MARATHON OF HOPE CANCER CENTRES NETWORK

RÉSEAU DES CENTRES D'ONCOLOGIE DU MARATHON DE L'ESPOIR

# MOHCCN CLINICIAN-SCIENTIST AWARD APPLICATION GUIDE 2027

**Key Dates**

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| 1 | Submission of Registration of Intent (ROI) | Thursday December 17th, 2026 (11:59 pm British Columbia Time) |
| 2 | Invitations for Full Applications | December 23rd, 2026 (at the latest) |
| 3 | Submission of Full Application | Tuesday February 9th, 2027 (11:59 pm British Columbia Time) |
| 4 | Peer-Review of Applications | March - May 2027 |
| 5 | Decisions Announced | Mid-June 2027 |
| 6 | Funding Starts | July 1, 2027 |

**Competition Website**

Applicants can find competition details and document templates at https://www.marathonofhopecancercentres.ca/funding_opportunities

**How to Apply**

Applications for this competition will be accepted on TerryFoxTrack. Please follow the instructions in the TerryFoxTrack User Manual to create your account and access the MOHCCN Clinician-Scientist application process.

**Submission Process**

New Grant – Eligibility Quiz

Before you complete a Registration of Intent you must answer a five-question eligibility questionnaire. Only applicants who meet each of these criteria may apply for an MOHCCN Clinician-Scientist award.

Registration of Intent

Applicants must complete and submit a Registration of Intent (ROI) electronically on TerryFoxTrack before 11:59 p.m. British Columbia Time on Thursday December 17th, 2026. Submissions made after the deadline will be rejected. You will receive an email confirming your successful submission shortly afterward. If you do not receive this email within one working day, please email the contact at the end of this Guide. TFRI will review all ROIs and invite eligible applicants to submit their full applications by December 23rd, 2026.

Full Application

Invited applicants must complete and submit a Full Application on TerryFoxTrack before 11:59 p.m. British Columbia Time on Tuesday February 9th, 2027. Submissions after the deadline will be rejected. You will receive an email acknowledging your successful submission shortly afterward. If you do not receive this email within one working day, please email the contact at the end of this Guide.

**Submission Format**

It is crucial to comply with the Scientific Proposal page limit (see pages 5 below). TFRI reserves the right to remove pages and material that exceeds the limit. Files uploaded to TerryFoxTrack should be in the specified digital format—PDF, unless otherwise noted.

**Completion of Each Application Stage**

Once you have completed and submitted the eligibility quiz, you should be taken directly to the Registration of Intent (ROI) page. Ensure that you have selected the "Registration of Intent" tab to see the ROI fields described below.

**REGISTRATION OF INTENT (ROI)**

The purpose of the ROI stage of the competition is to evaluate the applicant pool and ensure that full applications are only requested from those who are fully eligible to apply.

1. **Project Title**
   Enter the title of your proposed research project.

2. **Duration of Project**
   The duration of the MOHCCN Clinician-Scientist projects are 3 years.

3. **Project Start Date**
   Clinician-Scientist awards for the current competition cycle will begin on July 1st, 2027.

4. **Applicant Appointment with Host Institution**
   Please enter the formal title(s) of your appointment(s) with your host institution. The Host Institution must be an eligible Canadian hospital or academic health sciences centre. The application appointment must be EITHER no more than one year later than the start of the award OR be no more than five calendar years before the start of the award).

5. **Name of Sponsoring MOHCCN Consortium (Node)**
   The applicant must discuss sponsorship of their project with one of the eligible sponsoring programs funded by MOHCCN. The eligible sponsoring programs are the 5 Network Consortia (BC Cancer Consortium, Ontario Cancer Consortium, Marathon of Hope - Québec, Atlantic

Cancer Consortium, and Prairie Cancer Consortium). Provide here the full name of that program.

