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Le réseau canadien d'immunothérapie

BioCanRx Open Call for Research Proposals Information Session

Open Call for Research Proposals

July 29, 2024

Acknowledgments

BioCanRx would like to acknowledge that we are situated on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg People. We acknowledge and respect our traditional hosts and thank them for allowing us to operate on this land.

Learn more about the traditional land you are on by going to:
https://www.whose.land/en/

WHOSE LAND

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Meet the Team

Dr. John Bell,
Scientific Director

Dr. Stéphanie Michaud,
President & CEO

Dr. Megan Mahoney,
Director, Scientific Affairs and Training Programs

Dr. Julie Jonkhans,
Manager, Training and Research

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Who is BioCanR$_x$?

We are a Network of Scientists, Clinicians, Cancer Stakeholders, NGOs and Industrial Partners working together to accelerate the development of innovative cancer biotherapeutics to the clinic.

Research Program Objectives & Scope

BioCanRx has received funding through the Government of Canada's Strategic Science Fund for **5 years from April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2029**

Research Program Objectives

1. **Accelerate Cancer Immunotherapy and Biotherapeutic Product Innovations from Bench to Bedside**: Develop and translate promising innovations from proof of concept through to clinical application (i.e. Phase I/II clinical trials).
2. **Address the Clinical, Social, Economic, Regulatory and Policy Elements of these Innovations**: Identify and address the barriers to the adoption and integration of these therapies into clinical practice and Canada's healthcare system.
3. **Support Technology Innovation through Core Facility Activities**: Canadian academic infrastructure and technologies that support the advancement and production of cancer immunotherapies and biotherapeutics.

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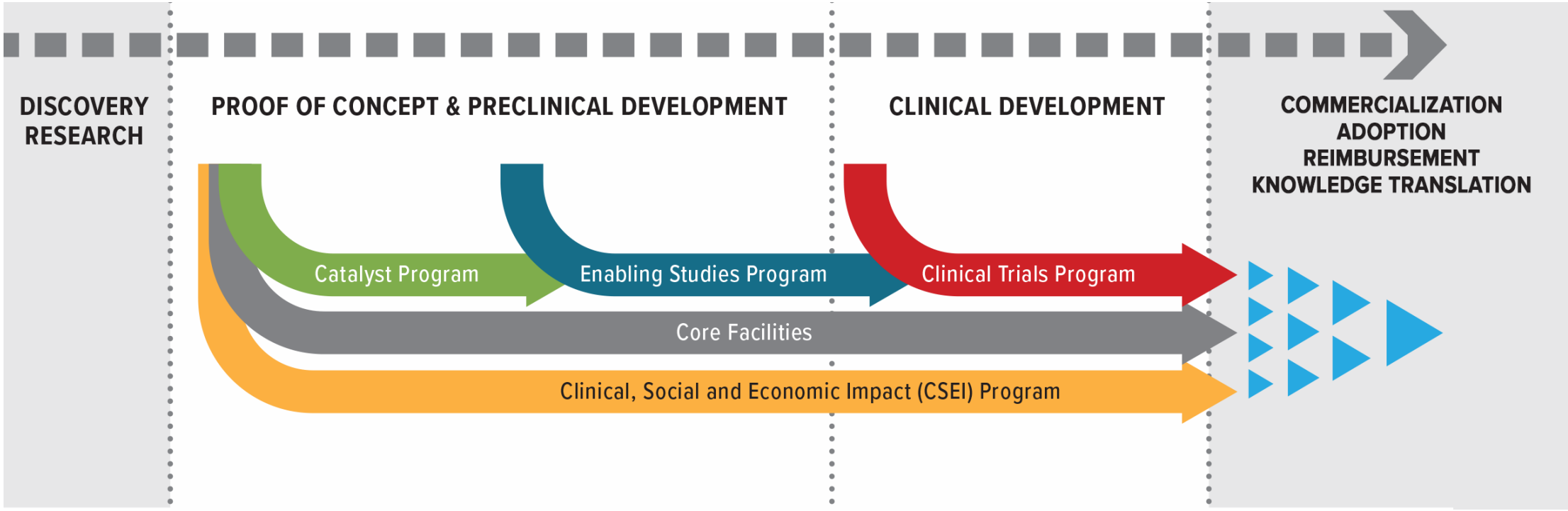
Research Program Investment



