BioCanRx 2026 Open Call for Proposals: Information Session

June 25, 2026

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Canada

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BioCanRx's work unfolds across Canada, on the traditional and unceded territories of Indigenous peoples and nations who have stewarded these lands for millennia. We respectfully acknowledge the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation, on whose land our head office is situated, and extend this recognition to Indigenous communities across the country. We honour their enduring stewardship of the lands and waters where our researchers, partners, and communities live and work. As a national network, BioCanRx embraces the responsibility of advancing reconciliation by embedding respect, inclusivity, and Indigenous leadership into all aspects of our mission.

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Housekeeping

- This video session **will be recorded** and posted here: https://biocanrx.com/apply-for-funding/current-funding-opportunities/
  - Note that this presentation will be in English; the recorded video will be subtitled in both official languages
  - This presentation slide deck will also be shared on the landing page

- Please use the Q&A chat box to ask questions throughout the session. We will facilitate a Q&A at the end of the session.

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Who is BioCanRx?

- National not-for-profit since 2015
- Funded through the Government of Canada's Strategic Science Fund (April 2024 – March 2029)
- Network of 300+ scientists, clinicians, NGOs, industry partners, and patient partners
- Position Canada as a global leader by advancing **made-in-Canada cancer immunotherapies – from proof-of-concept through translation, manufacturing, and adoption**

Our Mission & Vision

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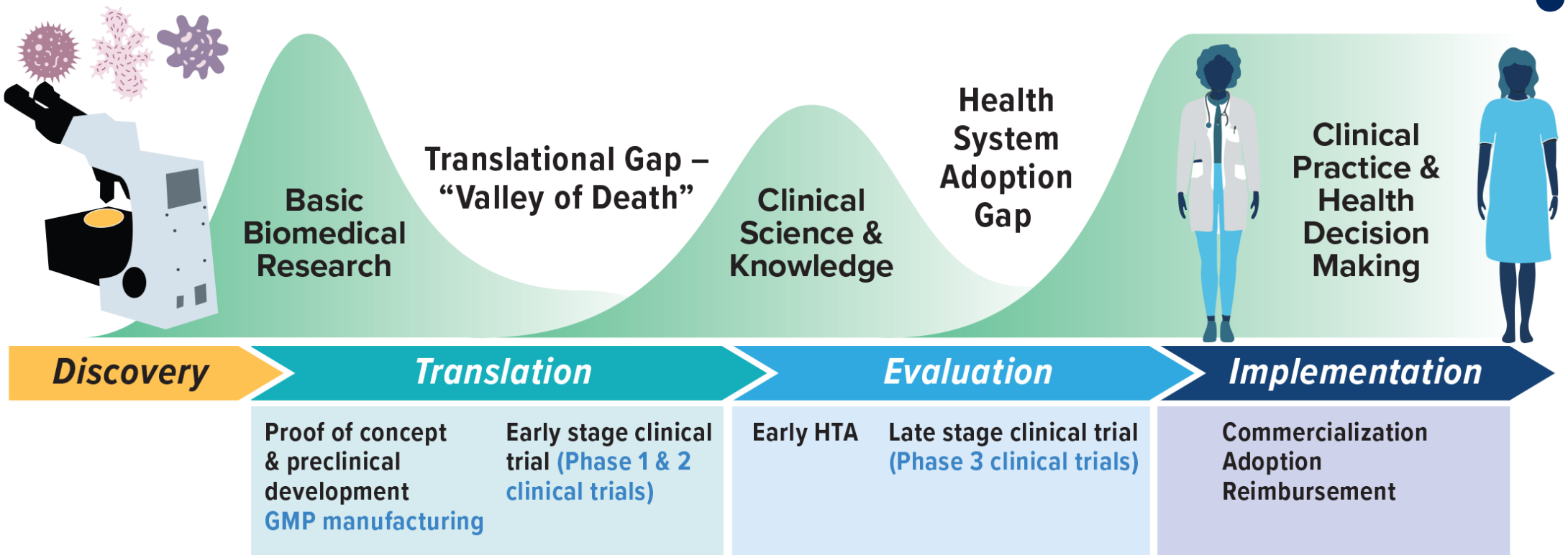
Addressing Translational Development Gaps