6. **Mentorship Information**
   Provide the name of the individual who has agreed to sponsor the applicant's proposal. The mentor must be a researcher(s) (clinician and/or scientist) currently associated with an MOHCCN-funded study.

7. **Prior Full Applications to the MOHCCN Clinician-Scientist Competition**
   Please indicate if you have previously submitted a Full Application to the MOHCCN Clinician-Scientist competition.

8. **Scientific Summary**
   State the objective/hypothesis of the proposed study; methodology/technology to be employed; and desired outcomes. This field has a 600-word limit.

9. **CV Attachment**
   Include your curriculum vitae in the format required by MOHCCN that is available from MOHCCN website under Clinician-Scientist Award.

## FULL APPLICATION

Email notifications reading the status of application ROIs will be sent by the end-of-the-day on December 23rd, 2026. If you have been approved to move forward, you will see your application listed under "in progress applications and reports" on your TerryFoxTrack homepage. To continue, select the "Open" button beside your application, then select the "Full Application" tab. For more details about using TerryFoxTrack, please see the TerryFoxTrack User Manual.

### Structure of the Full Application

The Full Application consists of both an online form completed through TerryFoxTrack and supporting documents uploaded as PDFs.

The Scientific Proposal must be completed in Microsoft Word using the Full Application template then saved as a PDF and uploaded to TerryFoxTrack.

The instructions below outline what information must be entered directly online and what must be uploaded to the system.

### Naming of the Scientific Proposal File

Applicants must replace 'Name' in the file name with the last name (e.g. 2027 MOHCCN Clinician-Scientist Scientific Proposal – SMITH.PDF).

The Microsoft Word template document for the Scientific Proposal has been formatted to ensure clarity and ease of review. Applications that do not follow the required formatting may not be considered. Text in square brackets in the template should be replace by the Applicant's own content, in black font. Maximum page limits must be followed. TFRI reserves the right to remove pages and material that exceeds these limits.

Other elements of the Full Application must be uploaded as PDF files, including Letters of Mentorship, Institutional Support & Collaborators, Appendices, and Matching Funds Commitment letters. These documents should be uploaded to TerryFoxTrack using the "Attach Files" button in the relevant section of the full proposal page.

**Contents and Format of the Full Application**

1. **Project Information**

   **Lay Summary** (500 words maximum): Please provide a brief, non-scientific summary of your proposal. This summary should explain the potential impact of your study's results and highlight the relevance of the research to cancer. If awarded, the lay summary will be used in the TFRI MOHCCN website to describe the project to the public. Thus, it is important that the lay summary use as little technical language as possible and is written at the level of a Grade 8 student. As succinctly as possible, please consider using the following format: objective, previous research, project methods, and impact and relevance to patients.

   **Scientific Summary** (500 words maximum): Provide an executive summary of the proposed research. This technical summary of the proposal should outline scientific objectives of each component of the proposal, including strategies and methodologies to be used in the research. Essential collaborators should be identified, and it is essential to outline the plan to integrate the results of this proposal with the sponsoring program (MOHCCN Consortium).

2. **Project Description Metrics**

   The following questions will help the MOHCCN administration and communications department track the types of research that are included in MOHCCN funding competitions. The responses are for administrative purposes and will not be shared with the review committee.

   - Please select the research topics that are relevant to your proposed project (select all that apply).
   - What cancer type(s) are relevant to your proposed project? Please be as specific as possible (e.g., colorectal cancers in patients under 40, triple-negative breast cancers, solid cancers with a BRAC1/2 mutation, etc.

### 3. Scientific Proposal

Download the Microsoft Word template for the Scientific Proposal, available on our website: Training Program - Clinician Scientist Awards

The Scientific Proposal must follow the outline provided in the template and be uploaded to the Full Application on the TerryFoxTrack portal as a PDF.

