



PSI Mid-Career Clinical Research Award Guidelines

This document serves as the funding guidelines for the PSI Mid-Career Clinical Research Award.

Purpose of the Award:

The primary aim of this Award is to provide salary support for an outstanding mid-career clinician-researcher whose interests align with PSI's funding priorities.

The PSI-50 Mid-Career Clinical Research Award acknowledges that mid-career can be a challenging time for scientists. During this phase, there are often additional academic roles and responsibilities including committee work, leadership positions, and mentoring of junior investigators, while clinical work continues. Some funding agencies including the NIH acknowledge that few directed mid-career awards and grants exist to support this phase of an investigator's trajectory.

Eligibility of Candidate:

The candidate for the Award must be:

- Between five (5) and fifteen (15) years of their first academic appointment from one of the six medical universities in Ontario (with stop-the-clock provision for parental or other leave)
- A practising physician having direct patient care responsibilities and an academic appointment, thus eligible to apply for her/his own research grants as an independent investigator.
- Dedicate at least 50% of a full-time schedule to the Award

Ineligible Candidates:

- Individuals who do not hold a M.D. licensed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario
- Individuals based outside of Ontario

Amount and Duration of Funding:

Total Support

This program offers two options for a funding timeline for salary support:

A maximum of \$100,000 per year for three consecutive years;

OR

A maximum of \$75,000 per year for four consecutive years.

Matching Funding

PSI has obtained previous agreement from your institution to match funding.

50% matching from the sponsoring institution is required. (e.g. medical school support equivalent to \$50,000 for 3 consecutive years, or \$37,500 for 4 consecutive years)

Please note:

- The award is intended to protect at least 50% of the awardee's time to undertake research, regardless of whether the award is taken over three or four years.
- Even though this program is primarily intended to offer salary support to protect research time the award may allocate up to 25% of the total award to undertake a research project.
- The PSI Mid-Career Clinical Research Awardee is able to apply to PSI's Health Research program for an operating grant.

Sponsoring Institution:

Sponsoring institutions must meet all PSI's [eligibility criteria](#).

PSI Foundation will accept a maximum of three (3) candidates from each of Ontario's six medical universities. Please note: all applications are submitted through the appropriate academic health science centre; applications sent directly to the Foundation from the applicant will not be accepted.

Application Contents:

1) Proposed Research Plan

Please provide a detailed research plan, including a protocol for planned research, a timeline of the award, how protected research time will be used, matching funds currently in place and how they will be used, and how such matching funds will be obtained if not currently held.

2) Current status detailing research in progress (including funding agencies).

3) Current status of teaching (including graduate student supervision).

4) Letter of Support from Sponsoring Institution

This letter should provide an evaluation and rationale for the nomination of the candidate, addressing the following points:

- Candidate's past performance.
- Potential research environment for the candidate, including a description of the department/program, current faculty and health research resources and facilities available.
- Department/program's need for the candidate in relation to current and future research plans and priorities.
- Assurance of protected research time, matching institutional funding, and that the award will be protected if the recipient has income from other sources. The intent of this award is to encourage the candidate by financial reward and/or protection of time to pursue research goals. Please note: the Foundation does not allow the award to become part of the total moneys previously paid to the recipient by the sponsoring institution.

5) Letters of reference (from preceptors and/or associates familiar with the candidate's work)

PSI requires three (3) letters of reference from individuals familiar with the candidate's contributions.

PSI purposely left such letters of support open ended to allow each candidate the opportunity to select the most appropriate people to supply these letter.

Such individuals may include, but not limited to, mentor/mentee, independent researcher, such as a Promotion Letter, colleague, department head, Chair, Dean.

6) Current curriculum vitae

7) Research Infrastructure & Team

Outline the existing infrastructure support in your environment, including your research team which may include fellows, students, or others.

8) Description of other funding in place.

9) Support requested from PSI

PSI will consider up to 25% of the award to support a research study. Use this section to include the study's protocol, if applicable.

10) Appendices

Please use this section to include material that will strengthen this application that is not included elsewhere.

Page Limits:

PSI has no specific guidelines on page limits. Please make every attempt to be as concise as possible.

How to Apply:

All applications must be submitted through the appropriate medical university, which will forward a maximum of three (3) candidates to the Foundation for consideration. Please contact your academic institution for further information on applying for this award.

To be eligible for consideration, applications must contain all requested information in full, including the required signatures on the paper copy.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Significance of planned research and how it supports the mission of the PSI Foundation. (Significance)
2. The applicant's prior accomplishments, also preferably in alignment with the PSI Foundation mission (Investigator)
3. Scientific merit of the research plan – overall strategy, methodology and analyses. (Approach)
4. Institutional support (in addition to matching funds, availability of supportive space/equipment/physical resources. (Environment)
5. A clear and feasible plan on how the PSI-50 award will sustain the applicant's research career and facilitate the careers of young investigators. (Appropriateness)

Funding Exclusions:

Listed below are the items and areas which will not be accepted for consideration by the Foundation:

- Research in the areas of cancer, heart and stroke, mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, pharmaceutical drug studies
- Projects outside the province of Ontario

Decision Process:

Applications submitted will be reviewed for completeness and eligibility. Once completeness and eligibility are confirmed, all candidates will be forwarded to the full Grants Committee for consideration.

The internal review committee will review the full applications prior to meeting, and each application will be assessed and a successful candidate may be selected. Please note: the Foundation may not award this Award. All applicants will be notified of the Committee's decision within 15 business days.

Award Recipient Requirements:

If successful, the following requirements are a condition of support:

1. The Awardee and/or the sponsoring institution are responsible for notifying the Foundation of any significant changes to the scholar's position.
2. The Awardee is to provide a start and end date for the funding support.
3. The Awardee is responsible for submitting an annual report for review by PSI's internal review committee. Subsequent funding depends upon a satisfactory report.
4. The Awardee is responsible for submitting a final report on the impact of the award within *three months* of the end date of the scholarship.
5. Where papers are published or presented, reprints or copies must be submitted to the Foundation. Please note: electronic copies by email are preferred to paper copies.
6. If a portion of the award is used to fund a study, a statement of disbursement of these funds must be submitted to the Foundation at the completion of the project.
7. When work is completed, or cannot be continued for any reason unused funds must be immediately returned to the Foundation.
8. The Awardee must notify the Foundation of any leave to be taken that will affect the award.
9. All publications and presentations arising from the award are to include acknowledgement of funding from "The Physicians' Services Incorporated Foundation". Furthermore, the Foundation's logo should be included whenever possible. [An electronic file of the logo is available for download from our website.](#)
10. All communication releases, social media, or news stories must be provided for use on PSI's website
11. All Awardees must agree to attend and potentially present their results of research at PSI events, which may include but not limited to its annual general meeting and Lunch & Learn Workshops.

Contact Us:

Please contact us at 416.226.6323 or by email at psif@psifoundation.org to discuss any questions you may have about submitting an application for funding.