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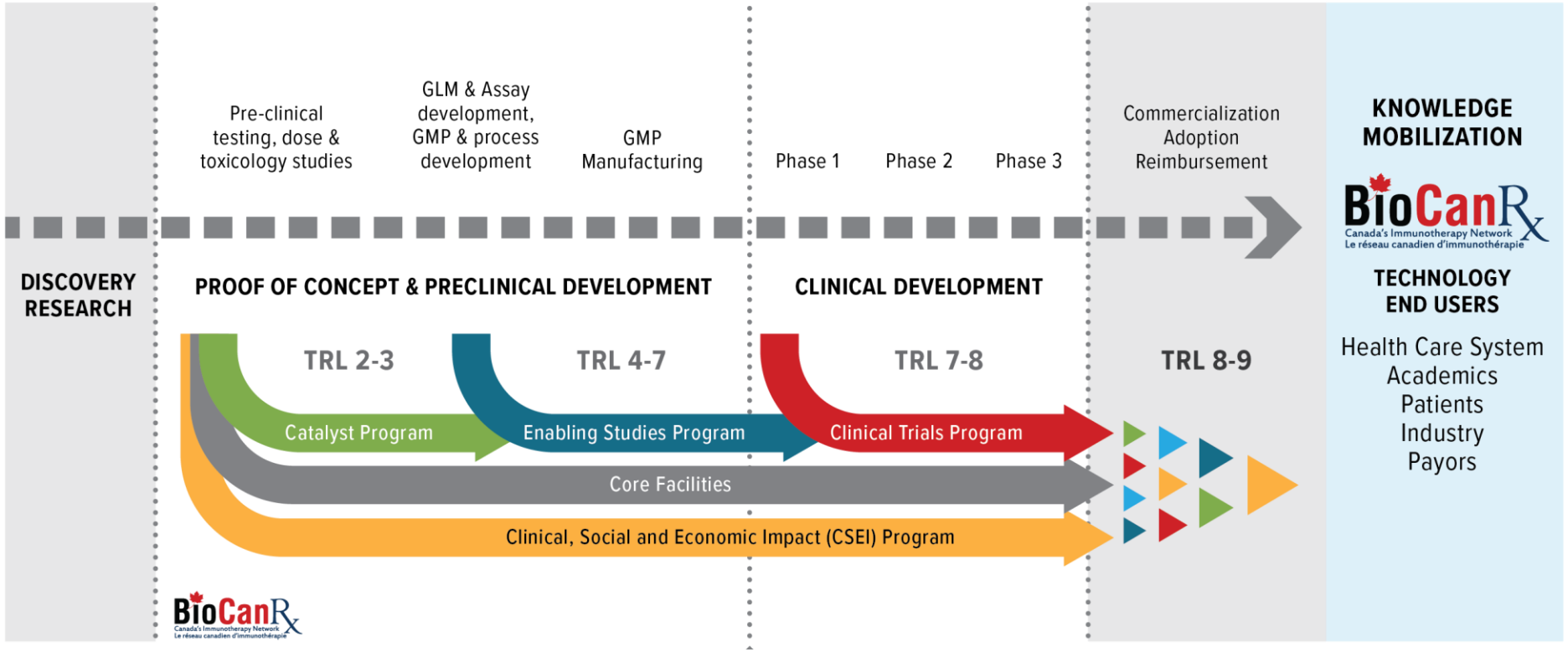
Pipeline Approach to Translational Research Investments: Funding Programs



Note that Catalyst Program funding will not be part of this funding competition.

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Meet the Research Team

John Bell, PhD
Scientific Director

Stéphanie Michaud, PhD
President & CEO

Megan Mahoney, PhD
Director, Scientific Affairs and Training Programs

Julie Jonkhans, PhD
Manager, Training and Research

Mackenzie Huckvale
Research Program Manager

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2026 Call for Proposals

BioCanRx is investing up to $6M to support the strongest proposals submitted across four funding programs.

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2026 Open Call Guidelines

(comprehensive listing)

- Overview
- Team Member Eligibility
- Key Dates
- Funding Programs – overview and program-specific details
- General requirements:
  - Project Overview
  - Project Team
  - Research Proposal
  - Project Management
  - Partnerships
  - Research Budget
  - Future Product/Enabling Technology Innovation Development Trajectory
  - Knowledge Sharing, Technology Transfer, and Networking
  - Partnership with a Person with Lived and/or Living Experience (PWLE)
  - Training, Development, & Inclusive Research Environments
  - Inclusive Research Design
  - Intellectual Property
  - Research Security
  - Open Access and Research Data Management
  - Core Facilities Specific Requirements
- Letter of Intent Evaluation Criteria
- Full Application Evaluation Criteria
- Reporting Expectations
- Criteria for the Release of Approved Funding
- Application and Submission Process
- Confidentiality and COI statement

Refer to the 2026 Open Call Program Guide for detailed information

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2026 Open Call Competition
Overview

Objectives

1. Develop and translate promising innovations from proof of concept through to clinical application
2. Identify and address the barriers and facilitators to the adoption and integration of these therapies into clinical practiceand Canada's healthcare system
3. Canadian academic infrastructure and technologies that support the advancement and production of cancer immunotherapies

Scope

- Cancer immunotherapy is defined as all therapeutic products that modulate the immune system
- Agnostic for therapeutic innovations and cancer indications

Key Funding Elements

- Non-dilutive funding to researchers at academic institutions, research institutes or Indigenous organizations or governments
- Matched partner funding requirements
- Milestone-driven

Key Application and Funding Details:

- Two-stage application process: Letter of Intent, invitation to Full Application
- Funding starts March 31, 2027 (and BioCanRx funds must be spent by March 31, 2029)
- Continuous and on-going project performance review against stated milestones and deliverables

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Funding Programs: program-specific details

Program Guide Section 4.0

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Enabling Studies Program

At a Glance:

