



## TARGETED RFA IN PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH Predictive Markers

### Part 1: Overview Information

<b>Participating Organization(s)</b>	Prostate Cancer Canada
<b>Funding Opportunity Title</b>	<b>Movember Translation Acceleration Grant to Validate Predictive Markers for Treatment Response and Outcome</b>
<b>Description</b>	<p>Prostate Cancer Canada (PCC) invites applications for investigator-initiated Movember Translation Acceleration Grants (TAG).</p> <p>With more treatments coming on line, there is a greater need to assess who will benefit most from each treatment. Projects funded by this TAG mechanism will validate existing putative markers or tests in patient samples, either retrospectively or within a clinical trial. Assays can be biospecimen or imaging markers or other appropriate tests including histology or bioinformatics.</p> <p>This request for applications (RFA) solicits proposals from groups developing and validating methods to specifically and accurately predict treatment response and/or patient outcome using an appropriate assay. The end goal is clinical validation of the approach and more accurate and personalized selection of treatments for patients with prostate cancer.</p> <p>It is expected that a multidisciplinary approach will be required and each Movember TAG application may consist of independent investigators based in multiple institutions. PCC also strongly encourages, wherever possible, that applications would access and use existing banked clinical specimens. <b>PCC will only consider projects that are completely focused on prostate cancer.</b></p>

## Important Dates

<b>Program Launch Date</b>	April 1, 2018
<b>Registration Deadline</b>	May 15, 2018
<b>Application Deadline</b>	July 9, 2018
<b>Peer Review</b>	July-September, 2018
<b>Anticipated Award Notification Date</b>	October 1, 2018
<b>Earliest Start Date</b>	October 1, 2018

## Required Application Instructions

This funding opportunity has a two-step application process. Step 1 requires registration to the competition by May 15, 2018. Step 2 requires the completion of a full application by July 9, 2018.

It is critical that all applicants follow the instructions outlined in the **Submission Information** section of this document (**Part 2: Section V**). Conformance to all requirements is strictly enforced. **Applications that do not comply with these instructions may not be accepted for review.**

## Part 2: Full Announcement

### Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

#### Background

While in the past few years the number and type of treatments for prostate cancer has expanded, we still do not have a good way of identifying patients who will benefit the most from these interventions. Accurately predicting response will reduce overtreatment and resulting toxicities in patients who do not respond or stop responding to a particular treatment, as well as allowing them to receive alternative and more appropriate therapies sooner. In addition, in the age of increasingly expensive therapies, a personalized approach may increase cost-effectiveness and accessibility of novel and life-saving treatments for patients. While discovery research has identified many candidate biomarkers there exists a gap in the development of tools that can accurately predict treatment response and patient outcome in a clinical setting.

#### Description

With this funding opportunity announcement, Prostate Cancer Canada (PCC) invites applications for investigator-initiated Movember Translational Acceleration Grants (TAG). This request for applications (RFA) solicits proposals from groups developing and validating methods that can help clinicians determine the most effective treatment for their patients. The end goal is the clinical validation of the approach to improve decision making in the management of prostate cancer.

Projects funded by this TAG mechanism will validate existing putative markers in patient samples either retrospectively or within a clinical trial. Assays can be biospecimen or image-based markers or other appropriate tests. They should aim to objectively evaluate the likelihood of benefit from a specific clinical intervention, or the differential outcomes from two or more interventions, including toxicity.

The focus of the proposed projects should be on optimizing, applying and validating emerging approaches. Projects funded through this mechanism cannot be focussed exclusively on the identification of new biomarkers; an emphasis must be placed on the validation of existing biomarkers or tests. Projects may include but are not limited to biomarker studies based on novel tissue, blood or urine markers, novel imaging markers or bioinformatics; further areas of interest include genomics, histology and combined or related studies and should include assessment of the clinical utility of the assay in comparison to standard methods. Progress towards the clinical validation of the approach should be attainable through the period of study, and in each case, a clear path to clinical application should be proposed.

**PCC will only consider a project that is completely focused on prostate cancer.**

It is expected that the project will be multidisciplinary, multi-institutional and multi-provincial.

PCC discourages applications that duplicate previously funded PCC or Movember programs, including the following:

- Movember [True NTH](#) survivorship programs
- [Prostate Cancer Canada TAG1](#): aggressive vs. indolent prostate cancer
- [Prostate Cancer Canada TAG2](#): novel therapeutics for aggressive disease
- [True NTH Survivorship Grants \(TAG3\)](#)
- [Prostate Cancer Canada TAG4](#): studying innovative approaches to manage prostate cancer
- Prostate Cancer Canada TAG5: studying innovative approaches to manage prostate cancer
- Prostate Cancer Canada TAG6: targeted radionuclide therapy
- [Movember GAP 1](#): biomarkers to differentiate between indolent and aggressive disease
- [Movember GAP 2](#): new tracers and techniques to detect prostate cancer earlier and with more accuracy
- [Movember GAP 3](#): active surveillance database
- [Movember GAP 4](#): exercise intervention to understand its role in cancer progression
- Movember GAP 6: oligometastatic prostate cancer

The intent of this program is not to support new discovery. Rather proposals should leverage existing knowledge and capabilities to accelerate impact without overlapping currently funded Prostate Cancer Canada and Movember initiatives. However proposals that leverage the funding provided through these programs and other PCC funding mechanisms are encouraged.

