Vancouver CoastalHealth Research Institute

Innovation and Translational Research Awards
2027 Competition Guidelines

The Innovation and Translational Research Award is to support innovative research projects led by health care professionals and researchers at Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and Providence Health Care (PHC).

Purpose

The Innovation and Translational Research Award funds **innovative research** leading to one of the following:

- Impact on patient care at VCH and/or PHC
- Savings for the health system at VCH and/or PHC

Funding Partners

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute partners with VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation, and Providence Research (PR).

Deadlines

Complete registration and application must be received **via online forms** by the times specified or they will not be accepted. Notification of results will be available in summer 2027.

- Registration deadline: Monday December 14, 2026 by 4:00pm (PT)
- Grant Information Session (optional): Date- TBD
- Application submission deadline: Monday March 8, 2027 by 4:00pm (PT)

Eligibility

Awards are open to both VCH and PHC health care professionals and/or researchers involved with patient care and/or research.

Principal Investigator eligibility (must meet all 3 criteria depending on designation).

Health care professionals:

- Must be a physician, clinical health care professional (e.g., nurse, OT, PT, dietician, SLP, counsellor, mental health worker, etc.), or staff at VCH/PHC
- Conduct the majority of your clinical work at VCH or PHC site(s).
    - If you are not currently working at VCH/PHC you must include a letter from the relevant Clinical Head confirming you will be working at a VCH or PHC site by July 1, 2027
- If you have an active VCHRI or PR operating grant the project must be complete and a final report submitted by the application submission deadline

Researchers:

- Must be a VCHRI investigator or PR investigator. See the VCHRI website for full details.
- Conduct the majority of your research work at VCH or PHC site(s)
- If you have an active VCHRI or PR operating grant the project must be complete and a final report submitted by the application submission deadline

Ineligible:

- Casual employees who are not researchers
- Medical residents, research associates, post-doctoral fellows, clinical/research fellows, and research scientists

- Individuals who hold an active VCHRI operating grant with a project ongoing past the application submission deadline (e.g., ITR, Team Grant, Research Challenge)

Designated Awards
One joint award will be designated for a collaborative project between PHC and VCH health care professionals and/or researchers. **Note:** For PHC applicants, only projects in collaboration with VCH are eligible. Collaborations are considered a VCH site for data collection, direct VCH impacts of the project, and co-investigators within VCH.

One award (at minimum) will be designated for an early career researcher with the intent to promote excellence and build health research capacity. To be considered for the dedicated early career researcher award, you must self identify at time of registration and meet **additional eligibility criteria** (one of the following):

1. Be within five years of receiving your first university appointment from any institution
    - This should be at the clinical assistant professor/assistant professor level
    - Appointment start date should be no earlier than July 1, 2022
    - Justified career interruptions for a documented leave of absence can be deducted from the calculation of university appointment. This is guided by the UBC Faculty of Medicine's Policy on Clinical Faculty Appointments. This includes a leave of absence from academic responsibilities for medical, maternity, parental, or personal reasons.
    - If you have had any other career interruptions or extenuating circumstances and want to be considered an early career researcher, please contact education.award@vch.ca after registration.
2. Be a health care professional without a university appointment with intent to build research into your career at VCH.

Note: To be considered for the dedicated early career researcher award, applicants are required to submit a Statement of Impact. PHC applicants are not eligible for the dedicated early career researcher award.

Research Teams

Co-Investigators: individuals contributing to a grant application and carrying out the research project. It is expected that individuals listed will contribute to the intellectual direction of the research or research-related activity, play a role in the conduct of the research or research-related activity, or have some responsibility for aspects of the research. The maximum number of Co-Investigators is **six** for a project. All co-investigators are required to submit a biosketch.

Collaborators: individuals contributing to carrying out the research project. These individuals may contribute to the grant application, inform the intellectual direction of the research or research-related activity, play a role in the conduct of the research or research-related activity, or have some responsibility for aspects of the research. There is no maximum number of collaborators for a project. Collaborators are *not* required to submit a biosketch.

***Note:** If your research project leads to development of a medical device and/or a commercial opportunity, you are encouraged to include a letter of support when working with a partner company or external institution. For any questions or considerations regarding technology transfer and/or partnerships, it is recommended you contact the Innovation Office at the University of British Columbia.

Funding and Eligible Expenses

- Proposals will be considered for a maximum of $100,000.
- The maximum budget amount does not include in-kind contributions e.g., staff support, use of space and other resources etc.
- Projects must be able to be completed within two years of receiving the funds. Unused funds are to be returned to VCHRI or PR, depending on which organization is funding your project.
- Awards are non-renewable.
- An applicant can only hold one VCHRI or PR operating grant at a time.

Eligible expenses:

Compensation Related Expenses

- VCH or PHC health care professionals: release time **is an eligible** expense within the budget to a maximum of 50% of the total budget; if you are not currently holding a VCHRI or PR salary award (additional release time is not permitted). Your supervisor / manager must approve all potential release time arrangements before submission.
- Research Staff salaries

Services and supplies

- Research services and supplies
- A token of thanks for research participants (this must be a tangible item on an itemized receipt)

Honorarium payments for Patient Engagement only

- Teams can request an additional $1,000 to cover patient-family partner honorariums only.

Ineligible expenses:

Travel costs are not eligible
Research equipment costs are not eligible
Honorarium payments for research participants or research team members (e.g., cash and gift cards)

Review and Evaluation Process

Peer Review Committee

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

- Have impact on patient care at VCH and/or PHC, OR provide savings for the health system at VCH and/or PHC,
- The applicant/team's research experience and productivity including the appropriateness of each team member and their role(s),
- The applicant/team's research environment, collaborations, commitment to research including their amount of protected time for research, research potential, and departmental support (both clinical and academic),
- The rigour of the research proposal, including the importance and applicability of the project to the provision of healthcare/service at VCH; feasibility of the project within the timeframe/budget. This includes consideration to equity, diversity and inclusion, and involvement of or impact on Indigenous Peoples, communities, lands or partnerships within the research,
- The implementation/business plan (as applicable), and included letter of support from any partners in appendices if you are partnering with a company/institution to develop a medical device and/or commercial opportunity

Full Application Details

Applications must include the following sections:

1. Manager Statement of Support for Program/Department (required only as applicable for VCH or PHC health care professionals who are the PI)
2. Research Module (required)
    - Research Module Signature pages (required)
3. Research Proposal (required – 4 page maximum)
4. Biographical Sketch (required for PI and all Co-Investigators – 4 page maximum each)
5. Statement of Impact (required for early career researcher applicants only)
6. Patient Engagement Module (optional)
7. Appendices (*optional)
    - *Letter of Support encouraged for applicants partnering with a company/institution for a medical device and/or commercial opportunity
8. Response to previous reviewers (optional – 1 page maximum)

Information: https://www.vchri.ca/services/starting-your-project/awards-funding/innovation-and-translational-research-awards

Approvals

Notification of awards will occur in summer 2027. After September 1, 2027, funds will be released to the successful applicants as soon as the required ethics and VCH and/or PHC operational 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, 2027. **Funding will not be available after this date.**

Outcomes and Reporting

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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