- Up to 3 years
- BioCanRx funding up to $750,000 total
- **50%** matching requirement
- Lead candidate must be identified, with strong in vitro and/or in vivo proof-of-concept data

Eligible Activities Include:

- Process development, engineering and validation runs, GMP manufacturing
- Analytical assay development
- GLP-enabling studies
- IP filing
- Protocol Development
- Regulatory activities (and consulting fees)
- Tech transfer activities to collaborators/partners
- Evaluation of pathways for clinical uptake and health system integration (also refer to CSEI program)

Required Deliverables (one or both):

- CTA submission packages
- Quality (Chemistry and Manufacturing) packages

Guide Section 4.1

Clinical Trials Program

At a Glance

- 1 to 3 years
- BioCanRx funding up to $1M total
- Matching funds must represent **60%** of total eligible project costs
- Support for investigator-initiated early-phase clinical trials (with some exceptions)

Eligible Activities Include:

- Trial costs
- Manufacturing
- Correlative studies and other data-generating trial activities

Required Deliverables:

- Clinical data required to evaluate the case for advancing the therapeutic into later-stage clinical development

Key Eligibility Criteria

- Must have novel, Canadian content in the approach; trial sites must be in Canada
- 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)

Guide Section 4.2

Clinical, Social and Economic Impact Program

At a Glance

- 1 to 3 years
- BioCanRx funding up to $215,000 total
- Matching funding not required, but encouraged

Required Deliverables:

- Research and implementation projects that identify and address the social, legal, ethical, economic, regulatory, and health-system barriers limiting the progression of cancer immunotherapies through the translational pipeline and into patient care in Canada
- Address at least one of the patient-centred outcomes listed in Section 4.3
- Projects demonstrating clear, substantive integration with one or more BioCanRx-funded projects or active project proposals within the Enabling Studies or Clinical Trials program will be reviewed more favourably
- Knowledge mobilization: projects should identify and engage end users and describe how findings will be translated into practice, policy or decision making

Guide Section 4.3

Core Facilities Program

At a Glance

- Up to 2 years
- $120,000 per year
- Matched funding not required

Eligible Activities Include:

- Operations (e.g., salary of staff, minor expenses related to ongoing facility maintenance, certification and/or baseline operations
- Important note – support to Cores is independent from the service offerings they provide (this should be budgeted in the project application to the Enabling Studies or Clinical Trials programs)

Key Eligibility Criteria:

- 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 that demonstrate evidence of planned collaborations and scope of work across multiple currently funded or proposed Enabling Studies or Clinical Trial projects will be scored more favourably.

Guide Section 4.4

General Requirements

Program Guide Section 5.0

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Important note about Core Applications

5.15 Core Facilities Applications - Specific Requirements and Instructions

Common sections across all applications:	Sections unique to ES/CT/CSEI FA stage	Sections unique to Core Facilities applications:
At the LOI stage: • Project Overview *At the FA stage:* • Project Overview • Project Team • Project Management • Budget and budget justification • Knowledge Sharing, Technology Transfer and Networking • Training, Development & Inclusive Research Environment • Intellectual Property • Research Security	• Research Proposal • Partnerships • Future Product/Enabling Technology Development Trajectory • Partnerships with Persons with Lived and/or Living Experience • Inclusive Research Design	*At the LOI stage:* • Activity Summary *At the FA stage:* • Activity and Performance • Projected Activity – including linkages with other BioCanRx projects • Impact of Planned/Potential Facility Upgrades • Facility Publications (past 12 months)

General Requirements Highlights

(non-exhaustive)

- Innovative technology and established data to support the program to which you are applying
- Multidisciplinary and collaborative teams including people with lived or living experience (PWLEs)
- Where possible, proposals should use Canadian academic or research institution core-like facilities
- Benefit to Canadian and Canadians
- Project feasibility is a key evaluative component

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Substantially Developed in Canada
(summarized information)

- The technology must have been substantially conceived, discovered, optimized, or translated through R&D activities conducted in Canada.

- The project outputs are expected to generate meaningful scientific, intellectual property, talent development, and/or economic benefits for Canada and people in Canada

Refer to BioCanRx's Policy on Industry Partnered Research (via link in the Program Guide) in Section 5.5.1

See also Program Guide sections 5.12 Intellectual Property and 5.7 Future Product/Enabling Technology Development Trajectory

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Research Budget Highlights

(non-exhaustive)

- BioCanRx (SSF) funds are not eligible for institutional overhead: do not include this cost in your budget
- Notable eligible costs for BioCanRx funding: manufacturing costs, consulting fees, PWLE compensation
- Matching requirement must be met from Matching Partners funds (not Leveraged Funds)
- **NEW:** all BioCanRx funds must be fully expended by March 31, 2029. Proposed projects should therefore be structured with BioCanRx-funded milestones, deliverables, and achievable objectives aligned with this funding timeline. Projects approved under this competition may continue beyond this date using confirmed partner contributions and/or other non-BioCanRx sources of support.
- **NEW: Inclusion of budget items to support attendance to Summit4CI:** As a funded BioCanRx project, there is an expectation that principial investigators attend the annual Summit for Cancer Immunotherapy. As part of a project's proposed budget, we strongly encourage the inclusion of registration, travel and accommodations, and other eligible expenses related to Summit4CI

