

## Sepsis Canada/CMDO Network Intercenter Structuring Initiatives

Created in April 2012 by the Fonds de Recherche du Québec - Santé (FRQS), the **Research Network on Cardiometabolic Health, Diabetes and Obesity** aims to develop research excellence in these areas, to transfer knowledge and to foster the use of new knowledge so as to promote the quality of life of Quebec province population.

**Sepsis Canada** is a nationally coordinated research network with over 200 members and representation from Universities and academic institutes across Canada. Funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Sepsis Canada brings together experts from various disciplines working collaboratively on inter-related projects under an integrated and unified program. Our mission is reducing the burden of sepsis for all Canadians.

Sepsis Canada and the CMDO network have partnered together to fund for an **Intercenter Structuring Initiative** for the period of 2022 - 2023. The overall objective of the CMDO/Sepsis Canada common initiative is to advance knowledge in biomedical, clinical, population health, or health systems research to address common determinants (e.g. inflammation, infection, microbiome, metabolic) in the pathogenesis, prevention, detection, management or rehabilitation from cardiometabolic diseases, diabetes or obesity AND sepsis. This competition allows researchers who are regular members of both entities to propose intercenter collaborative projects, with the requirement for one (1) CMDO member from the province of Quebec and one (1) Sepsis Canada member based within Canada. One (1) research project relevant to these themes will be funded based on the evaluation criteria outlined in this call. Eligible projects could also involve additional international research centers. Moreover, projects from different research sectors will be favored (i.e. 1) biomedical; 2) clinical; 3) population health; 4) health system). A detailed description of the eligibility criteria and evaluation procedures is provided below. Projects of excellent scientific quality that demonstrate a structuring effect for research within the networks will be funded up to \$ 40,000 for one year (12 months) (\$20,000 provided by CMDO / \$20,000 provided by Sepsis Canada).

**The deadline for the submission of applications is December 1, 2021, with funding beginning no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.**

This funding opportunity is intended to support investigators and their novel “stand-alone” projects that have not previously received funding. The funding is not meant to complete funding for larger projects. This award will help researchers generate preliminary data to support further investigation that will assist teams in becoming competitive for larger funding competitions.

Applications submitted late, incomplete or that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be evaluated. Award recipients will be required to present their findings at the annual joint CMDO Network - Société québécoise de lipidologie, nutrition et métabolisme (SQLNM) meeting and the Sepsis Canada Annual Symposium upon completion of the project.

A follow-up report will be requested at the end of the year (e.g., at the end of the funding period). In addition, an annual follow-up for another two (2) years will be conducted to document the benefits of this project.

The projects can also be submitted to the CMDO regular competition, however, the project will only be funded up to \$40k for one year, if selected.

### General eligibility criteria:

- 1) The application must involve two principal researchers: a regular member of the CMDO and a regular member of Sepsis Canada;
- 2) **Only one application per year may be submitted as principal investigator** for this competition. There is no limit as co-investigator;
- 3) All co-investigator(s) affiliated with a research center in the province of Quebec must be a CMDO member before final submission;
- 4) All researcher(s) must be a Sepsis Canada member before final submission.
- 5) The submission must involve at least 2 research centers; one in Quebec and one within Canada represented by at least one regular research member of the CMDO network and Sepsis Canada, respectively;
- 6) Submissions may include additional international research centers;
- 7) The research project must be related to biomedical, clinical, population health, or health systems research to address common determinants (e.g. inflammation, infection, microbiome, metabolic) in the pathogenesis, prevention detection, management or rehabilitation from cardiometabolic diseases, diabetes or obesity AND sepsis.
- 8) The research project must directly involve at minimum one student, resident or postdoctoral fellow who must be identified in the submission and must be in place at the beginning of funding (April 1<sup>st</sup>);
- 9) The research project must directly involve at least one patient partner with lived experience (with cardiometabolic diseases, obesity, infection and / or sepsis). If you would like to connect with potential patient partners with lived sepsis experience, please contact Nubia Zepeda ([zepedan@mcmaster.ca](mailto:zepedan@mcmaster.ca)).
- 10) A demonstration of the structuring effects on research within the networks, based on its objectives (e.g., *establishment of new intersectoral collaborations within the networks or*

*internationally, standardization of methods, implementation of a research platform or of common resources);*

- 11) A description of a clear plan to obtain subsequent funding from a source other than the CMDO/Sepsis Canada (e.g., CIHR, private partners or other).

### **Conditions of Funding:**

- 1) This funding cannot be used to support institutional overhead costs.
- 2) Research groups are expected to compensate patient partners for their engagement in research projects and outline compensation within their budgets. Sepsis Canada guidelines for compensation of Patient Partners can be requested from Nubia Zepeda (zepedan@mcmaster.ca).
- 3) Research projects must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding; no renewals or extensions will be considered.
- 5) Institutional approvals (eg. ethics, biohazard) and Health Canada approvals (if applicable) must be obtained prior to release of funds. Proof of approvals will be required prior to release of funds.
- 6) The \$20,000 contributed by the CMDO must be held by a QC investigator within the province of QC. The \$20,000 contributed by the Sepsis Canada Network must be held by a Canadian investigator within Canada.