Historical funding portfolio (2015 – 2024):

- 18 Catalyst - $3.12M (funding 2015 – 2020)
- 19 Enabling - $9.40M
- 12 Clinical Trial - $7.93M
- 9 CSEI - $2.13M
- 5 Core - $2.61M

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Research Program Impact

58
projects funded

34
novel therapeutics

12
clinical trials

400
patients treated

662
peer-reviewed publications

11
core, biomanufacturing and POC facilities supported

675
project-based HQP

$116.26M
partner funding

1:4
leverage ratio (BioCanRx: partner funds)

42
patients issued and filed

11
licenses granted

8
spin-outs

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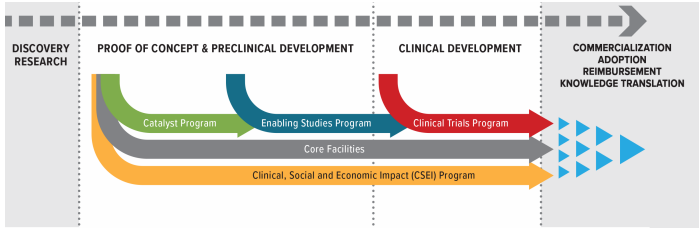
BioCanRx Funding Programs

Catalyst Program



- Catalyst Program projects are technology or product oriented; **not fundamental science**
- **Clear translational path**
  - Milestones and deliverables
  - Application or refinement of “mature” technologies
  - Proof-of-concept studies
- Projects are expected to be conducted **over 6 months to 2 years**
- BioCanRx funding budget request: **$500,000**
- BioCanRx will fund up to **50% of total project costs**
- **Matched** funding must represent 50% of total project costs

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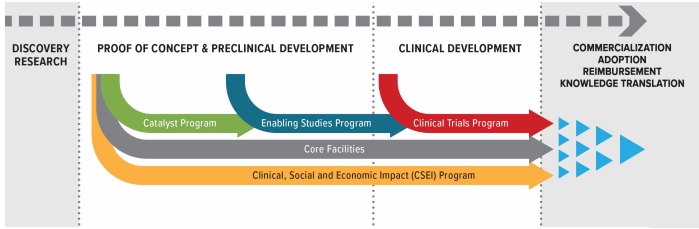
Enabling Studies Program



- Position biotherapeutic products or platforms for their translation to clinical testing, including:
  - GMP manufacturing and process development
  - Analytical assay development
  - Preclinical GLP studies
  - Toxicity Studies
  - IP filing
  - Protocol Development
  - Regulatory
- Enabling Studies projects must result in **one or both** deliverables:
  - CTA submission packages
  - Quality (Chemistry and Manufacturing) packages
- Projects are expected to be conducted over **6 months to 3 years**
- BioCanRx funding budget request: **$750,000**
- BioCanRx will fund up to **50% of total project costs**
- **Matched** funding must represent 50% of total project costs

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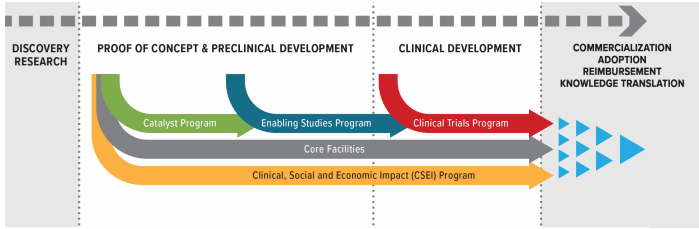
Clinical Trials Program



