CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Labarge Centre for Mobility in Aging within the McMaster Institute for Research on Aging

**Labarge Catalyst Grant in Mobility in Aging**

McMaster University has identified aging as a research priority, focusing its research strength on addressing the most pressing questions facing the aging population and creating the **McMaster Institute for Research on Aging (MIRA)**. MIRA’s mission is to optimize the health and longevity of the aging population through leading-edge research, education, and stakeholder collaborations, while upholding the values of integrity, excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration, and transparency.

In 2016, alumnus and former Chancellor Suzanne Labarge donated $15M to McMaster University to create the Labarge Centre for Mobility in Aging (LCMA) within MIRA. The LCMA’s long-term goal is the generation, sharing and implementation of new knowledge to improve the mobility of older Canadians and people worldwide. In this context, **mobility is broadly defined** and includes physical and community aspects, such as execution of daily activities and participation in society. Factors such as intrinsic and extrinsic barriers to mobility, as well as visible and invisible impairments, are important considerations.

**Purpose of this funding call**

Labarge Catalyst Grants in Mobility in Aging offer the opportunity to conduct collaborative and interdisciplinary research focused on mobility in aging. These grants are intended to stimulate new collaborations and allow researchers to conduct feasibility/pilot studies, scaling of interventions, and/or collect preliminary data to support future proposals for full-scale studies. Proposals must consider **promoting optimal aging through the lens of mobility** as their primary theme, and may include the following sub-themes:

Understanding and defining mobility in aging

* Identifying trajectories of changes in mobility during aging
* Defining mobility across disciplinary domains

Maintaining and restoring mobility in aging

* Identifying or developing new interventions that affect mobility within diverse populations
* Identifying barriers for maintaining/promoting mobility in older adults within the health system, this includes access and navigation, lack of information, coordination, and continuity of care
* Identifying psychosocial factors affecting motivation and adaptation in mobility in aging

Environmental facilitators and barriers that influence mobility in aging

* Technological innovations
* Supportive designs that facilitate mobility

Mobility is thus broadly defined, and projects may consider physical, mental, community and other components relevant to the aging population. Projects that are considered “high risk” are welcome and should illustrate the potential for high reward. Further, researchers who are not actively pursuing aging-related research projects are encouraged to consider expanding the scope of their work to apply their skills and expertise to challenges in aging.

**Value and duration of awards**

Up to six grants of **$40,000 over one year** will be awarded. One grant has been allocated to each of McMaster’s six Faculties. These grants require matching funds of at least $5,000 (of which up to $2,500 can be in-kind contributions) from alternate sources (e.g., team members’ Faculties, departments, other grants, industry partners, etc.) to support the project.

**Eligibility, team, and project requirements**

Teams must be led by an early to mid-career researcher, defined as a faculty member whose first academic appointment was no more than eight years from the application deadline (minus any eligible career pause - please reach out to mirafund@mcmaster.ca with any questions regarding eligibility or accepted career pauses). Researchers identified as the Principal Investigator (PI) on a currently open Labarge Catalyst Grant cannot be the PI on a 2024 proposal; however, they may participate as a co-investigator.

Project teams must include researchers from **a minimum of three different McMaster Faculties** as meaningful contributors to the project. Meaningful contributions may include: providing insight at the project outset, helping to contextualize the problem or solution, providing technical expertise, knowledge translation and implementation strategy, and academic end-user roles. External participants, and participation from additional departments/Faculties beyond the stated minimum are welcome. 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 studying the research question.

Research teams are encouraged to employ **design thinking** or user-centred approaches in the formulation of the idea, refinement of the research question, implementation of the project, and development/execution of knowledge translation strategies (additional details below). **User-centred approaches integrate the perspectives of end-users** from the project outset to ensure that the outcomes are best positioned for successful implementation. Stakeholders and end users may include, but are not limited to: **older adults, clinicians, health care practitioners,** **industry partners, policy makers, the media, educators and learners, and academics in other disciplines.**

User-centred 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-centred method of solution-focused thinking that starts with a goal and explores multiple, alternative solutions from different perspectives. It is an especially 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](https://mira.mcmaster.ca/research/research-approach/design-thinking-resources) and connections to end-users and stakeholders.

