Clinical Research Innovation Fund For Alberta Physiotherapists

Purpose
The Clinical Research Innovation Fund is a research grant opportunity that has been made possible through a partnership between TD Meloche Monnex, Physiotherapy Alberta, and the University of Alberta’s Department of Physical Therapy. Up to $20,000 is available to support clinically relevant research by clinicians within the physiotherapy community. The purpose of the fund is to:

- Provide academic support to clinicians, such as methodological design advice, data collection, analysis, etc., to advance clinical research.
- Foster partnerships between the physiotherapy clinical and academic communities
- Fund methodologically sound research into the appropriateness, effectiveness, and safety of assessment and treatment methods with the goal of advancing evidence-based practice and knowledge mobilization.

Applicant Eligibility
Applicants must include a physiotherapist, registered on the general register, and practicing clinically in Alberta. Other team members, including faculty from academic or research institutions in Alberta may be included in the research team, depending on additional expertise needed.

Areas of Clinical Interest
The following areas are of interest to the partners for consideration in 2015:
- Patient safety and transitions of care
- High risk areas of practice such as needling or manipulation
- Seniors health including stroke, falls prevention
- Pediatric services including chronic disease management, obesity
- Evolving areas of practice including incontinence rehabilitation, vestibular rehabilitation, oncology rehabilitation, pain science

Evaluation Criteria
All proposals will undergo a scientific review process, including two reviewers with expertise in clinical research methodology and knowledge of the physiotherapy profession. An external reviewer may be sought if additional content expertise is needed. Judging will be based on:

- Relevance of the study to the daily clinical practice of physiotherapy
- Quality of study design
Feasibility of plan
- Final product planned (for example, presentation at national meeting, submission to professional journal, use of pilot project data to develop a full scale proposal to a specified major funding agency)
- Expertise/capability of investigators and other team members involved to carry out proposed research

Procedures and Proposal Preparation
Send 2 complete copies of the signed proposal with supporting materials to:

Clinical Research Innovation Fund  
c/o Susan Lynch, Department of Physical Therapy  
University of Alberta  
2-50 Corbett Hall  
Edmonton, AB  
T6G 2G4

Digital copies will be accepted as PDF documents. Please email these to: slynch1@ualberta.ca

The research proposal should not exceed 4 double spaced, typed pages (excluding references and Appendices) and should include:
- Abstract (up to 250 words)
- Background and Significance (should include appropriate literature review)
- Study Purpose and Specific Objectives
- Study Methodology
  - design, sample, data collection, analysis
- Budget (with justification for expenditures)
- Time Frame of the Proposed Study
- Final Product Planned (presentation, publication, pilot work for inclusion in proposal for full scale study, etc.)
- Appendices (use judiciously)

Supporting materials should include:
- Curriculum vitae of principal investigator and co-investigators (each not to exceed three pages),
- Letter of support from any individual or organization whose support is needed for the success of the project, and:
- Certificate of ethical approval where required (does not need not accompany the application, but must be submitted before funding is released as applicable).

Grant Recipient Responsibilities:
Acceptance of the grant must be acknowledged in writing by the principal investigator before funds are released. This letter should be viewed by the principal
investigator as a contract binding him or her to complete the project, as funded, in the allotted time.

Principal investigators are required to submit a final report, including a financial report, within two months from completion of the grant period. Investigator(s) also agree to present their work at a future Physiotherapy Alberta educational event.

Abstracts/reprints of all presentations and publications resulting from the funded work should be sent to the Fund at the address noted earlier and such reports should acknowledge financial support from the Fund.

**Application Deadline:**
Deadline extended to March 23, 2015 (review will take 3 weeks)
Granting period is April 1-March 31