

Call for applications: Young Investigators Support: Intercenter Mentorship and Project

Created in April 2012 by the Fonds de Recherche du Québec – secteur Santé (FRQ), the mission of the **CardioMetabolic health, Diabetes and Obesity Research Network** is to pursue the development of research into metabolic and cardiovascular health, diabetes and obesity, and to transfer and mobilize knowledge to promote sustainable health among Quebecers.

The network is launching its contest **Young Investigators Support: Intercenter Mentorship and Project for 2026-2027** open for young Quebec researchers at the beginning of their careers. The purpose of this program is to promote the optimal integration of promising young researchers in the Quebec CMDO network and the Canadian research community. Two aspects are covered by this support: a mentoring plan and the research program (*intercenter projects will be promoted*). First, the application must have a 2-year mentorship program. This mentorship involves a young researcher (*regular CMDO member*), an internal mentor and an external mentor. The internal mentor (*regular CMDO member*) is affiliated with the same research center as the young researcher. The external mentor is affiliated with another research center in Quebec, Canada or internationally. Second, the grant can be used to start a project or fund an ongoing project to accelerate the start of a young researcher's career. Three (3) projects per year will be funded based on their excellence.

The eligibility criteria and the method of evaluation are described below. The winning researchers must have been in a researcher position for 5 years or less, have an excellent scientific research program, propose an approved mentoring plan and demonstrates a structuring effect on research within the network. The winners will receive a financial support of \$15,000 over two years to support their intercenter scientific activities.

The deadline for the submission of applications is June 25, 2026, for mentoring programs starting between September 1, 2026, and August 31, 2027.

Women, Aboriginal people, visible minorities, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and people from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community are encouraged to apply for funding. For evaluation purposes, we strive to recruit a diverse committee that reflects the profiles of the applicants and ensure an evaluation process that takes into account the particular situations of the applicants, including atypical trajectories.

Applications submitted late, incomplete or not meeting the eligibility criteria will not be evaluated.

Eligibility criteria for the applicant:

- 1) The young researcher, affiliated to a research center in Quebec province, must be a regular member of CMDO Network before submitting the application;

- 2) Internal and external mentors affiliated with Quebec research centers must be regular member of the CMDO Network before submitting the final application;
- 3) **A single application per submission deadline as a young researcher** may be submitted for the Young Investigators Support: Intercenter Mentorship and Project competition. There is no limit as a mentor;
- 4) The young researcher is holding a regular researcher status for 5 years or less in a research center recognized by the FRQ. Mention the start date of the first career position as researcher in a research center in the Potential of the candidate section (in the electronic form);
- 5) The application must include a Quebec research center, represented by the young researcher (*the principal researcher of the application*) AND by at least one established researcher regular member of the network (internal mentor). The application must also include at least one external mentor from another research center in Quebec, Canada or abroad;
- 6) The applicant's research program must be linked to the areas of cardiometabolic health, diabetes and/or obesity (*the funds used directly for the research project must be presented in the budget*);
- 7) The applicant must demonstrate that his/her research program have a structuring effect on research in the network, according to its objectives (*eg. establishment of new multidisciplinary and/or intersectoral collaborations inside networks or internationally, knowledge transfer, research focused on the patient, standardization methods, or setting up a platform or common resources, etc.*);
- 8) The candidate must have the support of 1) a senior mentor (*CMDO member*) in his research center and 2) a mentor from another research center. These mentors will have to actively participate in the scientific supervision of the candidate, including the co-supervision of students, scientific collaboration, access to specialized platforms, etc.
- 9) The candidate must submit a mentorship plan which was set up in its research center, including at least one mentor member of CMDO. The activities described at point 8 should be included in the scientific mentorship plan of the young researcher. A detailed description of the plan shall be submitted for evaluation.
- 10) Submit a COMPLETE CV (preferably the FRQ CV (Descriptive CV), but we accept all CV formats) for the candidate and the mentors, in order to assess scientific excellence.
- 11) Expenditure budget for the \$ 15,000 on two (2) years – see below for eligible expenses.
- 12) The winner must agree to provide a brief progress report every year for three (3) years in order to demonstrate the leverage effect of the program (*i.e. new collaborations, obtaining external grants and/or scholarships*).

- 13) Following the first year of funding, winning teams are asked to provide the CMDO with: **1)** a “***Our Teams in Action!***” profile (for information on creating this profile, ask at info@rrcmdo.ca); and, although not mandatory, **2)** a text of up to 300 words or **3)** a 1-minute video (max. 1 min 30 sec) that presents the team’s project/research program in language accessible to the general public and that will be shared with the CMDO’s Citizen Partner Community, in the CMDO newsletter, on the CMDO’s social media platforms, and any other media deemed relevant;
- 14) Note that it is possible to reapply after the 2-year grant period (*first grant received*), and before the 5-year term as a researcher. On the other hand, young researchers who have never received this support will have priority.

