



Clinician-Scientist Emerging Leader (CSEL) Award Terms of Reference 2019

GENERAL DESCRIPTION and TERMS OF REFERENCE



Clinician-scientists are essential for the translation of fundamental and pre-clinical research into clinical trials, new treatments, and ultimately into improved patient outcomes. Their unique expertise and direct experience with patients is needed to inform the iterative process of translating research discoveries into new treatments that meet the needs of patients and their caregivers.

The Foundation Fighting Blindness Canada (FFB) Clinician-Scientist Emerging Leader (CSEL) Award aims to strengthen the community of clinician-scientists with ophthalmological expertise, who are ready to collaborate with key stakeholders and researchers across the vision research community. Clinician-scientists in training face pivotal challenges because they must balance new clinical responsibilities with their developing research interests.

The CSEL award supports clinician-scientists in training who have demonstrated a keen interest in forging a research career that will complement their clinical practice. The CSEL provides up to four years of research funding during training, and as an early career clinician-scientist. This support should help to facilitate the transition from the clinical training period into an independent career.

FUNDS AVAILABLE and AWARD DURATION

The nature and scope of the proposed research will vary between applicants; the amount and duration of each award will also vary. Applicants may apply for a total of \$30,000/year for up to four years, divided into two phases: phase 1 – up to two years of funding during training, and phase 2: up to two years of funding in an independent research position.

	<p>In 2018, the FFB was proud to announce a new partnership with Bayer that will allow us to support more emerging leaders, who will fuel our fight against blindness! Thank you, Bayer!</p>
	<p>Thank you to the Bank of Montreal (BMO) Financial Group for their inaugural and ongoing support, which allowed the FFB to launch the CSEL Award in 2016.</p>



Research Development Support: The CSEL will provide up to \$30,000 in direct costs per year for the following expenses: a) research expenses such as supplies, equipment, and technical personnel; b) travel to research meetings or training; c) statistical services including personnel and computer time. All expenses must be directly related to the proposed research career development.

Institutional support: The CSEL does not require cost sharing, but it requires collaborating institutions to devote resources to support the applicant's success. An indication of institutional support from the applicant is essential for the success of the project. Examples of institutional support include: donated equipment and space, institutional funded staff time and effort, or other resource investments. Applicant's institutions should indicate institutional support by outlining the specific contributions to the project and providing assurances that their organization and any collaborators are committed to providing these resources to the project. This information can be included at the end of the budget justification section of the application, but institutional support dollars are not to be shown/included in the detailed budget request.

ELIGIBILITY

- Preferred candidates for this award will have a clinical doctoral degree. The strongest candidates will be currently enrolled in an ophthalmology residency program at a Canadian institution.
- The project must focus on retinal disease
- Candidates are ineligible for a CSEL if they have a tenure-track faculty appointment.
- Candidates are ineligible if it has been more than 8 years since the date of being awarded their doctoral (or equivalent) degree.
- The CSEL is intended for candidates who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada, but qualified candidates will be considered without respect to age, sex, race, religion, ethnic group or nationality.

APPLICATION AND REVIEW SCHEDULE

Please note that there is no Letter of Intent required for this competition. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Mary Sunderland directly msunderland@ffb.ca to confirm their proposal's eligibility.

Dates	Activity
April 22, 2019	Call for Applications Opens
July 15, 2019	Deadline to submit Full Proposal through the ffb.ca portal
September 26, 2019	Results of competition announced



INSTRUCTIONS and CHECKLIST: Clinician-Scientist Emerging Leader Award

DEADLINE: Applications must be received by July 15, 2019

Submit the full application as a **single PDF document** in the following order:

- Section 1: Completed Award Form** (electronic signatures accepted) – form included in call for application package
- Sections 2: Candidate Information and Career Development Plan** (1-2 pages) – Please include a clear description of the following: 1) candidate's commitment to develop a career as a clinician-scientist; 2) prior training and how it relates to the career plans of the candidate; 3) candidate's research efforts to this point in his/her career; 4) a career development plan (jointly created with candidate's mentor) that identifies key activities that the candidate will accomplish and/or professional development events that candidate will participate. This plan should assist the candidate to achieve his/her goal of developing both an independent research career and a clinical practice.
- Section 3: Research Plan** (4 pages plus references) Proposal should demonstrate the quality, novelty, creativity, and significance of the candidate's research. The application must include a paragraph that indicates the relationship between the mentor's research and the candidate's proposed research plan. Please submit a two-year research plan and a two-year budget. You will be asked to submit a second research plan for phase 2.
- Section 4: Milestones and Timeline** (1 page) – Please show how targeted research milestones map onto other activities and key responsibilities of the residency program. Where relevant, please also include key career development activities (e.g., conferences, workshops, etc.).
- Sections 5: Budget module** – form included in call for application package
- Section 6: Statement of institutional support**
- Section 7: CV for applicant and mentor**
- Two letters of reference.** These may be appended to the application or submitted directly to msunderland@ffb.ca



Section 1, Application Form: Clinician-Scientist Emerging Leader Award

Principal Applicant

Name			
Work phone	Alternate phone	E-mail	
Mailing Address			
Ophthalmology Residency Program	Institution	Start Date	End Date
Are you a Canadian Citizen?		If NO, are you a landed or permanent resident?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>



Proposed Research Project Title

Institution where funds will be administered

Abstract (suitable for the preparation of a press release)

Provide in 15 lines or less, a non-technical summary of your research, written in simple and clear language suitable for a lay audience. The summary should indicate how your research, ultimately, can improve the health of people with retinal degenerative disease.

List any degrees of training in progress

Degree/Training	Department and University	Start Date	End Date
Other Qualifications, certificates, licenses in progress			



Letters of References

Principal applicants must provide two letters of reference. These letters should be appended to the application or sent directly to msunderland@ffb.ca

Name of Reference/ Relationship to applicant	Current position held	Institution	Indicate if the letter is included with the application, or being sent directly

Signatures

The following signatures certify that the Principal Applicant is the lead author of the full CSEL application; and that the general conditions governing Grants and Awards as outlined in the Foundation Fighting Blindness Guidelines for the Allocation of Funding apply to any grant or award made pursuant to this application and are hereby accepted by the candidate and the candidate's institution.

Principal Applicant Signature	Date
Supervisor Signature	Date
Head of Dept at Training Location Signature	Date