

Beyond Tri-Council:
**Broadening Your
Funding Scope**

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Why seek alternate funding sources?

- Competitive funding environment
- Diverse sources feed a more sustainable research funding pipeline
- Proactive application and networking strategies position you for further funding

How does the grant process differ?

- The process is similar regardless of funder
- All funders look for the same qualities:
 - Excellence
 - Track record
 - Innovation
 - Impact
- Grant structure, forms, approvals may differ; the Research Office can help

Alternate funding options

- National and international foundations
- International scientific funding bodies
- Industry partners

Foundation funding

- Foundations for scientific research or specific diseases often provide operating and seed grants
- Many international foundations will fund Canadian PIs: check with the Research Office
- Get around funding “cliques”:
 - Review previously funded grants and topics
 - Attend conferences and collaborate with funded researchers

Targeting disease-specific foundations

- Keep in mind how your research is relevant to specific diseases or conditions
- Develop a track record in relevant areas by publishing, developing relationships
- In your grant, emphasize relevance, impact

Making a reasonable claim

- How do you state disease relevance without overselling your impact?
- Clearly contextualize your research:
 - What specific problem will you tackle?
 - What next steps will your research enable?
- Consider collaborating with a translational or clinical partner

International funding bodies

- Major international funding bodies often require collaborations with PIs in other countries:
 - National Institutes of Health (NIH)
 - European Research Council
 - Human Frontiers of Science
- Position yourself by attending international conferences, developing collaborations
- Collaborations can involve shared discussion, expertise, reagents and samples

National Institutes of Health

- Limited options for direct funding to researchers in Canada
- Option 1: Act as co-PI with a US-based PI
- Option 2: Participate as PI in Program Grants involving multiple R01 grants
- Ensure extra time to navigate forms

European / HFSP Grants

European Research Council / European Commission

- Apply as co-PI with EU partners
- Most research must take place in the EU

Human Frontier of Science

- Requires collaboration between
North American, European, Asian partners

Summary: Steps to success

- Determine the relevance of your research
- Hone your impact statements
- Apply often to diverse sources
- Reuse/repurpose materials when possible
- Actively develop international networks

