

LABARGE CENTRE FOR MOBILITY IN AGING

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Labarge Centre for Mobility in Aging within the McMaster Institute for Research on Aging & The Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Pain Research and Care

Catalyst Grant Funding

The McMaster Institute for Research on Aging (MIRA) and the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Pain Research and Care (IPRC) invite proposals for catalyst grant funding to support research on pain within the aging population.

About MIRA

MIRA was created in 2016 to facilitate and amplify research in aging across McMaster University. The Institute has over 120 members from all six Faculties, and builds on the foundation of several research platforms that focus on aging at the University, such as the McMaster Optimal Aging Portal, the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA), and the Labarge Centre for Mobility in Aging, among many others. MIRA supports interdisciplinary research in aging, and engages with older adults, healthcare providers and other key stakeholders throughout the research process while implementing a user-centered design, or design thinking, approach. MIRA's goal is to establish McMaster as a national leader in aging research and knowledge translation.

About IPRC

Businessman Michael DeGroot made history when he made the largest single donation ever to a Canadian university or institution in 2003. A portion of this donation allowed for the development of the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Pain Research and Care (IPRC). The IPRC was created to understand the underlying mechanisms of chronic pain in order to develop better prevention, diagnosis and treatment strategies. The vision of the Institute is to use the conceptual model of persistent post-surgical pain, and bring together behavioural, clinical and basic scientists to develop a new understanding of chronic pain mechanisms and treatment. We have seen knowledge synthesis projects funded in the early stages of the IPRC turn into clinical trial protocols, and basic science projects with clinical implications. The Institute is linked through common membership with the clinical practice of pain care in Hamilton, both acute post-operative pain and chronic pain including interventional, pharmacologic and behavioural care. Our faculty are supported by their home base departments allowing us to direct the Institute resources toward training.

Catalyst Grants

Catalyst grants present the opportunity to conduct collaborative and interdisciplinary research with a focus on **pain** and **aging**. These grants are intended to stimulate new collaborations and allow researchers to collect preliminary data to support future proposals for full-scale studies. Catalyst grants are valued at up to \$60,000 (over one year; \$30,000 each from MIRA and IPRC) to conduct feasibility/pilot studies or scaling of interventions. These grants require matching funds of *at least* \$10,000 (can include up to \$5,000 of in-kind contributions) from other sources to support the project. Preference will be given to applications in the areas of both sponsor Institutes' themes of interest, which include persistent post-surgical pain in older adults (IPRC) and physical, community, and other forms of mobility in aging (MIRA). However, submissions on other topics related to pain and aging will also be considered.

Requirements

Funds will be allocated for one catalyst grant in 2021. Submissions should include researchers from at least three different McMaster Faculties as meaningful contributors to the project.

The submission should outline the role of each researcher in the project, and how the integration of the distinct disciplines offers a unique and sustainable approach to study the research question. The study must also include pain and aging as the central theme and should indicate the potential benefits of the project for older adults. Research teams are strongly encouraged to employ user-centered approaches in the formulation of the idea, refinement of the research question, implementation of the project, and

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development/execution of knowledge translation strategies (additional details below). The submission should also indicate the key stakeholders (including, but not limited to, end users).

As a result of the new directives outlined by McMaster's Vice-President, Research (VPR) on [March 17](#) and [March 20](#), many Faculties have implemented processes to ensure both new and continuing research is compliant with the VPR's new directives. Please consult with your Faculty Associate Dean, Research (ADR) before submitting your application to be sure that your research complies with current research restrictions. Consider how your research can be executed safely with an at-risk population if COVID-19 restrictions are still in place in the spring of 2021.

User-Centered Approaches/Design Thinking

User-centered approaches integrate the perspectives of end users from the project outset to ensure that the outcomes are best positioned for successful implementation. Design thinking is an iterative, user-centered method of solution-focused thinking that starts with a goal and explores multiple, alternative solutions from different perspectives. It is a particularly useful method to investigate ill-defined problems where many factors may be unknown. MIRA will offer tools to support researchers who wish to use these approaches, including resources listed on [MIRA's Design Thinking webpage](#), and connections to end users and stakeholders.

Expectations and deliverables

Research teams will be required to provide a final report detailing the project outcomes and impact, as well as plans for the next stage of the project. Researchers are also asked to include details on any barriers or challenges that were faced during the execution of the project. From time to time, MIRA and IPRC will check in with research teams for brief project updates. Teams will also be expected to participate in the annual MIRA and Labarge research showcase as well as the annual IPRC symposium, both held in the fall.

Submission and selection process

Email submissions to mirafund@mcmaster.ca and include "MIRA IPRC Catalyst Grant" in the subject line.

Using the MIRA/IPRC Catalyst Grant proposal template, research teams are invited to submit an abstract (maximum 1,000 words) outlining the proposed project and funding request. The abstract should clearly outline how the project addresses the central theme and integrates cross-Faculty perspectives. Proposals should also indicate why this phase of research is needed before applying for major funding, and outline the anticipated impact on the research program and on older adults more generally as outlined in the template. References and budget breakdown can be included on separate pages.

Projects that are considered high risk are welcome and should illustrate the potential for high reward.

Deadline: November 15, 2020, 12:00 p.m. EST

The Scientific Directors of MIRA and the IPRC, in consultation with a panel of peer-reviewers, will review the submitted proposals to ensure alignment with the goals and themes of this grant opportunity.

Questions about this funding opportunity should be submitted to mirainfo@mcmaster.ca

More information about MIRA can be found at mira.mcmaster.ca

More information about IPRC can be found at fhs.mcmaster.ca/paininstitute/