



## 2022 CLINICIAN-SCIENTIST EMERGING LEADER (CSEL) AWARD COMPETITION GUIDE

### COMPETITION TIMELINES

Activity	Date
Registration of interest deadline	Thursday, February 17, 2022, 5pm EST
Full application deadline	Thursday, March 24, 2022. 5pm EST
Funding results announced (tentative)	June 2022
Funding start date (tentative)	July 1, 2022

### 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 \$60,000 (up to \$30,000 a year for two years) 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 Canadians living with a blinding eye disease.

Please contact Larissa Moniz, Director, Research and Mission Programs ([research@fightingblindness.ca](mailto:research@fightingblindness.ca)) if you have any questions about this competition.

**The CSEL awards have been made possible through the generous support of Andrew and Valerie Pringle and Bayer.**



## 1) ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER CRITERIA

### i. Eligibility Criteria

- Candidates must hold or be enrolled in a clinical doctoral degree (MD, OD etc.).
- Preferred candidates will have completed or be in the final year of their clinical doctoral degree. The strongest candidates will be currently accepted into or enrolled in an ophthalmology residency or fellowship program at a Canadian institution.
- Candidates must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.
- Candidates are ineligible if:
  - They are currently holding or have previously held a CSEL award.
  - At the time of the award (July 1, 2022) it has been more than 8 years\* since the date of being awarded their clinical doctoral degree.
  - At the time of the award (July 1, 2022) they have held an independent academic research position for more than 2 years\*.
- Candidates must identify one or more mentors or supervisors who will provide guidance and practical support during the award. Mentors should be active clinician-scientists with faculty appointments. The research proposal should be developed in collaboration with the mentor.
- 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.

\* Justified career interruptions (career breaks and part-time working) are not included when calculating eligibility windows. These interruptions, including but not limited to parental leave, medical leave and family care will be considered and must be described in the Registration of Interest and Application forms.

### 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 up to two awards 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) per award.

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 register their interest by **February 17, 2022, 5pm EST** with the full application due **March 24, 2022, 5pm EST**. The *Registration of Interest* form, the *Application* form and submission link are found on the FBC website ([fightingblindness.ca/research/for-researchers](https://fightingblindness.ca/research/for-researchers)).

**Note:** Only applicants that have registered interest by the deadline (February 17, 2022) 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: Thursday, February 17, 2022. 5pm EST**

Please complete and submit the *Registration of Interest* form through [this link](#).

### FULL APPLICATION

**DEADLINE: Thursday, March 24, 2022. 5pm EST**

Please complete and submit the full application as a **single PDF document** in the following order through [this link](#). A template for section 1 (Applicant Information) is included as part of the *Application* form. Sections 2-7 are freeform with page and/or word limits specified below. Letters of references can be appended as part of the single PDF document or submitted separately.

- Section 1: Applicant Information.** Template included in the *Application* form. 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)** (maximum 5 pages each). We recommend using the [NIH Biosketch](#) format, but this is not mandatory.
  
- Two letters of reference.** These may be appended to the application as part of the single PDF or submitted directly to [research@fightingblindness.ca](mailto:research@fightingblindness.ca)