

**DUE 29 OCT 2019**

ICORD Seed Grants are designed to provide seed funding for novel research projects proposed by Principal Investigators and Investigators within ICORD, and enable ICORD faculty members to generate pilot data for future applications for multi-year operating grants (especially Tricouncil) as a result of receiving a Seed Grant. Given the competitiveness of securing Tricouncil funding and the mandatory requirement for pilot data in these applications, it is the intent of these seed funds to foster future funding success for new projects.

A total of **$200,000** is available to be awarded each year over two annual competitions (with five projects–approximately $20K each–funded in each competition). The scope of the projects must be aligned with ICORD's Mission and SCI Research Platform and projects must have a strong likelihood of leading to a new sustainable research program. Proposals may only be submitted by ICORD Principal Investigators or Investigators in good standing.

ICORD members may submit only one application as the primary applicant per round of funding, and ***may not apply for funding if they currently hold an ICORD Seed Fund Research Grant.***

Applications will be reviewed by an adjudication committee using a five-point scale (akin to CIHR, with 5 being the best) To maintain a standard of excellence, no applications rated 3.5 or below will be funded. The adjudication committee will include:

* Dr. Lowell McPhail, ICORD Managing Director
* Three or more of the previous Seed Fund competition awardees.

**Application Procedures:**

Submit your applications files (this form, optional one-page attachment, and CV of any non-ICORD co-applicants) **online** at [**https://icord.org/funding-opportunities/seed-grants/**](https://icord.org/funding-opportunities/seed-grants/)

If you do not receive a confirmation message within two hours of submission, please **contact admin@icord.org.** We anticipate that the competition results will be announced within one month of the deadline.

**Eligibility:**

* **Applicants must be ICORD members (Principal Investigator or Investigator level).** Associate Members, Research Associates and post-doctoral fellows are not eligible to apply as the primary applicant, but may be co-applicants. Applicants must be pursuing a new novel area of research that requires seed funding to generate pilot data to apply for a Tricouncil or other operating funding grant applications as a result of receiving the Seed Grant. Priority will be given to those who will use the data towards attaining their first multi-year Tricouncil grant as PI, followed by those applying to a different Tricouncil agency (in which they have not held funding as a PI), and then to those applying for renewals or other funding types (e.g., Heart and Stroke Foundation).
* Only one seed grant application can be submitted each round by the primary applicant. Collaborative applications are encouraged and there is no limit to the number of applications one can be listed as a co applicant.
* Seed fund awardees may not apply as the primary applicant for a new Seed Grant until they have completed their first projects and submitted their final reports. If applicants are applying for a subsequent seed grant in a later round, progress of their previous seed grant (including success in external funding applications) will be considered as part of the new application.

**Judging Criteria for the proposals include**:

* The appropriateness of the **research plan**, including its feasibility and the use of the best available methodology;
* The **significance/impact** of the work proposed and its **originality**, or novelty of the concepts, ideas or hypotheses being pursued in the application;
* The suitability of the **research environment**, including the availability of facilities, personnel, and time, required to complete the work proposed;
* The **alignment** of the proposed research with ICORD's Mission & Research Platform and the **likelihood** that a successful proposal will lead to a sustainable program.

**Conditions of Award:**

* Grants must be activated within 6 months of notice of award (including all necessary approvals), if the grant is not activated; the funds may revert back to ICORD and may be awarded to other applicants.

An interim report is be due one year from the award date, and a final report will be due no later than 26 months after the award date. Any unspent funds remaining at that time will be returned to ICORD. A report template will be provided along with the award notifications.

Please send your report to Dr. Lowell McPhail (mcphail@icord.org). If the due date falls on a holiday or weekend, your report will be due the following workday.

Award winners may be required to assist in the adjudication of applications in the next cycle.

Award winners must report annually on grant applications submitted, and/or funding received as a result of seed grant-supported pilot data or preliminary work.

**Mission & research platform:**

ICORD’s mission is to conduct research and training towards the development and translation of more effective strategies promoting prevention of spinal cord injury, functional recovery, and improved quality of life after SCI. Our vision is broad, and therefore, our strategy is not to focus solely on a narrow definition of ‘cure’ for SCI, but rather, to foster excellence across the entire research continuum that affects the lives of those with SCI. This includes preclinical discovery science, the development of therapies for acute and chronic SCI, and solutions for successful and fulfilled living with SCI.

ICORD’s research activities revolve around these four strategic goals:
1.     Prevention of SCI
2.     Acceleration of SCI cures/treatments
3.     Improving the quality of life for people with SCI
4.     Supporting activities of our partners



**Principal Applicant**

(must be an ICORD Principal Investigator or Investigator and must have submitted an Annual Report for the previous year to ICORD Administration before submitting this application)

**Name** (Surname, Given Names):

**Affiliation:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Department (s) | Institution |
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# Co-Applicant(s): If co-applicants are not ICORD PIs/Investigators, please upload short CV

**Name** (Surname, Given Names):

Affiliation (Department / Institution):

**Name** (Surname, Given Names):

Affiliation (Department / Institution):

**Name** (Surname, Given Names):

Affiliation (Department / Institution):

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**Project title:**

**Amount requested:**

**Applicant's Signature:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Signature | Date |  |
|  |  |  |

**Research summary (for lay public)**

Please provide a summary of the project’s objective(s), potential results and impact for people with SCI. Use language appropriate for the lay public. (1500 characters including spaces & punctuation).

# Research summary (for peer review committee)

Please provide a summary of the project’s objective(s), hypothesis and research plan. Use language appropriate for a peer review committee. (2000 characters including spaces & punctuation).

**Research proposal**

Provide a clear, concise description of the research proposal. Maximum of one page (5000 characters including spaces and punctuation). You may upload **one** additional page of references, figures, tables, charts, or photographs.

**Alignment with ICORD's Mission and Research Platform**

Provide a concise explanation of how the proposed project aligns with ICORD's Mission and Research Platform as outlined in the Strategic Directions Implementation Plan. (maximum 600 characters)

**Plan to Secure Future External Funding**

Provide a concise description of how completion of the proposed project will lead to future funding from external granting or other sources. (maximum 600 characters)

**Itemized Budget + Justification**

Provide estimates for the research project. Each budget item should be supported by a short justification statement and include applicable taxes. Maximum 1.5 pages (5000 characters)**.**

 **Total Requested: $**

TOTAL APPLICATION LENGTH MAY NOT EXCEED SIX PAGES