

## Intercenter Structuring Initiatives

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 calls for **intercenter** collaborative projects for the period of **2027 - 2028**. This competition allows researchers who are regular members of the network to propose collaborative projects in the areas of cardiometabolic health, diabetes and obesity. Seven(7) research projects relevant to these themes will be funded based on excellence. Eligible projects must involve network members from at least two research centers and could also involve additional research center in Quebec, Canada or abroad. Moreover, projects from different research sectors will be favored (i.e. 1) preclinical; 2) clinical; 3) population-based and health systems; 4) Hypertension and vascular diseases; 5) Heart disease through the cycles of life; and 6) Metabolic liver diseases). 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 network will be funded up to \$ 40,000 for one year.

Although the project submission system is the same, 7 projects will be funded according to the specific prioritization criteria:

- 1) 1 x \$40k for an Intercentre Initiative for **Young Researchers**;
  - ✓ Less than 3 years as a researcher;
  - ✓ The young investigator has never received CIHR funding;
- 2) 1 x \$40k: **Basic and preclinical research**;
- 3) 1 x \$40k: **Clinical research**;
- 4) 1 x \$40k: **Population research and Health systems research**;
- 5) 1 x \$40k: **Hypertension and vascular diseases**;
- 6) 1 x \$40k: **Heart disease across the life cycle**;
- 7) 1 x \$40k: **Metabolic liver disease**;

**The deadline for the submission of applications is December 1, 2026, with funding beginning no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be evaluated. Award recipients will be required to present their findings at the MétaboliQc Meeting (CMDO, SQLNM and MyRoad) 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 specific criteria for the submission of **Young Researchers projects** are listed on the next page. In the electronic project submission form, you will need to select the competition for which you are submitting (Regular and/or Young researchers). If eligible, you can select more than one contest. However, the project will only be funded up to \$40k for one year, if selected.

**General eligibility criteria applicable to all intercenter initiative competitions (regular competition, 7 funded project (\$40k for one year)):**

- 1) The **principal investigator** must be a regular member of the CMDO Network before the submission;
- 2) **WARNING** - Must not have received CMDO Intercenter Initiatives funding in the last two years as a principal investigator or co-investigator:
  - Therefore, for the 2027-2028 competition, all members of the winning teams from the **2025-2026**, as well as **2026-2027** competitions are not eligible to participate.
  - To view the list of winning teams - [Click HERE](#) (*Past funded projects icon*)
- 3) **Only one application per year may be submitted as principal investigator** for the Intercenter competition. There is no limit as co-investigator;
- 4) All co-investigator affiliated with a research center in Quebec province must be a CMDO member before final submission;
- 5) The submission must involve at least 2 research centers in Quebec each represented by at least one researcher regular member of the CMDO network;
- 6) Submissions may include additional research centers in Quebec, Canada or abroad;
- 7) The research project must be related to the fields of cardiometabolic health, diabetes and/or obesity;
- 8) Direct involvement in the project of at least one student, resident or postdoctoral fellow (*registered at a Quebec University*) who must be identified in the submission and must be in place at the beginning of funding (April 1<sup>st</sup>);

- 9) A demonstration of the structuring effects on research within the network, based on its objectives (*e.g. establishing new multidisciplinary and/or intersectoral collaborations within a network or internationally, knowledge transfer, patient-oriented research, standardization of methods, or setting up a common platform or resources, etc.*);
- 10) A description of a clear plan to obtain subsequent funding from a source other than the CMDO (*e.g., CIHR, private partners or other*).
- 11) 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](mailto: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.

**Specific eligibility criteria to submit a project as a Young researcher (Principal investigator) – 1 funded projects (\$40k for one year):**

- 1) Meet all regular competition criteria;
- 2) The **young researcher** must hold a regular researcher status for 3 years or less in a research center recognized by the FRQ. *Mention the date of entry of the first career position as a researcher in a research center in the electronic form.*
- 3) The young researcher must never have received CIHR funding.