- Clinical Trial projects must have novel, Canadian content in their approach
- The required deliverables include clinical data required to evaluate the case for advancing the therapeutic into later-stage clinical development.
- Notable Eligibility Criteria:
  - Pre-CTA consultation with Health Canada within 3 months of award start date
  - Expected to submit CTA in following 3 months (6 months from award date)
  - Preference will be given to project teams that are within 3 months of submitting full CTA at time of application
  - BioCanRx may consider modifying the project award, and transferring it to an Enabling Studies project, where applicable.
- Projects are expected to be conducted **over 1 to 3 years**
- BioCanRx funding budget request: up to **$1M** total
- BioCanRx will fund up to **40% of the total project costs**
- **Matched** funding must represent 60% of the total project costs

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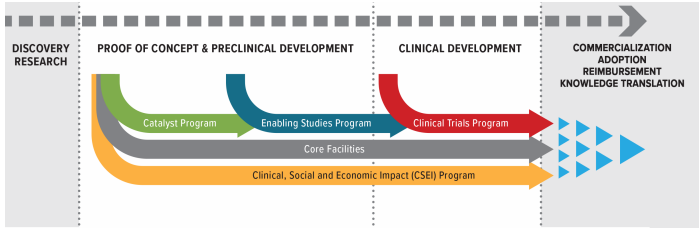
Clinical, Social and Economic Impact Program



- Projects funded under the CSEI program should address:
  - Clinical, social or economic benefits/outcomes of cancer biotherapeutics
  - Patient and other stakeholder engagement approaches
  - Regulatory, reimbursement, policy, economic, or IP-related challenges
  - Policy development to support national access to clinical trials for rare cancers and health system adoption pathways
  - Equitable access to care
  - Real-world evidence and economic evaluations (e.g., early HTA)
- CSEI projects should be either linked to BioCanRx project proposals **or** have already engaged key end-users who will implement the outcomes of the project.
- Projects are expected to be conducted **over 1 to 3 years**
- BioCanRx funding budget request: **$215,000**
- BioCanRx will fund up to **100% of total project costs**
- Matched funding not required, but encouraged

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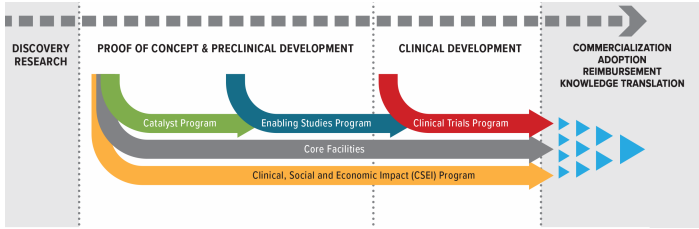
Core Facilities Program



- Funding for Canadian academic or research institution facilities that offer translational services (e.g., biomanufacturing, GLP correlative assay development)
- The Core Facilities Program is not seeking to support regulatory, commercialization, or CRO-like services
- Core Facilities Program applicants must illustrate engagement with other research program applicants
- BioCanRx funding for **2 years** (with possibility of renewal for 3 additional years)
- BioCanRx funding budget request: up to **$120,000 per year**

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Previously Funded Projects

Catalyst Projects: https://biocanrx.com/research/research-projects/catalyst-projects

Enabling Studies Projects: https://biocanrx.com/research/research-projects/enabling-projects

Clinical Trials Projects: https://biocanrx.com/research/research-projects/clinical-trials

CSEI Projects: https://biocanrx.com/research/research-projects/csei

Core Facilities: https://biocanrx.com/biomanufacturing/core-facilities

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Key Funding Criteria

- Funded research team members (i.e., principal investigators) must be based at a Canadian academic or research institution and must be eligible to receive Tri-Agency funding
- Only **MATCHING** funds contribute to expected partner match
- Must declare that the project/innovation does not infringe third-party IP
- As per the Strategic Science Fund requirements, funded projects **will NOT be granted no cost project extensions beyond the original award date – expectation that projects will complete on time**