- Maximum length: 20 pages for the Scientific Proposal (sections '1a' through '1f'). Within the 20 pages, the applicant has flexibility to present the most compelling case for his / her project. The table of contents page is also not part of the page count, but should be completed to assist the reviewers find headings within the proposal rapidly. The applicant should replace the '#' symbol in the table of contents page with the actual page number in the final document before submission. The sponsoring program should be provided time to review, comment and suggest revisions to the scientific proposal before it is submitted.
- The list of references (section '1g') is additional to the page limit, and must be presented using single spacing. Clarity and conciseness is recommended for the presentation of references.
- An extra 5 pages is allowed for diagrams, figures, photographs (section '1h').

Use the "Attach Files" function to upload a PDF of your Scientific Proposal to TerryFoxTrack. It is required that the Scientific Proposal template be used for this document.

**Patient Impact** (600 words maximum): Provide a statement outlining the impact that your research could have on patients. The following prompts should be considered:

- Describe the clinical problem being addressed, its scope, and the impact your research could potentially have on the patient population.
- Discuss the project and identify the potential translational and/or clinical significance of the project from the patient perspective. How will successful completion of the project lay foundation for future translational and clinical research studies?
- Discuss how the project will affect fundamental concepts and adds to the existing body of cancer research in ways that are relevant and beneficial to patients, their families, and caregivers.
- Does the application include a plan to incorporate patient views/voices in the development and execution of the research project? Are there strategies for patient engagement and knowledge translation/mobilization following completion of the research project?

Please note that members of the MOHCCN Patient Working Group will be involved in the review process and will provide feedback regarding applications during the review process. This section should be written for a non-scientific audience. The working group has recently

developed a guideline to support researchers in developing meaningful, respectful, and effective partnerships with persons with lived and living experience (PWLLE) during their research.

**Declaration regarding the use of AI Tools in this Application**

State whether any AI tools were used in creating portions of this application. If so, list what parts were created and what tools were used to do so. Within the application body, text sections created using AI tools should be formatted in a font distinct from those written manually.

**Use of AI Tools in Grant Writing** (TFRI AI Policy on use of AI Tools in Grant Applications and Reviews)

- A declaration regarding the use of AI assistance is included in all application templates and will be visible to reviewers.
- Any use of AI must be disclosed (type and version of the tool) and the purpose indicated (generation of abstract, etc). The applicant takes full responsibility for errors introduced by the tool. For example, a known problem is in the synthesis of references that are not real. A reviewer may penalize an applicant should such errors persist in the submitted application. Given that all reviewers share their reviews with other reviewers on the panel, this is quite likely to yield an unfundable score.
- Any text directly generated with AI tools should be indicated (for instance using italics or a different font). TFRI reserves the right to use AI detection tools when previewing an application if it suspects inappropriate or undisclosed AI use. However, current tools are known to be problematic and so will not be the only arbiter of AI use assessment. TFRI discourages copy/pasting of AI generated text.
- TFRI recognizes that most applications have input from multiple people. All contributors should be made aware of this policy.
- Should a reviewer indicate that their enthusiasm for a particular application was significantly reduced by the suspected (i.e. not disclosed by the applicant) use of AI, they will be asked to provide specific evidence in their review. Reviewers are instructed not to rely on AI tools for their assessments.
- The declaration regarding the use of AI tools does not count towards page limits in any document.

## 4. Budget Request

Under the “Budget Request” heading select the “Open” button to the left of your Application ID. This will open the Budget Report window. To add line items to your budget you must select the Add/Edit Budget button. This will open the budget creation window.

Use the "+" icons to add line items to your requested budget. For each new line item, enter the description and the annual requested budget for funds from MOHCCN (Health Canada funds) and matching funds.

Once you have entered all this information, click the "Save" button at the bottom of the page. Note that once you have saved the page, you must close the window using the "X" in the top right corner. You will be returned to the Budget Report window which will now include your new budget data. Do not close this window until you have selected "Save for Submission" at the bottom of the report. Doing this will attach your new budget to the application document.

