

Blair Foundation Vascular Surgery Innovation Fund Terms of Reference

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II. Background

The Blair Foundation is enhancing its ongoing commitment to research and development within the Vascular Surgery community through a research grant program with The University of Toronto (UofT), for a three year term. This new commitment establishes the Blair Foundation Vascular Surgery Innovation Fund at the University of Toronto, which aims to support investigator sponsored research in vascular disease, with recipients subject to internal UofT peer review. The Blair Foundation will provide the funding for the Program. The University of Toronto will provide the receipt, processing, evaluation and decision-making infrastructure for the Program, and will administer the funds to the selected Grant recipient(s).

III. Key Dates

Competition Launch	August 2016
Application deadline	January 31 st , 2017
Notification Date	March 1 st , 2017
Funding Start Date	April 1 st , 2017
Study update submitted to the University of Toronto Division of Vascular Surgery	12 Months from Grant Receipt (April 1 st , 2018)

IV. Objectives and Scope

The objective of the Blair Foundation Vascular Surgery Innovation Fund is to support peer-reviewed research that addresses projects in the field of vascular surgery, with the ultimate goal of advancing long-term health outcomes and quality of life for Canadian patients with vascular disease.

The primary focus of the Program is to support research in the field of vascular surgery – in the Department of Surgery – across the UofT health sciences network.

Grant recipients are expected to demonstrate improved understanding of the specific research area and/or contribute to improving patient care. Grants will be awarded to the successful applicant(s).

V. Eligibility

The University of Toronto shall receive and process applications, and shall evaluate the submitted proposals. Proposals will be deemed eligible based on the following:

A. Eligible Applicants

The Applicant must:

- Have an academic appointment at the University of Toronto, in the Department of Surgery and the Division of Vascular Surgery.
- If successful, agree to have their application shared in confidence with the Blair Foundation for internal documentation and auditing purposes
- If successful, agree to provide progress reports to the University of Toronto Division of Vascular Surgery

B. Eligible Research Proposals

In the 2016/2017 academic year, priority will be given to projects involving investigators at more than one site.

C. Review Criteria

All proposals will be reviewed and assessed by March 1st, 2017.

Research proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **S i g n i f i c a n c e**
 - Scientific merit (validity, integrity, originality)
 - Contribution to advancement of scientific knowledge in the field of vascular surgery
 - Involvement of more than one site
 - Clinical relevance or potential clinical value and applicability
2. **F e a s i b i l i t y**
 - Feasibility of study design, methodology, analysis
 - Adequate power and sample size
 - Role of investigators and sites
 - Study Budget & Proposed timelines

VI. GuidelinesforApplicationSubmission

The research proposal should be novel and previously unpublished.

The University of Toronto must receive the completed application no later than January 31st, 2017. The magnitude of the project should match the size of the award; the award is not intended to supplement a major grant, however it is anticipated that this funding may be used to produce data to apply for large/national level grant funding.

Documentation received after the submission deadline will not be submitted for review. The applicant is responsible for ensuring completeness of the application and incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicants may submit their application electronically to vascular.admin@utoronto.ca

The following are necessary for preparation of the research proposal. The headings suggested include 1) Statement of Objective(s), 2) Recent relevant research by applicant, 3) Brief review of literature and background information, 4) Hypothesis(es), 5) Design and Methodology, 6) Analysis of Data, 7) Anticipated Timeline, 8) Impact, Future research plans and Knowledge Translation 9) Budget. Applications should be no longer than 5 pages (single spaced, 12 pt font). The applicant should also include a copy of his/her CV.

VII. Conditions of the Blair Foundation Vascular Surgery Innovation Fund

A. Research Ethics Board approval:

The successful applicant must provide evidence of appropriate Ethics Committee approval along with consent forms where human subjects are involved in the study, before the funding is released.

B. Financial Considerations

The amount of each Grant is intended to cover costs associated with the study, including direct costs (labour and study costs), study drug/device costs (if applicable e), and indirect costs (publications, congress presentations, and software license fees).

C. Research Grant Administration

1. Progress Reports

The Grant recipient must provide a progress report to the University of Toronto Division of Vascular Surgery within 12 months of receipt of the Grant summarizing work completed, including any publications, as well as an accounting for funds.

2. Publications

Grant recipients are expected to present their findings at the U of T Vascular Surgery Research Day, peer reviewed scientific meetings and to submit their work for publication in peer-reviewed journals. The University of Toronto shall require a copy of all proposed publications upon submission for publication or other public disclosure and shall provide said information to the Blair Foundation forthwith. All publications and presentations that result from a project supported by the Blair Foundation Vascular Surgery Innovation Fund should carry the following acknowledgement: “This research was supported by the Blair Foundation Vascular Surgery Innovation Fund jointly established with the University of Toronto”.

D. Grant Recipient Responsibilities

The following responsibilities must be assumed and carried out by the Grant recipient:

- Review and execution of UofT study grant agreement
- Research Ethics Board submission and approval (if applicable)
- Health Canada Clinical Trial Application (CTA) submission and approval (if applicable)
- Compliance with all applicable laws, regulations or guidelines (e.g. ICH- GCP, etc.)
- Study-related activities such as data management, statistical analysis, medical writing, monitoring, etc.
- Registration and posting of study results on <http://prsinfo.clinicaltrials.gov>
- Safety Reporting to Health Canada, the research ethics board (as per local requirements), and if a drug/device product is involved, the Product Safety/Pharmacovigilance group for the appropriate company.
- Communication of progress updates to the University of Toronto
- Forward copy of abstract(s)/manuscripts(s) to the University of Toronto upon submission to congress/journal

VIII. Notification of Decision for the Blair Foundation Vascular Surgery Innovation Fund

Grant recipients will be notified of the decision regarding funding around March 1st, 2017. Both successful and unsuccessful applicants will receive a notification and a constructive critique.

A. Address for Submissions

Please send completed submissions electronically, no later than January 31st, 2017

vascular.admin@utoronto.ca

Michelle Paiva
Division of Vascular Surgery
Department of Surgery, University of Toronto
149 College Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M5T 1P5