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Patient Partnerships

- At the time of Full Application, you be required to name *at least one* patient partner
- BioCanRx can help facilitate finding patient partners for your research project and can provide resources and patient engagement tools for researchers to ensure meaningful involvement of patients in research.
- Resources:
  - SPOR Patient Engagement Framework - https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/48413.html
  - Preclinical research projects can consult:
    - labpartners.ca
    - associated policy brief (https://biocanrx.box.com/s/4aoy7f1bduj74cbdfsxo5yylrzf5a0hj)

The Ottawa Hospital | L'Hôpital d'Ottawa
Blueprint Translational Research Group | Groupe de recherche translationnelle Blueprint
Affiliated with · Affilié à uOttawa

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Matching Funding Requirements

***Matched Funds**:* new, incremental contributions (of cash or in-kind) for eligible SSF expenditures, which would not exist in the absence of an SSF award. Eligible sources include non-federal partners or revenues (including donations).
Examples of eligible matched funds:

- Private-sector contributions earmarked to advance specific SSF-funded activities
- Provincial awards to support the advancement of SSF-funded activities or research projects in that province

Please note that matching funding can precede funding of the BioCanRx award start date, assuming that: 1) they are from the same year of the proposed award start date, and 2) they are matched funds that are complementary to a unique element described in your project proposal for which funding from BioCanRx is requested. For example, if you are requesting BioCanRx funding for a novel element (e.g., combination therapy or correlative assays) of an already on-going clinical trial by an industry partner, the industry partner funds will be considered matching funding.

Ineligible to be considered matched funds:

- Leveraged Funds (see definition below)
- Funding from federally-funded entities (e.g., CFI, Digital Research Alliance of Canada, SSF recipients, and organizations primarily funded by the federal government) and from federal departments and agencies
- Funding already used to meet a matching requirement for a federal program

***Leveraged Funds**:* existing investments in the ST&I ecosystem being leveraged to further the objectives of the funded research project. Includes cash or in-kind from federally-funded entities (e.g., CFI, organizations primarily funded by the federal government) and from federal departments and agencies.
Examples of leveraged funds:

- Existing NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR projects with work that will be complimentary to the SSF activities
- The rental value of CFI-funded equipment that is essential to the delivery of SSF activities
- Projects funded in collaboration with other SSF-supported recipients

IMPORTANT: For matching funds to be eligible, only funds spent starting in the same fiscal year as BioCanRx start date are counted toward the partner match.

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Other Elements of the Full Application

- Intellectual Property
- Research Security
- Open Access and Research Data Management
- Training HQP
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

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Key Elements of Strong Proposals

- Strong scientific proposal aligned with the funding program (e.g., Catalyst Program etc)
- Multidisciplinary teams
- Use of Core Facilities
- Canadian-based innovations
- Benefit to Canada in terms of clinical, social, and/or economic benefit
- Feasible in the funding period

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Timelines & Application Process

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Timelines & Application Process

Letter of Intent

Receive LOI package via email following Notice of Intent

Submit LOI via “paper-based” document submission to applications@biocanrx.com

Full Application

Receive notification of LOI results and invitation to Full Application via email

Submit Full Application in grant management software. More details and instructions to come

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Letter of Intent Requirements

Information Required:

- Project Overview
- Project Team
- Funding Summary
- Scientific Summary
- Partnerships

For *Core Facilities*:

- Project Overview
- Activity Summary

LOI Submission Process:

1. Submit Notice of Intent
2. Submit Letter of Intent (LOI) by August 26, 2024
3. LOI submissions are evaluated by BioCanRx's Research Management Committee
4. Decision on invitation to Full Application communicated, invited applications receive feedback from RMC
5. **Feedback from RMC expected to be addressed in the Full Application**

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More information:

https://biocanrx.com/research/research-program/open-call-2024

Contact information:

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jjonkhans@biocanrx.com

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Thank you!

Questions?

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