Once you have saved the Budget Report you may close this window using the "X" at the top right corner. Check to see that the "Budget Request" table has been correctly updated. If so, your budget has been created and can be updated using the same steps.

Budget Considerations:

- The total award request (MOHCCN funds) cannot exceed $87,500 per year. Budget must reflect expenditures for the award amount and the match amount (1:1 match; maximum budget is $175,00 per year).
- Each line item should provide the total cost per year of that item, and full narrative is expected to justify that budget request in the Budget Narrative below.
- Please note that all work (including all expenses) under this award must be conducted in Canada.

Eligible Costs include:

- Salaries & Wages – Only research staff and trainees (graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, research assistants, technicians, and professional assistants) working directly under the Applicant's supervision are eligible to receive salary support from the grant. Administrative staff are not eligible, nor are annual increments.
- Consumables – Only laboratory consumables, animals, core research facility charges, information technology costs, equipment (under $5,000), courier and research travel directly related to the Proposal should be included here.
- Equipment over $5,000 is not eligible. However, equipment that is integral to the Applicant's research proposal can be included in the first year (only) of the matching funding.
- Purchased Services
- Travel and Conferences (in Canada only)
- Other (including publications)
- Honorarium, e.g. for patient partners

Applicants should refer to the MOHCCN Eligible Expenditures Guideline for a list of other ineligible costs. Please also note the updated Buy Canadian Guidance included for all MOHCCN-funded projects.

**Budget Narrative and Justification, Equipment Quotes or Other Budget Documents**: Use the "Browse Files" function to upload any necessary equipment quotes or other budget documents.

The Budget Narrative section has a 900-word limit. All budget line items need to be justified in the budget narrative.

- Salaries & Wages – List all members of the proposed research team, indicating whether current or to be recruited. Outline duties, including the percentage of effort required, experience necessary or required and proposed salary or stipend. Also list individuals who will be part of the research team but who will NOT be paid from the grant. Indicate how they will be compensated (fellowship, studentship, other grants, etc.). Assess the impact of these individuals on the research proposal.
- Consumables – If a line item covers a range of reagents or services, provide a breakdown of how line-item costs are estimated.

**5. Data Access**

Please indicate whether your project will require access to the MOHCCN Gold Cohort Data. Data Access requests will need to go through the Data Access Committee. Please note, applicants should not submit requests for access to MOHCCN data during the application process. This step should take place after the awards are announced. For details about the data access request process, please visit our website: Request access to data

**6. Response to Reviewers (resubmissions only)**

Candidates who have previously submitted a Full Application to this competition and received reviewer comments are required to submit a response to reviewer comments (600 words maximum).

**7. Letters of Mentorship, Institutional Support & Collaborators**

Complete the Table summarizing letters of agreement to sponsor and collaborate. Institutional support letters should include evidence of matching funds. Matching fund eligibility requires they not be federally derived.

Letters are required from all essential collaborators of the Applicant's Proposal providing details of the collaboration and the commitments made by the collaborator. This may include patient partners.

It is the responsibility of the Applicant to get these letters in time to be submitted with the Full Application. Letters should:

a. Confirm the nature and extent of Institutional support for the Applicant. Such a letter may include the commencement date of an Applicant's appointment with a Host Institution if it occurs after submission of the Full Application. Candidates in their final year of studies can apply with a university/hospital commitment to be hired (with the required matching support) by the start of the award.
b. Provide details of the Host Institution's research support provided to the Applicant. Identify the actual time or percentage of the total hours per week the Applicant will be supported to perform research (It is expected that a majority of the Applicant's time will be devoted to research).
c. Provide support from the sponsoring program of that program's plans to integrate and mentor the Applicant's research with that of the Program. Two letters are required, one from each of two different members of the sponsoring program (MOHCCN Consortia) – with a preference for one of the letters to come from a member who is not at the same Institution as the Applicant.
d. Confirm agreement to collaborate with the Applicant on specifics of the Applicant's program; e.g., access to biomaterials, access to technology and expertise, etc.