See Program Guide section 5.6 Research Budget

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Matching Partner Funds

To qualify as "matching funds":

- Funds must be spent on eligible activities ✅
- Funds must be received from eligible sources ✅
- In most cases, are received or expected to be received in the fiscal year(s) of the BioCanRx award ✅
- Funds are spent on activities directly related to the milestones and deliverables of the BioCanRx project ✅
- Must not be used to fulfil matching requirements for another federal program ❌

Common examples of **matching funds** *(non-exhaustive, situations may vary)*

- Provincial grants for research personnel salaries
- Industry in-kind contributions of materials and supplies
- Charitable foundation cash contributions to salaries, materials and supplies, and other eligible costs

Common examples of **leveraged funds** *(non-exhaustive, situations may vary)*

- CIHR grants for project costs, including research salaries
- National Research Council contributions
- Funds spent on non-eligible expenses (i.e. Major equipment >$250,000, Indirect institutional costs)

See Program Guide sections 5.5 and 5.6 for more comprehensive eligibility criteria and examples

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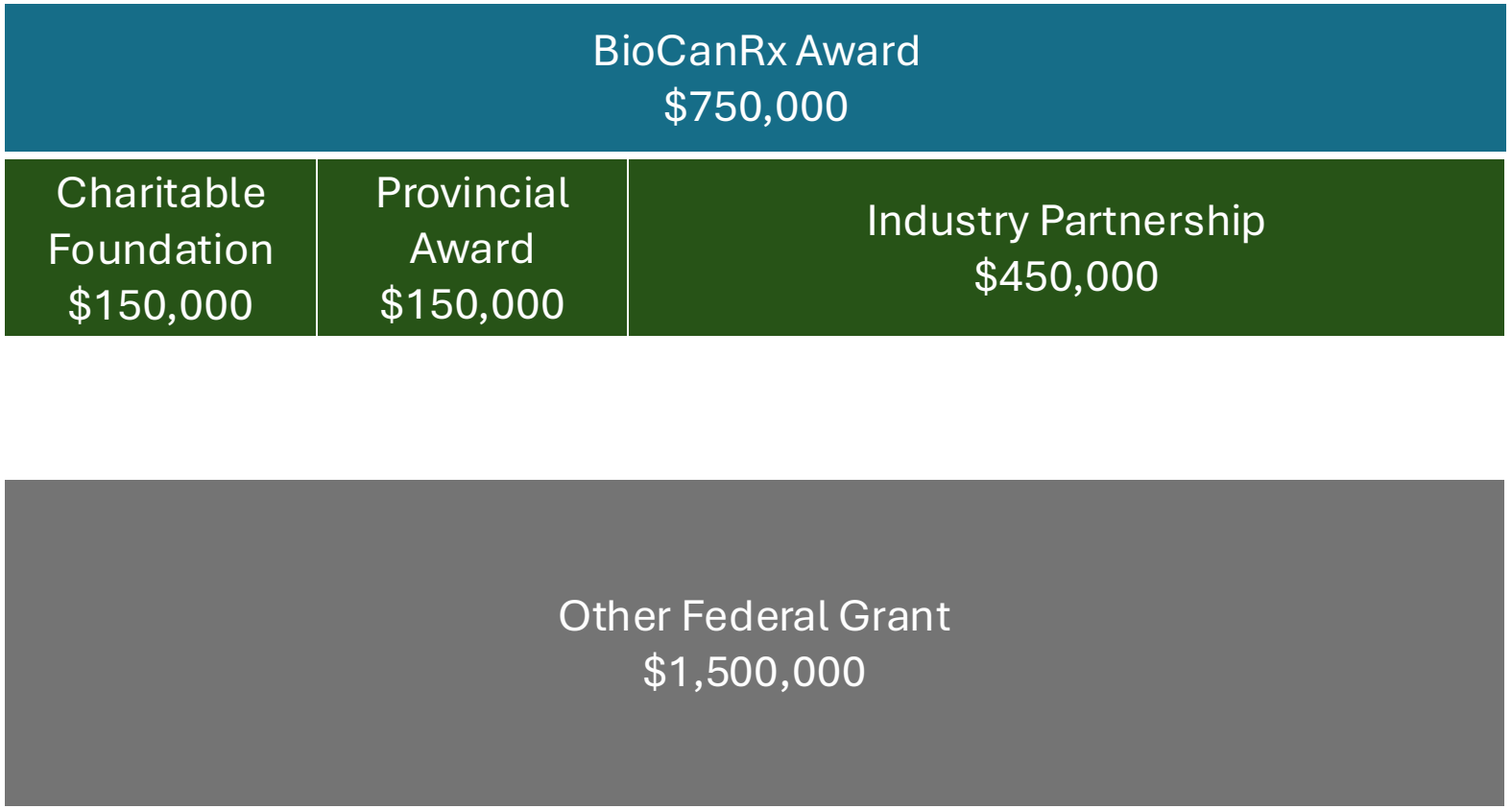
Matching Funds Example

