



**BC**Proteomics**N**etwork

**BC Proteomics Network  
Small Projects Health Research Grants Announcement**

**Key Dates**

Release Date: October 21, 2015

LOI Deadline: **November 16, 2015**

Submission Deadline: **December 15, 2015**

Awards announced: March 2016

Funding start date: April 2016

## **Executive Summary**

This funding opportunity announcement describes a program that funds pilot projects that use proteomics as a tool for studies related to human health. It is expected that completed pilot projects will have obtained preliminary data which can be used to leverage additional funding from other sources.

1. Funds have been specifically set aside for the Small Projects Health Research Grants (SPHRG) program. The number of awards has not been predetermined.
2. For an SPHRG application, the Principal Applicant must have his/her primary employment with an academic institution in British Columbia as a member of the academic faculty at the time of award and for the duration of the project. Individuals employed at other institutions including companies may be co-applicants.
3. Applicant may submit more than one application, provided each application is scientifically distinct.
4. Applicants who do not normally engage in proteomics research are encouraged to collaborate with a proteomics researcher in order to strengthen their applications.
5. Individual grants are limited to \$20,000.
6. Project duration is one year.
7. Results of the competition will be posted on the BCPN website at [www.bcpn.ca](http://www.bcpn.ca)

## **Section I. Funding Opportunity Description**

### ***1. Objectives***

The purpose of this funding program is to encourage research groups in British Columbia to launch new pilot projects that use proteomics as a tool for biological research in human health. The intention of the SPHRG program is to fund pilot projects that will generate data to support full-scale grant applications. As a result, the proposal should focus on proof-of-concept or preliminary data that are required to support a specific full scale application. Clear endpoints for the experiments should be identified and a description should be provided of how the impact of the SPHRG research will be measured. Discussion should be included as to why the experiments will provide data of appropriate and sufficient scale for a full scale application. It is not the intention of this program to fund on-going research programs that currently have support.

### ***2. Funds Available***

Individual grants are limited to an upper level of \$20,000. The awarded amount will be subject to modification according to the justified needs of the proposal and to optimize the the number of awarded grants relative to the available budget. The number of awards has not been predetermined.

### ***3. Eligible Institutions***

Eligible institutions include academic and non-commercial biomedical research institutions located in British Columbia. Individuals from other institutions may serve as co-applicants on an SPHRG.

### ***4. Eligible Individuals***

Any individual with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research is invited to develop an application for support. The principal applicant must be primarily employed by an Eligible Institution as a member of the academic faculty. Applicants who do not normally engage in proteomics research are encouraged to collaborate with a proteomics researcher in order to strengthen their applications.

### ***5. Cost Sharing or Matching***

This program does not require cost sharing or matching, although it is encouraged that the principal applicant use the money awarded by an SPHRG to leverage funding from other sources.

### ***6. Other Special Eligibility Criteria***

The BCPN will accept as many different applications as the applicant chooses provided that they are scientifically distinct, however, only one SPHRG award at a time may be held by a researcher in the principal applicant role. A project that has been previously funded by an SPHRG award will not be funded for a second time unless it is significantly different from the previous project.

## **Section II. Letter of Intent (LOI)**

If you plan to submit an application for the SPHRG competition, please send an LOI to the BCPN by email ([awards@bcpn.ca](mailto:awards@bcpn.ca)) by **November 16, 2016**. The LOI should be in the form of a short email specifying the preliminary title of the proposal, the name of the principal investigator and any co-applicants.

## **Section III. Application and Submission Information**

### ***1. Application Form***

The SPHRG Application Form may be downloaded from the BCPN website, <http://www.bcpn.ca/research>. Fill out the SPHRG application form and attach the research proposal and applicant CVs.

### ***2. Proposal***

- The Introduction is limited to one page.
- The Research Plan may not exceed 3 pages, including tables, graphs, figures, diagrams, charts and references.
- The Plan for Obtaining Further Funding is limited to one page.
- Inclusion of preliminary data is optional and limited to one additional page.
- Letters of collaboration are optional but may be included.
- Principal applicant and other senior/key personnel should submit their CVs in CIHR format. (<http://ccv-cvc.ca>)
- All text should have 1 inch margins and 11 pt. Arial or 12 pt. Times New Roman font, single-spaced.

### ***3. Budget***

The budget has an upper limit of \$20,000. Please include a justification of all expenses. Examples of eligible expenses include consumables, cost of instrument time, and support of personnel. Grants may not be used for the purpose of funding capital or equipment, or repairs/maintenance. Indirect overhead costs to the host institution of the applicant are not eligible.

### ***4. Signatures***

Signatures are not required for this application. Applications do not need to be submitted through the applicant's institution, but may be sent directly to the BCPN. If awarded, the grantee will need to open a separate institutional account to receive the funds.

### ***5. Submission***

Applications may be submitted on or after October 21, 2015 and must be received by the BCPN no later than 5:00 pm local time on December 15, 2015. Applications should be submitted to the BCPN as email attachments sent to [awards@bcpn.ca](mailto:awards@bcpn.ca). Upon receipt, applications will be

evaluated for completeness and a confirmation of receipt will be sent by email. Recipients who do not receive a confirmation email should contact the BCPN to confirm that their application has been received.

## ***6. Anticipated Start Date and Duration***

Applications will be reviewed and awards announced in March 2016. The funding is expected to start in April 2016. The duration of the award is one year.

## **Section IV. Application Review Information**

### ***1. Criteria***

The goal of BCPN-supported research is to advance understanding of biological systems affecting human health through the application of proteomics techniques. Reviewers will be asked to discuss the following aspects of the application in order to judge the likelihood that the proposed research will have a substantial impact on the pursuit of these goals. The scientific review will address and consider each of these criteria in assigning the application's overall score, weighting them as appropriate for each application.

1. Significance
2. Approach
3. Innovation
4. Alignment and Justification

The application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact and thus deserve a high priority score.

1) Significance: Does the project propose research in a novel area? Does the proposed project have the potential to lead to fundable research? Are there potential benefits that may be derived from the proposed project (e.g. advancement of scientific knowledge, clinical practice, technology, analytical methods, etc.)?

2) Approach: Are the conceptual or clinical framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative strategies? Are the milestones and evaluation procedures appropriate? Does the investigative team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project (if applicable)? Does the scientific and technological environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success?

3) Innovation: Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or clinical practice? Does the project address an innovative hypothesis or critical barrier to progress in the field? Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies for this area?

4) Alignment and Justification: Does the proposal describe a proof-of-principle or pilot project that is essential for a full scale grant application? Is this pilot scale project suitably defined? Are clear end-points suitably defined? Is the proposed project required to demonstrate the

applicability of the technology for a full scale grant application? Is the proposed project required to demonstrate the capability of the investigator for a full scale grant application?

## ***2. Review and Selection Process***

Applications submitted for this funding opportunity will be assessed by a Review Committee appointed by the BCPN. Appropriate scientific review will evaluate applications for scientific and technical merit. As part of the review, all applications will undergo a selection process in which only those applications deemed to have the highest scientific merit, generally the top half of applications under review will be discussed in detail and assigned a priority score.

## **Section V. Award Administration Information**

### ***1. Award Notices***

After peer review is completed, the applicants will be contacted by email and will receive a summary of reviewers comments. Successful applicants will also be sent a formal acceptance letter.

### ***2. Reporting***

The award duration is one year. At this time, a final report and financial statement will need to be submitted to the BCPN. Details of the terms of the award will be outlined in the award letter received by successful applicants.