



Department of Medicine call for Letters of Intent for Innovations or Research addressing major crises affecting population health and the health system.

Objective:

Encourage more academic work that directly relates to pressing threats to health resulting from:

- the climate crisis,
- inequality, or
- other social determinants of health, as well as
- projects targeting transformations to the health system, including but not necessarily limited to:
 - how care is delivered,
 - health human resource issues, and
 - working conditions for all stakeholders.

Context & Guiding Principles:

Recent years have seen increasingly greater attention to threats to population health from the climate crisis, worsening social determinants of health for large portions of the population, and the healthcare delivery system buckling under various chronic problems compounded by new stresses from the pandemic. We wish to encourage more work by Department members addressing these threats to both health and the healthcare system.

We particularly wish to support work with clear potential to generate concrete impacts, not just lay the groundwork for more research with no credible expectation of stakeholder benefit in the short term (~5 years). Achieving real impact takes time—5 to 10 years or more. Yet, we routinely conduct research with little prospect of benefiting patients in that same timeframe. Hence the desire to support projects explicitly aimed at generating concrete impacts in the near future.

That said, we will consider projects with less likelihood of beneficial impacts in the short term as long as there is a compelling case that the initial project will establish fruitful collaborations involving multiple DoM members and other groups likely to make progress in the proposed space.

Grant details:

The total funding availability for this call for proposals is \$200,000 and we hope to award funds to three or four projects. Thus, successful proposals will likely have budgets of about \$50,000 range, with a \$75,000 maximum. Additional funding from other sources is encouraged to leverage greater impact. Project timelines can be up to two years.

Eligibility:

The Principal Investigator must be a full-time faculty member in the Department of Medicine (DoM) at the University of Toronto. Collaborations with other Departments, Faculties, or Universities are strongly encouraged. Your project should involve DoM members from at least two sites, and ideally not all in the same Division. A single-site proposal involving collaborations across multiple Divisions/Departments/professions will be considered, but multisite projects are strongly preferred.

Representation of patients, community organizations, or other stakeholders relevant to the project is strongly encouraged.

Letter of Intent instructions:

1. Include the following (maximum 3 pages):
 - a. Principal Investigator(s) and PI contact information,
 - b. Rationale for project including how one or more of the objectives of this grant opportunity would be addressed,
 - c. Rough budget outline, and
 - d. Proposed project collaborators and/or partners and rationale for their inclusion,
2. Email your letter of intent addressed to Dr. Kaveh Shojania, c/o christian.base@utoronto.ca, by May 31, 2023.

Timeline:

- Wednesday, May 31, 2023: LOI submission deadline
- Tuesday, July 18, 2023: LOI responses sent to principal applicant(s)
- Sunday, September 10, 2023: Deadlines for submission of full proposal
- Tuesday, November 14, 2023: Funding decisions announced
- Monday, December 4, 2023: Funding distribution/project launch

Should you have any questions, please contact Christian Base at christian.base@utoronto.ca.