Eligible expenses:

Any expenses related to project and mentorship support for the benefit of the recipient and eligible by the FRQ research grants standards. Especially:

- Transport and accommodation for mentors when visiting to the young researcher’s research center;
- Transport and accommodation for young researcher when visiting external mentors’ research center;
- Transport, accommodation and registration to conferences / congresses to the recipient or student co-supervised intercentre only if at least one of the mentors is present at the same event and that a meeting is on the agenda;
- Support for student(s) in intercentre co-direction (scholarship, travel expenses between centers);
- Costs related to the research project of the intercentre collaboration (supplies, technical services, etc.);
- Mentorship meeting expenses.

Non-eligible expenses:

- Salary for the recipient or mentors

Who can file an application:

The young researcher (main applicant) is responsible for his application.

Materials required when submitting the application:

- 1) CMDO Network Application Form completed online by the applicant (*see below*);
- 2) Starting date of the candidate’s position as a researcher - include the date of the first position as a researcher in a research center recognized by the FRQ in the Potential of the candidate section of the electronic form;
- 3) A letter of support from each mentor detailing the support and expertise they will provide to the candidate;

4) COMPLETE CV (FRQ CV (Descriptive CV) format whenever possible, but we accept all CV formats) of the candidate and mentors, in order to assess scientific excellence;

5) *Optional*: a page containing one or more figure(s) and their respective captions.

The application form must be completed online. All documents must be transmitted in PDF format to concours@rrcmdo.ca.

Application evaluation process:

All applications are evaluated by a Scientific Committee. Any member with a conflict of interest is excluded from the final decision. If necessary, an external committee may be formed to carry out the evaluation. Competition results will be announced in the weeks following the application deadline.

Applications will be evaluated based on compliance with the Contest eligibility criteria and the following criteria:

- 1) ***Candidate Potential (25%)***: Quality of training in research, scientific achievements, history of publication, funding and training of students. *Include the date of the first position as a researcher in a research center in the Potential of the candidate section (in the electronic form)*;
- 2) ***Research Program (20%)***: Clarity of the research question and scientific justification. Potential for creating new knowledge. Originality of hypotheses and research questions. Novelty of the approach, new methodologies or new applications of existing methodologies;
- 3) ***Presentation of proposed mentors (20%)***: Affiliation and expertises;
- 4) ***Relevance and quality of the proposed intercenter mentorship (20%)***: Mentorship plan and immediate or potential impact of the proposed mentorship on research/team of the young researcher and within the network, depending on the CMDO's objectives (*ex. establishment of new multidisciplinary and/or intersectoral collaborations inside networks or internationally, knowledge transfer, research focused on the patient, standardization methods, or setting up a platform or common resources, etc.*);
- 5) ***Realism of the budget proposal (10%)***: Relevance of the proposed use of funds.
- 6) ***Equity/Diversity/Inclusion Vision (5%)***: What are you doing/planning to do to ensure fair and inclusive treatment of those involved in the project? Demonstrate efforts made or planned to be more inclusive and equitable in the work environment and/or participants.

Any request for additional information may be sent to the Research Network on CardioMetabolic health, Diabetes and Obesity (CMDO), Université Laval, École de Nutrition, email: info@rrcmdo.ca.

Description of the electronic form

Young Investigators Support: Intercenter Mentorship and Project *Instructions for the application form*

[FORM MUST BE COMPLETED ONLINE, CLICK HERE](#)

The form can be saved and complete 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

Mentorship/Project title: *max. 256 characters including spaces*

Main theme (choose one):

- Cardiometabolic health
- Diabetes
- Obesity

Secondary theme(s) (if applicable):

- Cardiometabolic health
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Not applicable

Axes (multiple choices possible):

- Basic research and pre-clinical
- Nutrition, Physical Activity and human pathophysiology (Clinical Research)
- Living habits, risk factors and population interventions through cycles of life (Population Research)
- Organization of care (Health Systems Research), sharing and use of knowledge
- Hypertension and vascular diseases
- Heart disease through the cycles of life
- Metabolic liver diseases

Principal Applicant name (the Young researcher, regular member of CMDO Network): *max. 100 characters*

Affiliation of principal applicant: *max. 120 characters*

Affiliation to other research networks (several possible choices):

- Another FRQ Network (which one?);
- Diabetes Network Action Canada;
- Obesity Canada Network;
- Other.

Indicate any special circumstances that may have affected your career path.

max. 2800 characters including spaces

Mentor name in candidate's research center (internal mentor): *max. 100 characters*

Affiliation internal mentor: max. 120 characters

Maximum of two internal mentors

Mentor name in another center (external mentor): *max. 100 characters*

Affiliation internal mentor (and specify if internal or external mentor): max. 120 characters

Maximum of two external mentors

Quebec research centers directly involved in the project:

Select the research centers from the list.

Research Center(s) Outside Quebec directly involved in the internship (optional):

If applicable, indicate the name(s) of the research center(s).

