



ALDO DEL COL RESEARCH GRANT

DESCRIPTION

Myeloma Canada will fund patient-prioritized Canadian research projects that help address the knowledge gaps in the diagnosis and treatment of myeloma and/or related plasma cell disorders that were identified through the Myeloma Priority Setting Partnership (PSP).

The Myeloma PSP is a collaborative project between the Horizon Health Network, the Maritime SPOR SUPPORT UNIT (MSSU), and Myeloma Canada, and adhered to established PSP practices set by the James Lind Alliance. ([Click here](#) to read the published correspondence, “*The future of myeloma research in Canada and beyond: results of a James Lind Alliance priority setting partnership*”.)

Research proposals must:

- be for projects of a duration of one or two years;
- address one or more of the **top ten** priorities for multiple myeloma research in Canada as identified through the Myeloma PSP. [Click here to access the Top Ten Myeloma Research Priorities](#);
- satisfy one or more of Myeloma Canada’s funded research principles. **The research in question must have a direct impact on:**
 - improving the quality of life and/or survival of myeloma patients;
 - increasing patient access to new myeloma therapies, new treatment combinations, or improved treatment administration;
 - improving myeloma healthcare delivery.

Ideally, the research should impact all Canadian patients and not just one particular Canadian centre or region. Patient involvement in the development of research protocols is an asset. Research proposals will be peer-reviewed by an Independent Research Review Committee (IRRC).

2022 GRANTS

Based on the number and quality of applications, grants totaling at least CDN \$100,000 will be awarded in 2022. The minimum funded research award is CDN \$50,000.

2022 APPLICATION AND FUNDING DEADLINES

Applications will be accepted from March 16 – May 25, 2022. Funding decisions will be communicated to applicants by October 5, 2022, or earlier.

2022 GRANT DISBURSEMENT

Awarded funding will be disbursed according to the length of the research proposal.

- **One year:**
 - 100% by October 5, 2022 or earlier
- **Two years:**
 - 50% by October 5, 2022 or earlier
 - 50% by October 4, 2023 or earlier

Grant winners must agree to provide an interim and/or final status update according to the length of the research proposal.



- **One year:**
 - Final status update by October 4, 2023
- **Two years:**
 - Interim status update by September 6, 2023
 - Final status update by October 2, 2024

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

The principal applicant must be a researcher at any career stage, and be affiliated with a Canadian university, hospital, cancer centre, research institute, or non-profit organization. The submitted research may include collaborations with researchers affiliated outside Canada, however **awarded funds may not be used to fund patient-based research outside Canada.**

Non-profit bodies, charities, and industry partners may submit applications for research collaboration with Myeloma Canada. Research collaboration applications will undergo the same application and review processes described above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCH INVOLVING ANIMALS

In the event that the submitted research project involves animals (i.e., vertebrates or cephalopods), the investigator(s) shall employ the guiding principles of replacement, reduction, and refinement ([Three Rs of Humane Animal Experimentation](#)) according to the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC).

The investigator(s) shall also ensure that research activities involving animals have been pre-approved by their institution and:

- maintain a valid [CACC Certificate of Good Animal Practice](#);
- ensure that the research fully complies fully with [CCAC standards](#);

Without proper approvals, the awarded funds may be withheld.

TO APPLY

Eligible applicants must complete and submit the [Aldo Del Col Research Grant Application Form](#) prior to the posted application deadline. Research proposals with timelines longer than two years will not be considered.

As part of the application process, eligible applicants must also:

- accept the “Applicant Terms and Conditions” (see below);
- successfully answer pre-screening eligibility questions.

Components of the application should include, but are not limited to:

- name, credentials, affiliations, and role of all participants/collaborators involved in the research;
- curriculum vitae (CV) of the principal applicant and their research team expertise;
- list of the applicant’s most important related publications and academic/scientific contributions;
- description of the type of research/project (e.g., title, abstract, methods, approaches, rationale, background/importance, questions, goals/aims, expected outcomes, references, tables, charts, figures, photos, questionnaires);
- Myeloma Canada funded research principles and priorities addressed by the research:
 - Impact statement (250 words max) including the significance and potential impact of the research/project;



- estimated budget (rounded to a multiple of CDN \$100, including provincial and federal taxes), timeline and term/period budget covers, including:
 - research staff (e.g., associates, assistants, technicians, trainees) and remuneration;
 - research materials, supplies, equipment, and services;
 - costs for open-access dissemination (e.g., journal) and presentation (e.g., conference) of research results (should include travel and 3 nights' accommodation);
 - other research-associated costs.
- requested grant award:
 - budget components for which the awarded funds will be used;
 - other grants applied for, including potential grant amount(s);
 - other funding received/awarded for the research.
- letter(s) of support from research collaborators;
- proof of institutional approvals (i.e., ethics, including animal research if applicable);
- needs assessment (if applicable);
- commercialization plan (if applicable).

APPLICANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Applicants must accept the *Applicant Terms and Conditions on the Communication of Research Funding and Results*.

Applicant Terms and Conditions on the Communication of Research Funding and Results

Support for research is an investment by Canadians impacted by myeloma. Myeloma Canada seeks to demonstrate a return on investment for donors through the promotion of key research developments and results. Upon reasonable request, funded recipients must agree to:

- provide interim and/or a final research project status update(s);
- collaborate with Myeloma Canada on public communication initiatives related to the description, funding and findings of their research;
- disseminate their research findings through an appropriate open access medical journal and/or conference;
- cite support from Myeloma Canada and all other sources in all presentations and publications arising from the supported research conducted during the awarded grant period.

Myeloma Canada reserves the right to publicize and report on award recipients and their research project on Myeloma Canada's websites and social media platforms, within Myeloma Canada digital and print publications (i.e., Myeloma Matters email newsletter, Year in Review, Impact Report), news and media releases, and in any other general public announcement.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH REVIEW COMMITTEE (IRRC) PEER REVIEW PROCESS

IRRC funding award decisions will be made by using best practice principles that include a review and ranking process. The goal of the peer review process is to ensure unbiased decision-making and complete transparency with applicants and the patient community. The quality of submitted research proposals will be evaluated via a two-step process.

Step 1: IRRC individual member assessment

- Rate research proposals on a scale of 0.0 (lowest rating) to 4.9 (highest rating), based on:
 - significance of expected outcomes and potential impact/contribution/value (50%)
 - appropriateness of rationale, design, methods, and approaches to achieve results (30%)
 - feasibility and appropriateness of timeline and budget (20%)
- Applications with an average weighted rating below 3.5 will not be considered for funding.



Step 2: IRRC peer review group meeting

- Reach a consensus rating for each application discussed;
- Reach a consensus on the total number of grants to be awarded for the given grant competition period and the funding amounts for each grant awarded.

Confidentiality: IRRC members may not communicate any information about active applications or their chances of success/failure with applicants or anyone outside the IRRC.

Fairness: IRRC members will exercise professionalism, rigorous judgement, and be impartial, balanced, and reasonable. Constructive reviews that detail strengths/weaknesses of applications are encouraged. Myeloma Canada may request the removal of information that is factually incorrect or comments that could be construed as inflammatory, sarcastic, flippant, arrogant, or inappropriate from the peer review process.

Conflicts of Interest: To ensure that IRRC decisions are fair and objective, all voting IRRC members are required to withdraw from reviewing their own proposals, proposals in which they are involved, or proposals that fall within the same review period.

Transparency: Applicants may request access to all written materials used to evaluate their application. Requests can be sent to Gabriele Colasurdo, Myeloma Canada's Director of Science & Research, at gcolasurdo@myeloma.ca. A list of IRRC members involved in funding decisions will be posted on the Aldo Del Col Research Grant website within 30 days of the funding decision announcement.

DECISION GRIEVANCES, COMPLAINTS, AND FEEDBACK

IRRC review processes are based on internationally accepted peer review processes, and thus include an intrinsic human component. As such, applicants may not always agree with IRRC opinions and decisions.

Applicants may email their questions and concerns to Gabriele Colasurdo at gcolasurdo@myeloma.ca. Myeloma Canada will investigate all inquiries to determine whether the funding decision should be reviewed. IRRC decisions may only be reviewed and overturned under exceptional circumstances. Feedback received may be used to update and improve IRRC review processes and/or related communications to applicants.

QUESTIONS?

For any questions or additional information regarding the Aldo Del Col Research Grant program, please contact Gabriele Colasurdo at gcolasurdo@myeloma.ca.