Enabling Studies *all figures presented are fictional*



Total *Eligible* Project Costs = **$1,500,000**

BioCanRx will fund **50%** ($750,000)

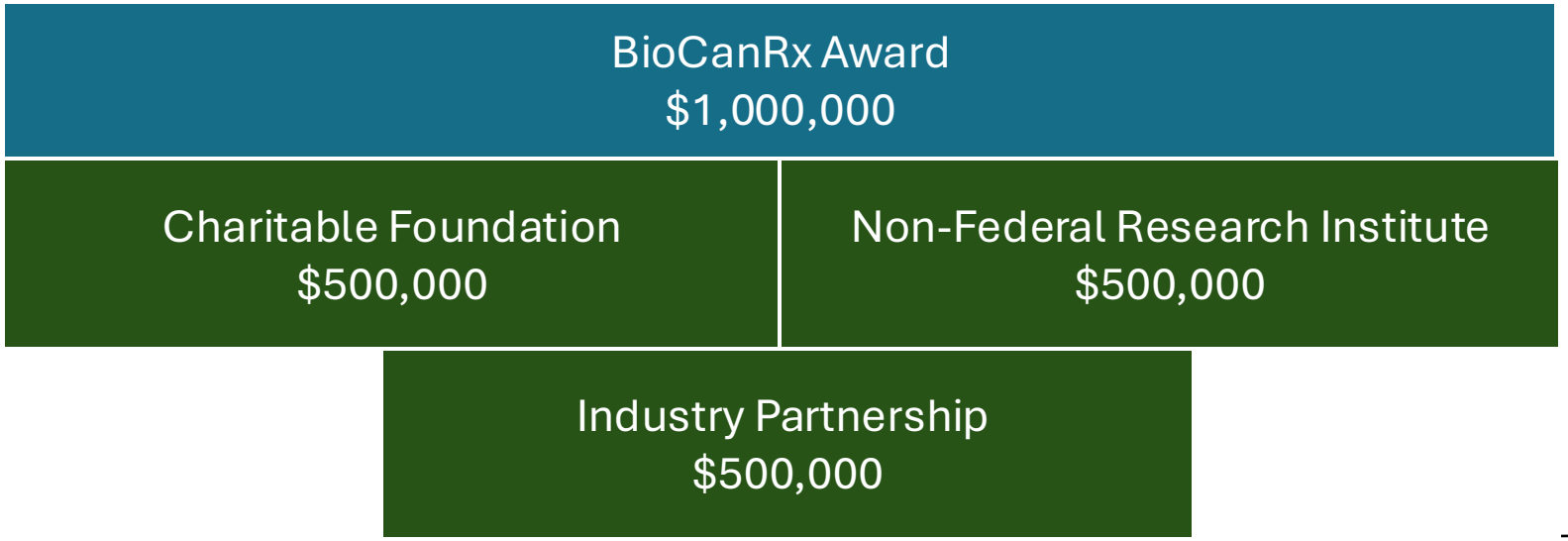
Other eligible matching partner fund other **50%** ($750,000)

Other ineligible sources or sources funding non-eligible project costs = ***leveraged funds***

DO NOT contribute to matching funds requirement, but still relevant to report to demonstrate **feasibility**

Matching Funds Example

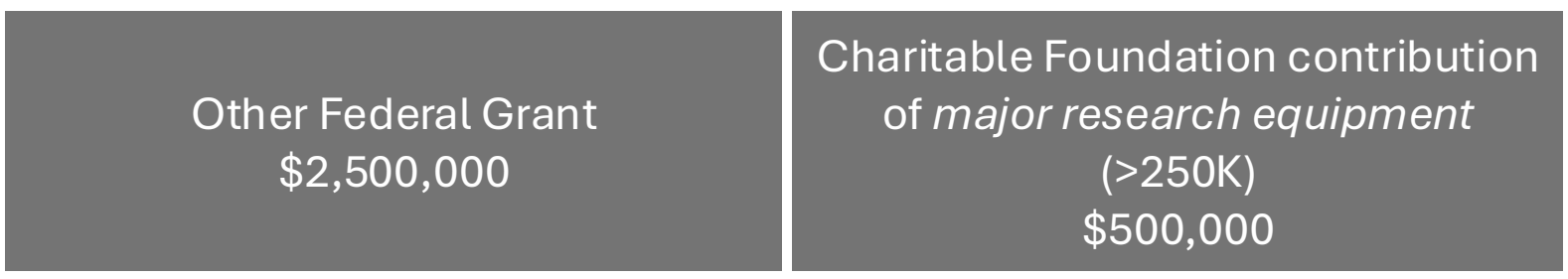
Clinical Trial *all figures presented are fictional*



Total *Eligible* Project Costs
= **$2,500,000**

BioCanRx will fund **40%** ($1,000,000)

Other eligible matching partner fund other **60%** ($1,500,000)



DO NOT contribute to matching funds requirement, but still relevant to report to demonstrate **feasibility**

Research Budget Highlights

(non-exhaustive)

NEW: Alignment to the Government of Canada's Buy Canadian Policy

See Program Guide section 5.6.4

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Future Product/Enabling Technology Development Trajectory

(supplemental information to the Program Guide; requirement at the FA stage)

- **Translation & Impact:** Describe how the project will advance a cancer biotherapeutic innovation from research toward clinical evaluation, increased clinical trial availability in Canada, and eventual commercialization.