Please note:

- Letters confirming institutional support (e.g. from the department head) are expected to outline institutional commitments related to funds and resources only. These letters are not required to comment professionally on the candidate.
- Letters from mentors should clearly identify the mentor's commitment to the project and to the candidate's professional success.

## 8. Appendices

- Manuscript(s): Applicants may submit up to three (3) manuscripts or publications that are directly relevant to the proposal.

- Statement of Inclusion of Sex and Gender in Research Design: Include a statement that sex- and gender-based analysis (SGBA) has been included in your research proposal. Please refer to CIHR Sex and Gender in Health Research for more resources. You may also include a description of how minority populations—including hard-to-reach populations, if applicable—are being integrated.

- Certificates: Please confirm via the checkbox that you have, or will have by the start of research activities, obtained all institutionally relevant certificates for your work. The list

of certificates may include Environmental, Biohazard/Biosafety, Radiation Safety, Animal Care, Human Ethics, Human pluripotent stem cell research and regulatory approvals from Health Canada. Certificates dated to expire before the start date of the research are not acceptable. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to obtain these certificates and provide copies to the Host Institution. The Host Institution is required to ensure that you have all current certificates for the relevant section of the proposal before providing funding to your project.

- Clinical Protocols, Surveys, Consents, etc.: May be submitted for proposals.

- CV: If you wish to upload an updated version of the CV that was submitted with your registration of intent, please do so here. Otherwise please upload the version used with your ROI submission.

**9. Letters of Cash Match Commitment**

Applicants should refer to the MOHCCN Eligible Expenditures Guideline for a list of other ineligible costs. Please also note the updated Buy Canadian Guidance included for all MOHCCN-funded projects. The sponsoring, eligible Canadian host institution is required to ensure eligible cash match funding is available to this MOHCCN Clinician-Scientist Award with a similar or greater amount that will be used to augment the project's research expenses.

**10. Signatures**

Please select the "Download Signature Form" button. This will open a window which contains a version of your application ready for institutional review and signature, as well as your own signature. Save this file and use it to obtain all necessary signatures.

Once completed, select "Browse Files" to upload this document to TerryFoxTrack.

Awards are granted only with the consent and knowledge of the administrative head of the Institution where the research will be carried out. The signatures indicate that the Applicant and officials at the Host Institution have read and understood the obligations of funding received from TFRI.

**11. MOHCCN Underserved and Underrepresented Populations (optional section)**

To offer additional supports to applicants from underserved populations and those underrepresented in cancer and genomics research, applicants that identify as belonging to an underserved community are invited to complete this section. Additional supports may include mentorship opportunities and additional access to matching funds (i.e. one or more award(s) may be granted without the need for matching funds).

Completing this section is entirely optional. Please note that the details from this section will be shared with the administrative and review teams only. This information will not be shared more broadly without your explicit consent. For more information, please refer to the MOHCCN Underserved and Underrepresented Population Guideline , developed by the Canadian Spectrum Working Group.

**COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING THE FULL APPLICATION**

You may save your work at any time during entry using the "Save Draft" tab at the bottom of the screen. Note that your work is NOT saved automatically – if you close the browser window without saving, your work will be lost!

Once you are satisfied with your application and ready to submit it, please select the "Validate" button at the bottom of the screen. Make note of any errors and continue editing until your Full Application receives a pass from the validation routine.

When you are ready to submit your Full Application to TFRI select the "Submit" button at the bottom of the page. The system will ask for confirmation before proceeding. You will receive an automated email confirmation of your successful submission from TerryFoxTrack shortly afterward. If you do not receive this email within one working day, please email the contact at the end of this Guide.

You may also choose to fully withdraw your application at any time by selecting the "Withdraw" button at the bottom of the page. This will remove your application from consideration in this competition and end your participation in this award cycle.

For inquiries, please contact:

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