2. POTENTIAL OF THE CANDIDATE

- Date of the first position as a researcher in a research center recognized by the FRQ. *max. 120 characters*
- Quality of research training, scientific achievements, history of publication, funding and training of students. Mention the date of entry of the first career position as a researcher in a research center in the Potential of the candidate section (in the electronic form).
max. 3000 characters including spaces

3. RESEARCH PROGRAM OF THE CANDIDATE

Provide a description of the research program including the scientific rationale, objectives and hypothesis, methodology and potential impact. Please include a paragraph presenting 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. 3000 characters including spaces

4. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED MENTORS

Affiliations and expertises.

max. 1400 characters including spaces

5. RELEVANCE AND QUALITY OF PROPOSED INTERCENTER MENTORSHIP

Description of the proposed mentorship plan and immediate or potential impact of this mentorship for young researcher's lab/research and research within the network, according to CMDO's objectives (*eg. Establishment of new multidisciplinary collaborations and/or cross to the internal network or internationally, knowledge transfer, research patient-oriented, standardization of methods, establishment of a platform or common resources, etc.*).

The network's objectives are:

- 1) Organize concerted action, meetings, exchanges and scientific cooperation to respond to unmet issues and needs, and establish research priorities;

- 2) Support bold, innovative initiatives and strategic projects that are part of a cross-sectoral, sustainable approach, and enable the establishment of national and international partnerships;
- 3) Foster and promote the development of research talent and increase Quebec's ability to recruit and retain high-performance young researchers, by making a decisive contribution to training and mentoring;
- 4) Organize knowledge mobilization, scientific animation and dissemination activities aimed at different target audiences;
- 5) Support the sharing and development of research resources for all Quebec researchers;
- 6) Evaluate the effectiveness and scope of CMDO programs on an ongoing basis.

max. 3000 characters including spaces

6. BUDGETARY CONTEXT

Budget summary:

Provide a brief description of the use of funds (\$ 15,000 over two(2) year).

max. 1400 characters including spaces

In the event that your project is funded, please provide us with the mailing address and contact details of the person responsible for financial transfers (e.g. administrative technician):

- Name; *max. 120 characters including spaces*
- Email; *max. 120 characters including spaces*
- Phone number; *max. 120 characters including spaces*
- Postal address; *max. 250 characters including spaces*

7. EQUITY/DIVERSITY/INCLUSION VISION

What are you doing/planning to do to ensure fair and inclusive treatment of those involved in the project?

Demonstrate efforts made or planned to be more inclusive and equitable in the work environment and/or participants.

max. 2800 characters including spaces

8. SELF-IDENTIFICATION (To be completed by the Principal Applicant only)

As with tri-council agency, the purpose of the self-identification form is to collect information so our network can monitor the equity performance of our programs and design new measures to achieve greater equity, diversity and inclusion in our research endeavours

Membership Type (one choice only):

- Regular Member.
- Student, postdoctoral fellow or resident member
- Other

If Regular member: Position as a researcher: What is the start date of the first career position as a researcher in a research center (e.g. Researcher since December 2018 at INAF)?

Research areas (multiple choices possible):

- Basic Science/Preclinical
- Clinical
- Health care organization/health system
- Population-based

Gender (one choice only):

- Female
- Male
- Trans woman
- Trans man
- Two-spirited person
- Gender fluid
- Non-binary
- Other
- I don't identify with any of these options
- I prefer not to answer.

Aboriginal People: Aboriginal people in Canada is a generic term used to refer to Inuit, Métis or First Nations people who live within the boundaries of the territory now known as Canada. We encourage all persons belonging to these nations and communities to indicate their affiliation below.

I belong to one of the following Aboriginal peoples of Canada (one choice only):

- First Nations or First Peoples
- Métis
- Inuit
- No
- I prefer not to answer

Minority affiliation

I belong to the following ethnocultural or racialized community (You may choose the option that best describes your ethnic or regional origin or choose more than one if you consider yourself to be of mixed origin):

- Canadian Aboriginal Community (First Nations, Métis or Inuit)
- White community or community of European descent
- Central Asian or North Asian community
- Afro-descendant (or Black) community
- Latin American community
- Middle Eastern or North African community
- South Asian community
- Southeast Asian community
- East Asian community
- Aboriginal community outside of Canada
- None of the above
- I prefer not to answer

If you selected "None of the above" for the previous question:

Specifically, I prefer to identify myself using the following terms

max. 500 characters including spaces

Native Language

The native language I learned and still understand is (please select all that apply)

- French
- English
- Other(s)
- I prefer not to answer

If you selected "Other(s)" for the previous question:

You may indicate your native language here:

max. 200 characters including spaces

Commonly used language

The language I most commonly use at home is (please select all that apply)

- French
- English
- Other(s)
- I prefer not to answer

If you selected "*Other(s)*" for the previous question:

You may indicate your commonly used language here:

max. 200 characters including spaces

Comments or questions about the self-identification questionnaire

max. 1000 characters including spaces

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED IN PDF FORMAT:

1. COMPLETE CV (FRQ CV (Descriptive CV) format whenever possible, but we accept all CV formats), for candidate and mentors to assess the scientific excellence;
2. Letter of Support from each mentor;
3. *Optional*: one page of figures;
4. Submit documents at concours@rrcmdo.ca.