- **Intellectual Property Strategy:** Outline the status of existing/background IP, any access requirements or encumbrances, and plans for managing and protecting new IP generated through the project.

- **Clinical Development Pathway:** Summarize future clinical trial plans and identify any additional partners, collaborators, or organizations needed to support later-stage development.

- **Commercialization & Market Access:** Present the strategy for bringing the technology to patients in Canada, including potential pathways such as licensing, partnerships, investment, spin-out creation, or regulatory approval.

See Program Guide Section 5.7

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Partnerships with a Person with Lived and/or Living Experience

(non exhaustive)

- Partnerships with a person with lived and/or living experience (PWLE) in the development of projects is a mandatory requirement for all funded projects

- You will be required to name at least one PWLE partner at the time of full application and provide their contact information. The types of contributions, expectations, and time commitments (even estimated) should be clearly identified in your application and discussed in advance with your PWLE partner.

- Refer to the Program Guide for resources.

- Reach out to Anu Shukla-Jones (ashukla-jones@biocanrx.com) for support.

See Program Guide Section 5.9

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Training, Development, & Inclusive Research Environments

- **NEW requirements**

- As part of your Full Application, you will be asked to describe team composition and expertise, key technical and professional domains in which HQP will be trained through this project, planned project-specific training, research environment and recruitment practices, and mentorship and career support.

See Program Guide Section 5.10

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Inclusive Research Design

(non exhaustive)

- **NEW requirements**
- Where possible address how your research:
  - addresses equity, accessibility, and representation across diverse patient populations.
  - incorporates considerations related to Indigenous rights, cultural safety, and meaningful engagement with affected communities.
  - considers social, demographic, biological, and gender-related factors that may influence outcomes, participation, and benefit.
  - accounts for real-world patient needs, including comorbidities, standard of care, disease progression, and relevant treatment practices.

See Program Guide Section 5.11

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Application Requirements

(supplemental table to Program Guide)

Component	Required at Letter of Intent Stage	Required for Full Application
Project Description	1-page scientific summary	Detailed full proposal
Project Team	Principal Investigators, Co-Investigators	Principal Investigators, Co-Investigators, Collaborators, Industry Partners
Budget	Budget requested per principal investigator	Detailed budget
Partnerships	Actual/Anticipate/Desired	Actual partners with Letters of Support
Partnership with Persons with Lived and/or Living Experience (PWLE)	No	Yes
Milestones & Deliverables	No	Yes
Future Product/Platform Development Trajectory	No	Yes
Knowledge Sharing, Tech Transfer and Networking	No	Yes
Training, Development and Inclusive Research Environments	No	Yes
Inclusive Research Design (EDI)	No	Yes
Intellectual Property	No	Yes
Research Security	No	Yes – including signed STRA forms

Evaluation Criteria

Program Guide Section 6.0 and 7.0

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Evaluation Criteria Highlights

(non-exhaustive)

- Program-specific evaluation criteria (Section 6.2)
  - Note that they are same criteria outlined at the LOI and Full Application stage

- Additive evaluative criteria at the Letter of Intent and Full Application stages
  - Note that LOIs are evaluated, not simply screened for fit

- Note that some new application elements relating to Training, Development and Inclusive Research Environments (Section 5.10) and Inclusive Research Design (Section 5.11) will be assessed on a satisfactory / not satisfactory basis and will not be incorporated into the ultimate funding score.
  - Where requirements are deemed not satisfactory, applicants may be required to address identified gaps or provide additional information prior to release of BioCanRx funds.

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Key Elements of Strong Proposals

(Supplemental to Program Guide)

- Strong scientific proposal aligned with the goals of the specific funding program and to BioCanRx's mandate
- Multidisciplinary and collaborative teams with requisite expertise
- Use of Core Facilities
- Canadian-based innovations and benefit to Canada in terms of clinical, social, and/or economic benefit
- Feasible in the funding period

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Timelines & Application Process

Program Guide Section 10.0

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Timelines & Application Process

Prior to LOI
Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI)

July 29, 2026
Letter of Intent (LOI) submission deadline

Early October, 2026
Notification of LOI results and invitation to Full Application

December 4, 2026
Full Application submission deadline

March/April 2027
Funding award start date

Early Spring, 2027
Public announcement of funding results

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Letter of Intent Requirements

Information Required (Enabling Studies, Clinical Trial and CSEI Programs):