### **Full applications requirements:**

- 1) CMDO/Sepsis Canada's submission form completed online (see below);
- 2) Up-to-date curriculum vitae (FRQS version *including the section on Detailed Contributions*) for all Quebec researchers included in the application as well as for any Quebec-based student(s), resident(s) or postdoctoral fellow(s) directly involved in the project. For all researchers outside of Quebec, a Canadian Common CV must be included. All CVs (in PDF format) must be submitted by email to the network coordinator or at [concours@rrcmdo.ca](mailto:concours@rrcmdo.ca).

### **Evaluation of applications:**

An external scientific committee will be formed to assess all applications submitted. The committee will be chaired by a researcher who is a member of the CMDO or Sepsis Canada Network. The external scientific committee will include a member of the CMDO and a member from Sepsis Canada who have not applied to this competition. One member of the CMDO network steering committee and one member of the Sepsis Canada steering committee will attend the discussions as an observer. The competition results will be announced in February 2022. Applications will be judged based on the following criteria:

**1) Scientific merit and potential impact of the project (25%):** Clarity of the research question and scientific justification. Appropriateness of the study design, methodological feasibility within proposed financial framework, including the recruitment of participants, access to databases, laboratory methods or other methods for data collection;

**2) Originality of the application (20%):** Potential creation of new knowledge. Originality of hypotheses and research questions. Novelty of the approach including new methodologies or new applications for existing methodologies;

**3) Competence and complementarity of the research team (20%):** Scientific achievements, publication record, past funding and training of students, complementarity of participating teams, importance given to the training of students and integration of patient partners into the study teams (*e.g., how the expertise of each applicant will be used to carry out the project*);

**4) Structuring effect for research within the CMDO network and Sepsis Canada (25%):** Immediate or potential impact of the proposed project on research within the networks, based on their objectives (*e.g., establishing new intersectoral collaborations within the network or internationally, standardization of methods, establishment of a platform or of common resources*);

**5) Realism of the budget proposal (10%):** Relevance of the proposed use of funds. Clarity and feasibility of the plan to obtain future or concurrent funding.

Any request for additional information may be sent to:

The Research Network on Cardiometabolic Health, Diabetes and Obesity (CMDO), Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Université de Sherbrooke, Division of Endocrinology, CRCHUS, Tel: 819-346-1110 ext 12703, email: [info@rrcmdo.ca](mailto:info@rrcmdo.ca).

The Sepsis Canada Network, Department of Medicine, McMaster University, David Braley Research Institute C5-121, 237 Barton Street East, Hamilton, ON, L8L 2X2. Email: [zepedan@mcmaster.ca](mailto:zepedan@mcmaster.ca).

### Important Dates:



## **Sepsis Canada/CMDO Network Intercenter Structuring Initiatives** *Instructions for application form*

**[PLEASE COMPLETE THE ONLINE FORM AVAILABLE HERE](#)**

**The online form can be saved and completed later.**

### **WARNING :**

- To save your application to complete it later, you must click the *Resume later* icon (a username will be requested and a password), **and then quit by closing the program.**
- If you have saved your application and click on *Exit and Clear Survey*, **all saved data will be erased.**

### **1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Title of project:** *max. 256 characters including spaces*

**Main theme (choose one):**

- Cardiometabolic health
- Diabetes
- Obesity

**AND**

Sepsis

**Secondary theme(s) (if applicable):**

- Cardiometabolic health
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Not applicable

**Research areas (select all that apply):**

- Biomedical Research (Basic and preclinical research)
- Clinical Research (Nutrition, physical activity and human pathology)
- Populational Health Research (Lifestyle, risk factors, and population intervention across the life course)
- Health System Research (Organization of health care, knowledge transfer and utilization).

**Principal applicant (CMDO regular member) :** *max. 100 characters including spaces*

*Please note, the CMDO Principal Applicant will hold the CMDO funds if the research team is successful in obtaining funding.*

**Primary affiliation:** *max. 120 characters including spaces*

**Affiliation to other research networks (several possible choices):**

- Another FRQS Network (which one?);
- Canadian Critical Care Trials Group
- Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians
- Action on Sepsis
- Diabetes Action Canada Network;
- Others.

*In the event that you receive funding, this information will be sought for all co-investigators.*

**Principal applicant (Sepsis Canada regular member) :** *max. 100 characters including spaces*

*Please note, the Sepsis Canada Principal Applicant will hold the Sepsis Canada funds if the research team is successful in obtaining funding*

**Primary affiliation:** *max. 120 characters including spaces*

**Affiliation to other research networks (several possible choices):**

- Another FRQS Network (which one?);
- Canadian Critical Care Trials Group
- Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians
- Action on Sepsis
- Diabetes Action Canada Network;
- Others.

