

## 2021 Innovators' Challenge Guidelines

The Innovators' Challenge funds research that supports inventive and creative solutions that are being developed to transform health care for all British Columbians

### Funding Partners

The Innovators' Challenge is a partnership event between VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation and VCH Research Institute (VCHRI).

### Deadlines

Application deadline: Monday October 5, 2020 by 4:00pm (PST)

- Email submission to [education.award@vch.ca](mailto:education.award@vch.ca)

### Eligibility

All projects submitted for potential inclusion in the 2021 Innovators' Challenge must be developed in connection to either VGH, UBC Hospital, GF Strong or one of VCH's community health centres AND meet the following criteria:

1. **Potential impact** - The project has extraordinary impact on or demonstrated benefits to patients or health care system. It has significant advantages to existing or potential competitors.
2. **Usability or translatability** - It is feasible to implement by the health care system or easily adopted by the patient. There is no good alternative or other potential solution in the market

Awards are open to VCH clinicians and/or researchers involved with patient care and/or research.

### Principal Investigator eligibility (must meet both criteria):

- Hold a PhD or a MD and/or be a VCH health care professional  
\*\*Note: Medical residents, research associates, post-doctoral fellows, clinical/research fellows, and research scientists are not eligible for this competition
- Conduct most of your work at one or more VCH site(s).  
\*\*Note: if you are not currently practicing at one of these sites, you must include a letter from the relevant VCH and/or UBC Department Head, confirming you will be working at a VCH site by July 1, 2021.  
\*\*Note: Casual employees are not eligible to apply

### Funding Requirements

- Proposals will be considered for a maximum of \$75,000.00
- The maximum budget amount does not include in-kind contributions e.g. staff support, use of space, etc.
- Projects must be able to be completed within two years of receiving the funds. Unused funds are to be returned to VCHRI.
- Awards are non-renewable.
- Funds must be held in a unique and dedicated financial account at VCH or one of its affiliated educational institutions.
- Funds may not be mixed with other funding either existing or forthcoming

### Eligible expenses:

#### Compensation Related Expenses

- VCH health care professionals: release time **is an eligible** expense within the budget, to a maximum of 50% of the total budget. Note: All potential release time arrangements must be approved by your supervisor/ manager before submission.  
\*\*Exception: if you currently hold a VCHRI salary award, you cannot request additional release time
- Research Staff salaries

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Equipment, Services and supplies

- Small equipment
- Research services and supplies

Communications and Publications

- Travel costs are eligible

## Review and Evaluation Process

### Review Committee

The selection committee's review and discussion will focus on how your project meets the following criteria:

1. **Potential impact** - The project has extraordinary impact on or demonstrated benefits to patients or health care system. It has significant advantages to existing or potential competitors.
2. **Usability or translatability** - It is feasible to implement by the health care system or easily adopted by the patient. There is no good alternative or other potential solution in the market

## Full Application Details

Applications must include the following sections:

1. Grant Cover Sheet (required)
2. Program/Dept Manager Statement of Support (required for all VCH health care professionals)
3. Research Module (required)

## Applications

Information: <https://www.vchri.ca/services/funding-opportunities/innovators-challenge>

## Approvals

Notification of awards will occur early 2021. Funding will be made available as of July 1, 2021. After July 1, 2021, funds will be released to the successful applicants as soon as the required ethics and VCH approvals have been obtained. Applicants are urged to request ethics approval as soon as they have received notice of funding, since projects must be initiated before December 31, 2021. **Funding will not be available after this date.**

## Outcomes and Reporting

The VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation will request a project update approximately 6-12 months post event. A final project report is required at the end of the grant. VCHRI and its partners use these project reports to publicize research activities and to evaluate the impact of the program. VCHRI may request periodic financial statements with approved signatory from your employer for auditing purposes.

## Contact Information

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