- 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 July 29, 2026
3. LOI submissions are evaluated by BioCanRx's Research Management Committee (RMC)
4. Decision on invitation to Full Application communicated, invited applications receive feedback from RMC
5. **Feedback from the RMC is expected to be addressed in the Full Application**

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Timelines & Application Process

Letter of Intent

Submit via our open application forms on Optimy

Notification of application status via Optimy portal/email

Full Application

Invited applications will be able to access Full Application form via Optimy

Notes on Optimy

- Instructions on how to use it are found on the landing page and upon starting an application
- Account creation is required in order to access forms
- Collaborators can be added directly in the Optimy platform

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Not covered in this webinar

- Knowledge Sharing, Technology Transfer, and Networking (Section 5.8)
- Intellectual Property (Section 5.12)
- Research Security (Section 5.13)
- Open Access and Research Data Management (Section 5.14)
- Reporting Expectations (Section 8.0)
- Criteria for the release of approved funding (Section 9.0)
- Confidentiality and COI statement (Section 11.0)

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More information:

https://biocanrx.com/apply-for-funding/current-funding-opportunities/

Contact information:

Megan Mahoney, Director of Scientific Affairs and Training Programs

memahoney@biocanrx.com

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Thank you!

Questions?

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Supplemental Information

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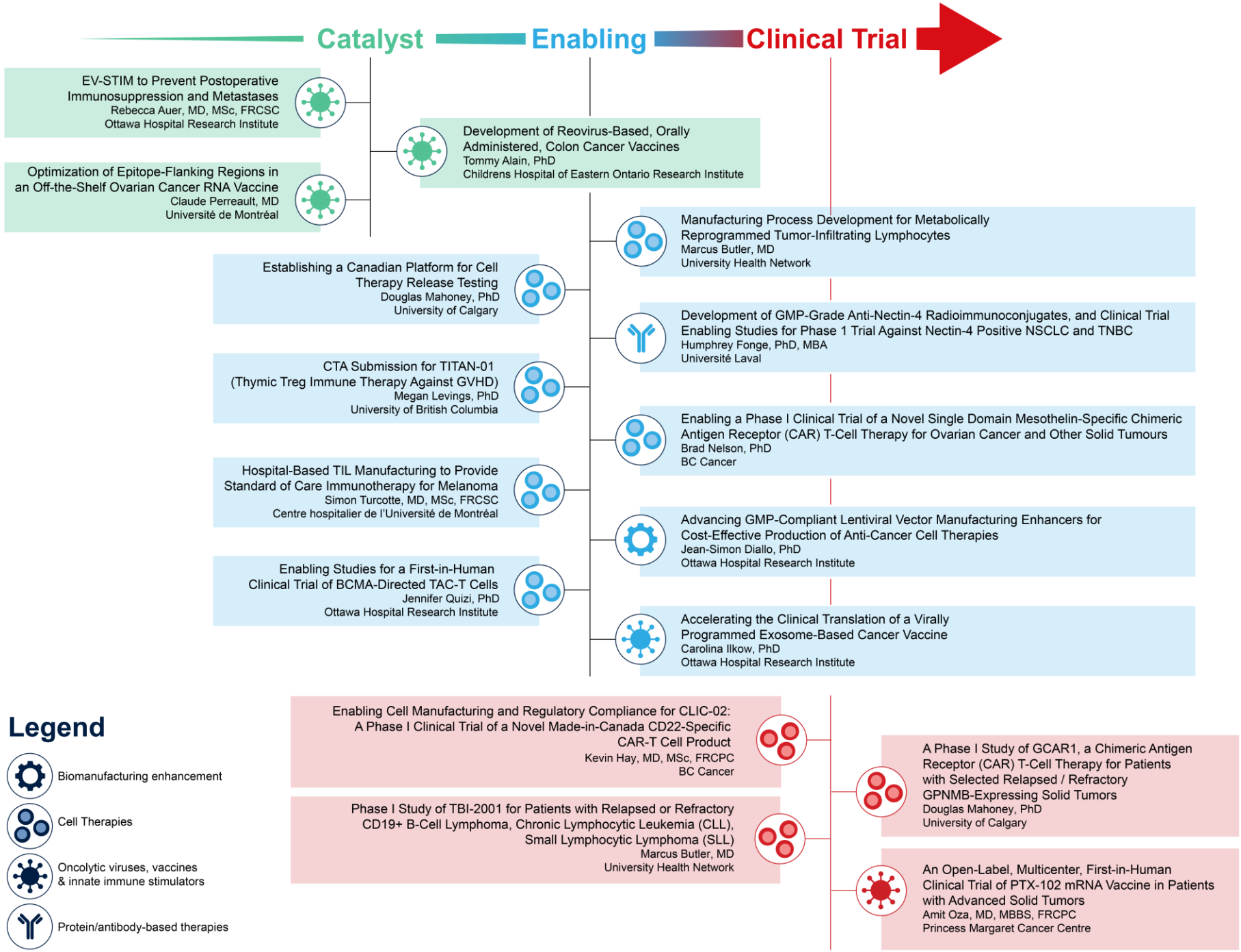
BioCanRx's Currently Funded Projects



