

Application and Review Process

1. **To obtain an application form please contact** Sophie Chargé (scharge@stemcellnetwork.ca) by **December 3, 2010**, with a brief description (no more than one paragraph) of your proposed research and anticipated team members.
2. Deliver completed application by e-mail to scharge@stemcellnetwork.ca **by midnight on January 13, 2011**. Letters of support can be either included in the application package as PDF files or sent to SCN office by express mail to arrive by the due date.
3. Reviews of applications will be undertaken by the SCN ELSI Scientific Advisory Board and the Research Management Committee (RMC) in February and March 2011. The RMC will make their final funding recommendations to the SCN Board of Directors for approval.
4. The Network expects to announce awards by the end of May, 2011 and funding of projects is expected to start October 1, 2011. Successful proposals will be guaranteed the first six months of project funding starting October 1, 2011, with the balance contingent on the SCN securing its final NCE grant for the period April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2015. Final SCN NCE grant outcome will be announced in December 2011.

For further information: Please contact Sophie Chargé (613-739-6672 or scharge@stemcellnetwork.ca) or Drew Lyall (613-739-6674 or dlyall@stemcellnetwork.ca) at the Network office, or Michael Rudnicki (613-739-6740 or mrudnicki@ohri.ca).

Pour des informations en français, veuillez contacter Sophie Chargé par téléphone au 613-739-6672 ou par courriel à scharge@stemcellnetwork.ca.

Application Guidelines

Evaluation Criteria: In addition to alignment with the goal of this Open Call, each project will also be assessed against the following six criteria. It is important to note that the criteria are not the same as those of a traditional granting agency, and reflect the different mandate and objectives of a Network of Centres of Excellence.

1. **Research Excellence:** The project is creative/innovative and seeks results/information/output of major significance as judged on an international level and is feasible to complete by March 31, 2015. Proposal demonstrates the clear translation of public policy or ELSI research.
2. **Networking:** The project relies for its success on the aggregation, integration or comparison of the results of multiple investigators, and the project team includes relevant disciplines, collaborators and receptors. Please note that participation of International collaborators is strongly encouraged.

3. Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP): The project offers training opportunities for HQP to develop their skills, and to learn from other disciplines.
4. Knowledge Exchange: The project has a clear and feasible plan to apply and implement research outcomes.
5. Project Management: The project has a well thought-out and detailed plan to attack a specific research problem, in an integrated fashion, with clear deliverables and milestones. In the case of large multi-disciplinary proposals a role for a full or part-time project manager should be outlined.
6. Partnering: This request for proposals again places an emphasis on partnering and encourages teams to include specific plans to engage receptors such as basic scientists, policy makers or the public, as part of their research approach.

Core Projects Application: To obtain an application form please contact Sophie Chargé (scharge@stemcellnetwork.ca) by **December 3, 2010**, with a brief description (no more than one paragraph) of your proposed research and anticipated team members.

Section 1: Project Overview

Project Title (max. 15 words) - capture the essence of what is to be done/found.

Project Leader - Identify one Investigator who will be responsible for managing the project and for progress reporting to the Network.

Project Summary (max. 400 words) - Provide an Executive Summary in lay terms of the proposal, highlighting key team members including partners/receptors, the research methodology and the key project objectives; demonstrating how the proposal fits within the Network's mission and this Open Call. Clearly indicate the potential short and long-term impact of your proposed research on Canadians and how receptors(s) will help you further your goals. (Note: This summary will be evaluated by lay representatives. Furthermore, for successful proposals, this summary may be used in press releases or posted on the Network's external web-site).

Project Short-term Deliverables (max. 6 key deliverables) - Using bullet format, provide a list of the milestones and deliverables for the proposed project including expected time of completion within the 3.5-year term of the grant.

Research Long-term Translational Plan (max. one paragraph) - Provide a brief and clear description of your long-term translational plan for the proposed research including how the proposed Core Project will further the long-term goals.

Section 2: Project Team & Role

List all participating Network Investigators and any Project Collaborators plus their organizational affiliations, mailing addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and role in the project.

Provide a Canadian Common CV (www.commoncv.net) in the NCE format for each Network Investigator, not for Project Collaborators) and append a list of selected publications for each.

NB: Network Investigators are principal investigators requesting SCN funds. Network Investigators must be eligible to receive grant funding from CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC. Project Collaborators are active participants in the project who are not requesting funds from SCN. For this request for application, it is important to note that meaningful participation of International collaborators is strongly encouraged.

Section 3: Research Proposal

Please note: Up to 100 references may be included in addition to the 10-page limit for this section. The 10-page limit includes tables and figures. Appendices will **not** be reviewed.

Background & Preliminary Findings - Describe the background and rationale for the proposed research including any relevant preliminary findings.

Proposed Research - Outline the proposed research methods and approach, clearly demonstrating the integration of project members' expertise towards achieving the goals of the project. Please identify limitations to the methodology, if any, and explain how the team may overcome these issues.

Section 4: Receptors/Partnerships

Please note: no page limit.

List each receptor/partner that will participate in the project, their specific role, and the cash and in-kind contributions (if any) anticipated from the receptor(s) to the project. Where a Network Investigator has a "financial interest" (as defined by NCE Conflict of Interest Guidelines) in a partner the potential conflict of interest should be declared. This does not preclude the partnership in any way, but provides transparency to the review process. **Please see SCN Conflict of Interest Framework available on the SCN website for further information.**

Please **provide a signed letter of support** on the letterhead of each receptor/partner detailing the extent of their collaboration and/or their cash and in-kind contribution towards the particular project. The letter should specifically include reference to the Stem Cell Network, the proposed project, and any conditions placed on funding.

Section 5: Knowledge Translation

Please note: one page maximum.

Describe the specific strategies that will be employed, beyond publications, to translate the projects research outcomes into long-term outcomes that will benefit Canadians.

Section 6: Highly Qualified Personnel

Please note: one page maximum.

Describe the training component of the project and initiatives to enhance networking and development of trainees (i.e., hiring of trainees, exchanges between laboratories, workshops, etc.).

Section 7: Project Management

Please note: one page maximum.

Describe how the project will be managed to achieve true collaboration. This is particularly important for large, multi-site, multidisciplinary projects and projects involving partners. If the need for a dedicated project manager/administrator is identified, specify whether it is a full-time or a part-time position. If part time, specify portion. Please include cost of hiring the project manager/administrator in your budget. Furthermore, if you have a particular individual in mind, provide his/her name and describe why he/she would be competent at fulfilling the role of a project manager/administrator for your team. Include the individual's CV with your application.

Section 8: Networking

Please note: one page maximum.

Describe the specific actions and tools/methods that will be used to facilitate networking in the project and with other projects (e.g., workshops, lab exchanges, web-based communications), and remember to cost these into your budget.

Section 9: Budget

Complete the budget Excel template and provide justifications to the proposed budget.