**Full applications require:**

- 1) CMDO’s submission form completed online (see below);
- 2) COMPLETE CV (FRQ CV (Descriptive CV) format whenever possible, but we accept all CV formats) for all researchers included in the application as well as for the Quebec-based student, resident or postdoctoral fellow directly involved in the project (*sent via email to [concours@rrcmdo.ca](mailto:concours@rrcmdo.ca)*);
- 3) *Optional*: a page containing one or more figure(s) and their respective captions (*sent via email to [concours@rrcmdo.ca](mailto:concours@rrcmdo.ca)*).

The application form must be completed online. All documents must be transmitted in PDF format to [concours@rrcmdo.ca](mailto:concours@rrcmdo.ca).

## Evaluation of applications:

All applications are evaluated by a Scientific Committee. Any member with a conflict of interest is excluded from the final decision. The results of the competition will be announced in February at the MétaboliQc Congress.

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 (10%) and complementarity of the research team (5%):** Scientific achievements, publication record, past funding and training of students, complementarity of participating teams and importance given to the training of students (*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 (15%):** Immediate or potential impact of the proposed project on research within the network, based on its objectives (*e.g. establishing new multidisciplinary and/or intersectoral collaborations within a network or internationally, knowledge transfer, patient-oriented research, standardization of methods, or setting up a common platform or resources, etc.*);

**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.

**6) Clarity and feasibility of the plan for obtaining future or concurrent funding (5%);**

**7) Equity/Diversity/Inclusion Vision (10%):** 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 the 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](mailto:info@rrcmdo.ca).

**Description of the electronic form (see next page)**

## 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.

**You must select for which competition you are submitting (**Regular and/or Young researchers**). If eligible, you can select more than one contest. However, the project will only be funded up to \$ 40k for one year, if selected.**

### **1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

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

**Main theme (choose one):**

- Cardiometabolic health
- Diabetes
- Obesity

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

- Cardiometabolic health
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Not applicable

**Research areas (select all that apply, the first 2 selected will be prioritized for the final ranking):**

- Basic and preclinical research
- Nutrition, physical activity and human pathology (Clinical Research)
- Lifestyle, risk factors, and population intervention across the life course (Populational Research) and Organization of health care (Health Systems Research), knowledge transfer and utilization
- Hypertension and vascular diseases
- Heart disease through the cycles of life
- Metabolic liver diseases

**Please explain the choice of your first two(2) research areas priorities:** *max. 1250 characters including spaces*  
*To improve your ranking during the project selection process, be sure to apply to at least two research areas, as the process takes into account both 1) your ranking and 2) the diversity of your research areas..*

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

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

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

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

**For the Young researcher competition - What is the date of entry of the first career position as a researcher in a research center** (ex. *Researcher since December 2024 at INAF*). This date must be after December 1, 2022 (less than 3 years).

**For the Young researcher competition:** Have you already received funding from CIHR? (Yes / No)

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

*max. 2800 characters including spaces*

**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*

**Does the research team include any patient partners or engaged citizens? If so, please list their names:** *max. 256 characters including spaces*

**Research centers directly involved in the project:**

Select at least 2 research centers from the list.

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

**Location(s) of research:** Name of town(s) (e.g., Sherbrooke and Quebec) 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 and student training (e.g. *Indicate the extent to which stakeholders will be involved, including patient-partners, if applicable*).  
*max. 2800 characters including spaces*

#### **5. STRUCTURING EFFECTS FOR RESEARCH WITHIN THE NETWORK**

Provide a description of any structuring effects the project may have based on the network's objectives (e.g. *establishing new multidisciplinary and/or intersectoral collaborations within a network or internationally, knowledge transfer, patient-oriented research, standardization of methods, or setting up a common platform or resources, etc.*).

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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.

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*max. 1400 characters including spaces*

Indicate if distribution to the general public is planned.

*max. 1000 characters including spaces*

#### **6. BUDGETARY CONTEXT**

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

Provide a brief description of how funds will be used. Indicate any concurrent funding if applicable and the amounts to be used for the project.

*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.

*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 with 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 an 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 SENT IN PDF FORMAT:**

- 1) COMPLETE CV (FRQ CV (Descriptive CV) format whenever possible, but we accept all CV formats) for all researchers included in the application as well as for the Quebec-based student, resident or postdoctoral fellow directly involved in the project;
- 2) *Optional*: one page of figures;
- 3) Submit documents at [concours@rrcmdo.ca](mailto:concours@rrcmdo.ca).