



## CLINICIAN-SCIENTIST EMERGING LEADER (CSEL) AWARD 2021 COMPETITION GUIDE

### COMPETITION TIMELINES

| Activity                              | Date              |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Registration of interest deadline     | February 18, 2021 |
| Full application deadline             | April 1, 2021     |
| Funding results announced (tentative) | June 2021         |
| Funding start date (tentative)        | July 2021         |

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Clinician-scientists are essential for the translation of fundamental and pre-clinical research into clinical trials, new treatments and improved patient outcomes. Fighting Blindness Canada's (FBC's) Clinician-Scientist Emerging Leader (CSEL) Award aims to strengthen the community of clinician-scientists in Canada, who are ready to collaborate with key stakeholders and researchers across the vision research community.

The CSEL Award provides up to two years of research funding to clinician-scientists in training who have demonstrated a keen interest in forging a research career that will complement their clinical practice. This competition is open to applications on any aspect of vision research with the potential to significantly impact the lives of Canadians with a blinding eye disease.

**Thank you to the Bank of Montreal (BMO) Financial Group and Bayer Inc. for their generous support that has made this CSEL award possible.**



## 1) ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER CRITERIA

### i. Eligibility Criteria

- Preferred candidates will have completed or be in their final year of their clinical doctoral degree (OD, MD etc.). The strongest candidates will be currently accepted into or enrolled in an ophthalmology residency or fellowship program at a Canadian institution.
- Candidates must identify one or more mentors or supervisors who will provide guidance and practical support over the duration of the award. Mentors should be active clinical-scientists with faculty appointments. The research proposal should be developed in collaboration with the mentor.
- Candidates are ineligible for a CSEL award if they have a tenure-track faculty appointment.
- Candidates who only hold a PhD (i.e. a non-clinical doctoral degree) are not eligible to apply.
- Candidates are ineligible if it has been more than 8 years since the date of being awarded their clinical doctoral degree. Justified career interruptions will not be included when calculating the eligibility window. Justified career interruptions (career breaks and part-time working) including, but not limited to, parental leave, extended sick leave, medical leave and family care will be considered, but must be described in the application.
- Candidates must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.
- FBC is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusivity in its research programs. We encourage eligible applicants of diverse backgrounds to apply for our funding opportunities.

### ii. Institutional Support

The CSEL requires collaborating institutions to devote resources to support the applicant's success. Examples of institutional support include, but are not limited to, donated equipment and space, institutional funded staff time and effort, or other resource investments.

An indication of institutional support is essential for the success of the application and should be included in the Institutional Support section (Section 6) of the application. In addition, if relevant, specific institutional contributions can be included at the end of the Budget section (Section 5) of the application but should not be included in the detailed budget request.

## 2) FUNDS AVAILABLE

It is anticipated that one grant will be awarded in this competition. The funding envelope will support a budget of up to \$60,000 over two years (maximum of \$30,000 per year).

Funding can be used to support the direct costs of research, including supplies, salaries (e.g. trainees and research support staff) and equipment associated with the proposed work. Equipment costs should not exceed



10% of budget. Up to 10% of total budget per year can be used for professional development including travel to meetings or training. Indirect costs are not eligible.

### 3) APPLICATION PROCESS

There are two steps to the application. Applicants must first register their interest by **February 18, 2021** with the full application due **April 1, 2021**. See below for more details.

**Note:** Only applicants that have registered interest by the deadline will be eligible to submit a full application.

Please contact Larissa Moniz, Director, Research and Mission Programs ([research@fightingblindness.ca](mailto:research@fightingblindness.ca)) if you have any questions about your eligibility or require help with the registration or application.

#### REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

**DEADLINE: February 18, 2021**

Please submit the completed *Registration of Interest* form to [research@fightingblindness.ca](mailto:research@fightingblindness.ca) by February 18, 2021.

#### FULL APPLICATION CHECKLIST

**DEADLINE: April 1, 2021**

Please complete and submit the full application as a **single PDF document** in the following order to [research@fightingblindness.ca](mailto:research@fightingblindness.ca). Section 1 (*Applicant Information Form*) is included as part of the *CSEL Award 2021 Application*. Sections 2-7 are freeform with page limits specified below. References can be appended as part of the single PDF document or submitted separately.

- Section 1: Applicant Information Form.** Included in *CSEL 2021 Application* document. Electronic signatures accepted.
- Section 2: Career development plan** (maximum 1000 words). Please include a clear description of the following:
  - Candidate's previous training and experience demonstrating a commitment to develop a career as a clinician-scientist.
  - A career development plan that identifies key activities that the candidate will accomplish and/or professional development events that candidate will participate in to achieve their goal of developing both an independent research career and a clinical practice in Canada.



- Section 3: Research plan** (maximum 2000 words, not exceeding 5 pages and not including references). Proposal should include:
  - Rationale and aims of the project
  - Experimental design, methods and analysis
  - Previous work done in this area if relevant

The research plan will be assessed on the scientific merit of the proposed research and its potential to impact clinical care and patient outcomes. The application must include a paragraph that indicates the relationship between the mentor's research or expertise and the candidate's proposed research plan.

- Section 4: Timeline** (maximum 500 words, not exceeding 1 page). Outline project timelines including description of how research milestones map onto clinical activities. Where relevant, please also include career development activities (e.g. conferences, workshops).
- Section 5: Detailed budget**
- Section 6: Statement of institutional support** (maximum 500 words). This may include description of the research environment, infrastructure, resources, mentoring and administrative support and confirmation of protected research time.
- Section 7: CVs for applicant and mentor(s)**
- Two letters of reference.** These may be appended to the application or submitted directly to [research@fightingblindness.ca](mailto:research@fightingblindness.ca)