

Unfolding Transthyretin Amyloidosis: **Akcea Canada Young Investigator Grants Program**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Description

Unfolding Transthyretin Amyloidosis: The Akcea Canada Young Investigator Grants Program was developed by two Canadian not-for-profit organizations – Hereditary Amyloidosis Canada (HAC) and Regroupement québécois des maladies orphelines (RQMO). The program was designed to provide financial support for trainees and early career (within the first 5 years) investigators who are studying transthyretin amyloidosis.

Transthyretin amyloidosis is a rare, progressive genetic disease that occurs when there is a build-up of abnormal (misfolded) transthyretin proteins in the body's tissues and/or organs. Most commonly it affects the peripheral nerves, heart, intestinal tract, eyes, kidneys, central nervous system, thyroid and bone marrow. The progressive accumulation of amyloid deposits in these tissues and organs leads to sensory, motor and autonomic dysfunction often having debilitating effects on multiple aspects of a patient's life.

The Akcea Canada Young Investigator Grants Program has been made possible thanks to Akcea Therapeutics Canada's generous three-year financial commitment.

An independent Scientific Advisory Committee of experts from the medical and scientific community has been formed to guide the program development and conduct the peer review. Along with representatives from HAC and RQMO, the committee includes:

- Dr. Vera Brill (Neurologist, Toronto, ON)
- Dr. Kristine Chapman (Vancouver, BC)
- Dr. Diego Delgado (Cardiologist, Toronto, ON)
- Dr. Nowell Fine (Cardiologist, Calgary, AB)
- Dr. Angela Genge (Neurologist, Montreal, QC)
- Dr. Francois Tournoux (Cardiologist, Montreal, QC)

Program Objectives

The Akcea Canada Young Investigator Grants Program was established to:

- Build capacity and foster further research in the field of transthyretin amyloidosis in Canada
- Support the professional development of trainees and early career investigators who are pursuing work relevant to this rare disease
- Gain knowledge and conduct knowledge translation with the aim of improving patient experiences and their overall quality of life

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Eligibility

Applicants must be either a trainee or early career (within the first 5 years) clinician/scientist at a Canadian academic or research institution.

The research project must be relevant to transthyretin amyloidosis. This may include projects related to diagnosis, testing, assessment of clinical interventions, access to treatment, health services and delivery in Canada (or a specific region within the country), natural history, population health, advancement of best practices, etc.

Proposals must include a knowledge translation component.

This grant will support novel research in the field not funded by any other source. Proposals that are part of a larger research project must clearly identify the portion of the project that would be funded in its entirety by this grant.

The requested funds must be directed towards the research as described in this application. Allowable expenses include salaries for staff directly engaged with the research, equipment and supplies, travel, patient honorarium, and other items necessary to carry out the research program. Budget requests must not exceed \$50,000.

The grant cannot be used for tuition, overhead or indirect costs.

The research must be completed within 12 months of receipt of the grant funding. A final progress report will be required within 18 months.

Proposals involving human or animal subjects need to obtain ethics approval. A copy of the approval by the appropriate Institutional Review Board must be included with the application.

Ineligibility

Applications involving the following are ineligible for funding:

- Individuals employed at private or corporate entities
- Clinical trials and R&D for therapeutics

Evaluation Criteria

All applications will be pre-screened for eligibility. Applications that are incomplete, late, or do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered for review. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by at least two members of the peer review committee using the following criteria:

1. Relevance and significance to transthyretin amyloidosis research.
2. Feasibility of the proposed project to be performed within the timeline and budget.

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Application Requirements

To apply for this grant program, send the following information in a single PDF file to research@madhatr.ca. Please use Arial, 12-point type and 1-inch margins. Acknowledgement of receipt of application will sent via email within 72 hours.

Application deadline: Friday May 29, 2020 at 5:00 PM, EST

Personal Information	Name of applicant Name and address of institution Position/job and name of department/lab/clinic Applicant work phone and email address Name of research advisor or program director
Summary of Project Maximum 300 words	State the title of the research project and provide a summary of the work planned, including a brief background, specific aims, and research question to be addressed.
Research design and methods Maximum 300 words	Outline the research design and procedures to accomplish the specific aims. Identify any procedures, situations or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and the precautions to be implemented. List any courses planned that support the research training experience.
Significance and Knowledge Translation Maximum 300 words	Describe how the results of this research will contribute to the understanding of the condition, and/or the improved quality of life or health outcomes of patients affected by transthyretin amyloidosis. Include a description your plans for knowledge translation.
Budget Maximum 1 page	Provide a detailed budget plan with explanation of each category and how it will be used in this project. Budgets may range from \$25,000 to \$50,000, and should be appropriate for the size and scope of the project. Refer to the Eligibility section for types of expenses that are allowable.
Letters of Support	Provide one letter of support from your research advisor/program director. You have the option of including a second letter from a colleague, mentor or professional of your choice. Maximum 1 page each.
CV Maximum 3 pages	Include a copy of your curriculum vitae.

Anticipated date of notification of funding is July 3, 2020.

For additional Information, please contact Marla Spiegel, Program Director at research@madhatr.ca or call 905-580-2802