Current and Previously Funded Projects

All funded projects have public-facing information sheets. You can find them here:

- 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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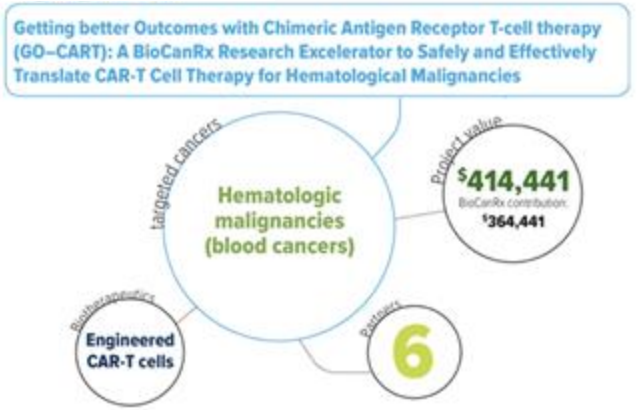
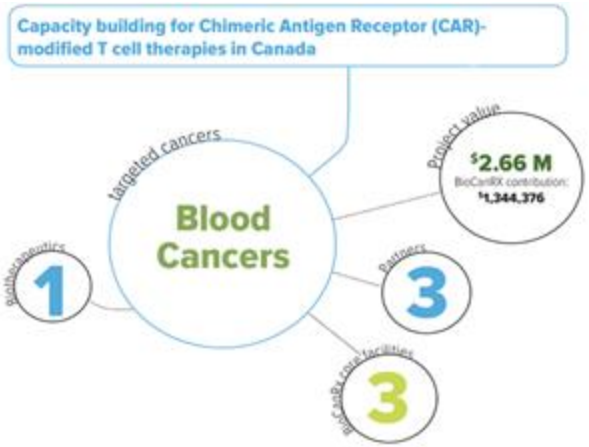
Portfolio Coordination: CASE STUDY
Canadian-Led Immunotherapies Collaborative

CSEI

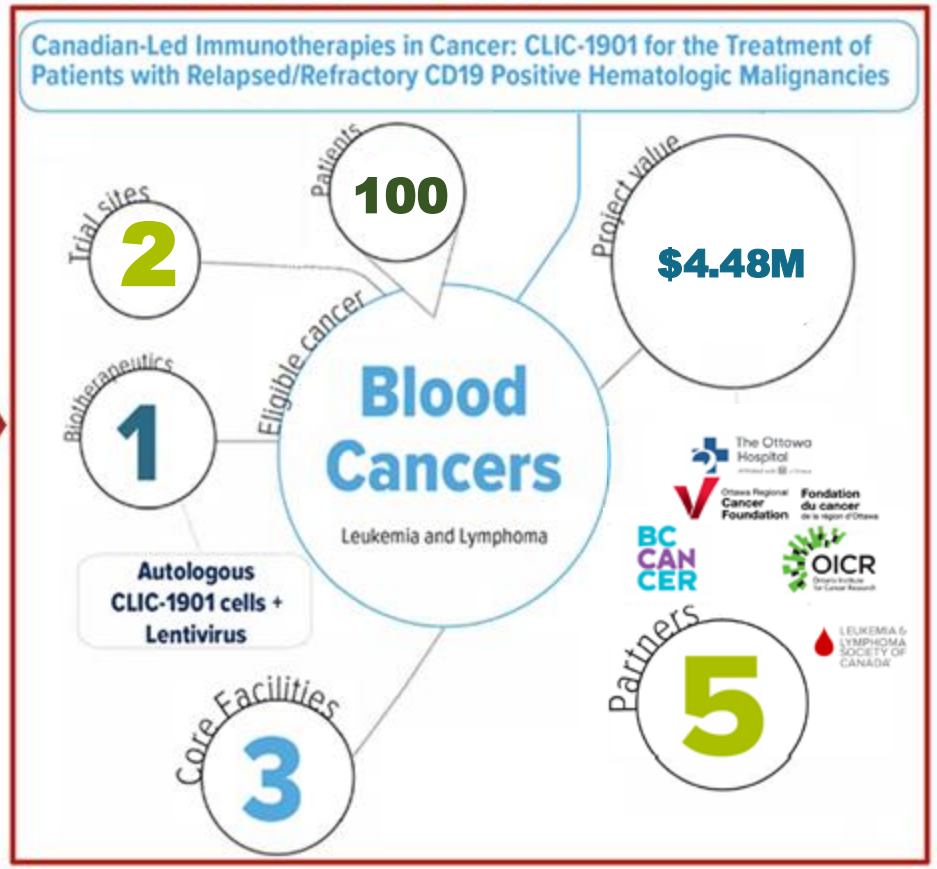


ENABLING STUDIES



CBMTG · Ottawa Methods Centre · Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada · University of Manitoba · Health Canada / Santé Canada · BC Cancer Agency · Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation · BC Cancer Agency · Ontario Research Fund · Ottawa Hospital Research Institute / Institut de recherche de l'Hôpital d'Ottawa

CLINICAL TRIALS



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