Research teams will be required to provide annual progress reports while the project is still active and a brief closed-project report for two years following the conclusion of the project. From time to time, MIRA will check in with research teams for brief project updates. **Teams are also expected to participate in the annual MIRA and Labarge Knowledge Exchange.**

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| Submission and selection process | |
| **Deadline:** **July 31, 2024, 4 p.m. ET** | Email applications to [mirafund@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mirafund@mcmaster.ca) | |
| MIRA will work with McMaster’s Associate Deans, Research (ADRs) and the MIRA Executive Committee to identify one proposal in each Faculty for Labarge Catalyst Grant support. The principal investigator (PI) is advised to consult with their Faculty’s ADR prior to submission to determine the proposal’s alignment with Faculty research priorities and seek out mechanisms for Faculty-level support.  Submissions must include a research proposal and completed application form, including a signature from the PI’s ADR**.** Successful applications are expected to be announced in September 2024. | |
| Submission requirements |
| Submissions must include a structured research proposal, written in **lay terms that are understandable to an interdisciplinary review panel.** The research proposal (**maximum four pages**) should clearly outline the proposed project and funding request, including how the project addresses the priority theme and integrates cross-Faculty perspectives.  **Please submit the following by email** to [mirafund@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mirafund@mcmaster.ca) with “Labarge Catalyst Grant in Mobility in Aging” in the subject line, copying the PI’s ADR, and any appropriate administrative support in the ADR’s office.   * **LCMA Catalyst Grant Application Form** (see pages 4 and 5, below) * **Research proposal** (Four pages, in the following format*)*   1. **Background:** What gap or challenge will this research address? Who are the stakeholders or end users and how will this research contribute to improving mobility in aging?   2. **Team description:** Describe how the integration of the distinct disciplines offer a valuable approach to study the research question, and how the interdisciplinary team will interact; what is the plan or mechanisms for collaboration among co-investigators, trainees, or other research partners?   3. **Methods:** Describe the planned research activities, including a timeline and other milestones and deliverables. If applicable, include a power analysis or justification of sample size. Teams must describe how they will leverage MIRA’s [Voice Canada](https://ca.voice-global.org/) platform (e.g. to recruit participants, engage with stakeholders, and share results and knowledge with the aging research community).   4. **Anticipated results and future directions:** Describe the novelty of this approach and the impact of these findings– indicate why this phase of the research is needed before applying for major funding and outline the anticipated impact on the larger research program or goal.   5. **Knowledge translation plan:** Include plans *beyond* traditional publications and conferences – such as social media, infographics, videos and the use of MIRA’s [Voice Canada](https://ca.voice-global.org/) platform.   *Please also include the following (no page limit):*   * 1. **References**   2. **Budget breakdown**. Table format. Identify matching cash and in-kind contributions, clearly separating from requested MIRA/LCMA funds. * **Principal Applicant’s CV** (any format) |

Please direct all inquiries about this opportunity to [mirafund@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mirafund@mcmaster.ca)

APPLICATION FORM

The Labarge Centre for Mobility in Aging within the McMaster Institute for Research on Aging

**Labarge Catalyst Grant in Mobility in Aging**

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| Principal Investigator Information | | | | |
| First name: |  | Surname: | |  |
| Faculty: |  | Department: | |  |
| Title/Position: |  | | | |
| E-mail: |  | | Telephone: |  |
| Project Title: |  | | | |

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| Lay Summary |
| Describe your project in a way that is accessible to a general audience. |
| Max 200 words |

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| Team Members | | | |
| Please list PIs/co-PIs, co-Is and participating researchers; include Faculty and Department affiliations. The team must include faculty members from at least three different Faculties. | | | |
| Name | Role | Faculty, department | Email address |
|  | e.g., PI, co-PI, co-I, etc. |  |  |
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| Matching Contributions | | |
| These grants require matching funds of at least $5,000 (of which $2,500 can be in-kind contributions) from alternate sources to support the project.  Please list committed or anticipated contributions from other sources (e.g., Faculty, department, faculty member’s grant, start-up funds, etc.) | | |
| Source | Description (if applicable) | Value (indicate cash or in-kind) |
| e.g., Department of Kinesiology | e.g., 10 iPads, or 30 hours RA time | e.g., $5,000 (cash) |
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|  | **Total** |  |

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| Future Funding Opportunities | |
| One of the goals of this initiative is to catalyze a new program of research and position MIRA researchers for success in external funding competitions. Please identify and list anticipated opportunities that will be pursued to continue the research. | |
| Funding source/call | How will the proposed research enhance the position of the team for success with this call? |
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| Signatures | |
| MIRA works closely with each Faculty’s Associate Dean, Research (ADR) to identify and support projects that leverage existing University assets, are strategically aligned with Faculty and Departmental research priorities, and help advance MIRA’s mandate. Please connect with your Faculty ADR before submitting your application to ensure Faculty support and alignment. | |
| Signature of Principal Investigator |  |
|  |  |
| Signature of Associate Dean, Research |  |
|  |  |

For further information, please email [mirafund@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mirafund@mcmaster.ca)