*In the event that you receive funding, this information will be sought for all co-investigators.*

**Up to 7 co-investigators:** *max. 100 characters including spaces*

**Affiliations:** *max. 120 characters including spaces*

**For applications with more than 7 co-investigators, please contact the CMDO coordinator.**

**Student, resident or postdoctoral fellow directly involved in the project:** *max. 100 characters including spaces*

**Program and current degree sought:** *max. 150 characters including spaces*

**Affiliation:** *max. 120 characters including spaces*

**Other students, resident or postdoctoral fellows involved in the project** (provide current degree and affiliation in parentheses): *max. 256 characters including spaces*

**Patient Partner directly involved in the project:** *max. 100 characters including spaces*

**Affiliation:** *max. 120 characters including spaces*

**Other Patient Partners involved in the project:** *max. 256 characters including spaces*

**Quebec research center(s) directly involved in the project:**

**Research Center(s) Outside Quebec directly involved in the project :**

**Location(s) of research:** Name of town(s) (e.g., Sherbrooke and Winnipeg) and a brief description if necessary.  
*max. 256 characters including spaces*

## **2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

Provide a description of the project including the scientific rationale, objectives and hypotheses, methodology and the potential impacts. Please also include a paragraph stating the originality of your project (*potential creation of new knowledge, originality in hypotheses and research questions, new approach, new methodologies or new applications of existing methodologies.*).

*max. 5600 characters including spaces*

### **3. REFERENCES**

Provide a full list of references for the application.

*max. 2800 characters including spaces*

### **4. EXPERTISE AND COMPLEMENTARITY OF THE RESEARCH TEAM**

Provide a description of the research team and its complementarity, scientific achievements, publication record, and past research funding, student training, patient partner integration (*e.g., how everyone's expertise will be used to carry out the project*).

*max. 2800 characters including spaces*

### **5. STRUCTURING EFFECTS FOR RESEARCH WITHIN THE CMDO NETWORK AND SEPSIS CANADA**

Provide a description of any structuring effects the project may have based on both networks' objectives and core values (*e.g., establishment of new intersectoral collaborations within the network or internationally, standardization of methods, establishment of a research platform or of common resources*).

The objectives of the **Sepsis Canada Network** are:

- 1) Better understand the causes of sepsis and the complex interplay between predisposing conditions and sepsis
- 2) Advance primary and secondary prevention of sepsis
- 3) Ensure that sepsis episodes are identified early and understand the epidemiological and economic burden of sepsis in Canada.
- 4) Advance evidence-based practices in the management of sepsis and improve patient health-outcomes
- 5) Advance the rehabilitation and recovery for all sepsis survivors
- 6) Train the current and next generation of sepsis researchers, clinicians, support personnel and patient partners

The core values of the Sepsis Canada network are:

**Capacity Building:** Through acquisition and retention of skills, knowledge and attitudes, we will support researchers, health care providers, patients and trainees in reaching their full potential

**Patient and Family Partnership:** Patients and families have travelled the sepsis journey firsthand. They know best where research and care priorities and gaps exist. We will engage patients and families as partners in the research we do!

**Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity:** We will promote a network that embraces and respects the uniqueness of individuals, represents the diversity of Canada and creates equitable access to opportunities for all individuals. Additionally, we will ensure that research conducted by our network reduces health equity gaps that exist in sepsis in Canada and benefits a diversity of Canadians.

**Communication & Collaboration:** We will leverage communication platforms to unite network researchers and communities from across Canada. We will forge partnerships and promote collaboration between individuals and teams with unique expertise as we work towards a common mission.

**Knowledge Exchange:** We will transform existing and new knowledge generated into better policies, practices, procedures, products and services for sepsis care across Canada

**Research Excellence:** We will design, conduct and implement high quality, transparent, rigorous and impactful sepsis research

The objectives of the **CMDO network** are:

- 1) Promote, establish and foster meetings, scientific exchanges, and collaborations between teams involved in the various areas of research towards the development of “translational,” multidisciplinary and inter-institutional projects covering aspects of basic research, clinical research, evaluative and epidemiological research, as well as knowledge transfer activities.
- 2) Make available to its members specialized platforms and shared research services obtained through CFI infrastructure grants, including imaging, human and animal metabolic phenotyping, genomics, transgenics, and metabolomics.
- 3) Increase Quebec's ability to recruit and retain performing researchers in obesity, diabetes and metabolic health by providing start-up grants and by promoting interactions between new researchers and well-established researchers.
- 4) Encourage the training of student researchers through salary support and scholarships to attend scientific conferences.
- 5) Foster the establishment of partnerships with other research and private organizations, of collaborations with other existing thematic networks, as well as encourage participation in national and international research projects and initiatives.
- 6) Promote knowledge transfer, utilization among health care professionals, the general population and advise the FRQS and Quebec public health authorities about obesity, diabetes and cardiometabolic health.

*max. 1400 characters including spaces*

## **6. BUDGETARY CONTEXT**

### **Summary budget and complementary sources of funding:**

Provide a brief description of how funds will be used.

*max. 1400 characters including spaces*

### **Plans to obtain subsequent funding:**

Describe the strategies that will be used to obtain subsequent funding from another source than the CMDO or Sepsis Canada.

*max. 1400 characters including spaces*