Note: PCC will allow an eligible proposal with a budget greater than that available from this competition. In such a case, PCC's funding will be contingent upon the acquisition of funds for the entire project.

## **Objectives**

The primary objective of this RFA is to support research into the application of existing knowledge with the potential to greatly impact prostate cancer management in the short term.

Additional objectives of the program are:

- to support a multidisciplinary group of prostate cancer researchers;
- to support high quality research;
- to support a program of significant impact, where the group research environment will

- maximize the chances of success;
- to train highly qualified individuals;
- to support the translation of research findings into improvements in the health of Canadians and the Canadian cancer care system.

This opportunity is awarded by Prostate Cancer Canada and proudly funded by the Movember Foundation.



## Section II. Award Information

<b>Funding Instrument</b>	Grant
<b>Application Types Allowed</b>	New
<b>Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards</b>	The amount available for this funding opportunity is just under \$4M over 3 years to fund up to 3 projects.
<b>Award Budget</b>	An applicant may request a project period of up to 3 years at a budget of up to \$1.5M total (direct costs).
<b>Award Project Period</b>	The maximum period is 3 years.

*\*The amount available for this program is subject to funds raised. Should funding levels decrease, PCC reserves the right to reduce, defer or suspend financial contributions to grants received as a result of this funding opportunity.*

## Section III. Eligibility Information

### Eligibility to Apply

The **Principal Investigator** is an independent investigator who will:

- be responsible for the direction of the proposed activities; and
- assume the administrative and financial oversight for the entire award;
- assume the financial responsibility for his/her own portion of the award at his/her own institution; and,
- receive all related correspondence from PCC.

An **independent investigator** is an individual who:

- has an academic or research appointment which:
  - must commence by the effective date of funding; and
  - allows the individual to pursue the proposed research project, to engage in independent research activities for the entire duration of the funding, to supervise trainees, and to publish the research results; and
  - obliges the individual to conform to institutional regulations concerning the conduct of research, the supervision of trainees, and the employment conditions of staff paid with PCC funding.
- will assume financial responsibility for his/her portion of the award at his/her own institution and will be responsible for reporting this information back to the Program Director as well as to PCC.

A **Co-Principal Investigator** or a **Co-Investigator** is an independent investigator at an eligible Canadian institution and is part of the team contributing to the grant.

### Number of Applications

Applicants may only submit one application. An investigator can be named as a PI or Co-PI on only one application in this competition.

## Section IV. Guidelines and Review Process

### General PCC Guidelines

PCC policies and guidelines, as outlined on the PCC website, will apply to the applications submitted and awards made in response to this RFA. PCC reserves the right to amend the review process at any time. Any changes that are made to the process will not adversely affect the rigor and equity of the process. Every effort will be made to inform applicants of changes in a timely manner.

### Evaluation

An expert review panel will be established to evaluate proposals submitted to this RFA. The review panel will make recommendations to PCC as to which proposals should be funded based on the following criteria:

1. Overall objective and extent of innovation of the program of research
2. Significance/relevance of the research
3. Feasibility of the clinical implementation of the project
4. Leadership capabilities and track record of the Principal Investigator
5. Capacity of the research team to carry out the program of research proposed
6. Institutional support for the program
7. How the proposal complements and builds upon existing projects in this area

### Allowable Costs

Note: PCC will allow an eligible proposal with a budget greater than that available from this competition. In such a case, PCC's funding will be contingent upon the acquisition of funds for the entire project.

The following expenditures will be considered eligible for funding received through this funding opportunity:

Research operating costs for the proposed research program, which must be distinct in its objectives from those for which group members currently receive funding:

- Salaries:
  - Salaries of research assistants, technicians, program coordinator and other personnel who will enhance the collaborative research productivity of the program team
  - Stipends paid to trainees (e.g., undergraduate, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows) shall be in accordance with institutional policies, up to a maximum of \$21,000 per annum for graduate students and \$50,000 per annum for postdoctoral fellows
- Purchase of small equipment and maintenance contracts for common services and shared infrastructure essential to the proposed research program (maximum 5% of budget)
- Research materials and supplies
- Services
- Costs of data collection, database and maintenance of information holdings directly related to the proposed research program
- Costs of regional, national and international networking activities, including collaboration, planning, and knowledge exchange activities, directly related to the proposed research program
- Knowledge translation activities
  - Travel to conferences when presenting results from the funded research grant/award (maximum of 1% of budget)
  - Publication costs relating to the funded research
  - Other knowledge dissemination activities
- Other expenses

### **Non-Allowable Costs**

The following expenditures are NOT eligible for funding received through this funding opportunity:

- Indirect costs associated with the conduct of research (including, but are not limited to, heating, lighting, ethics review, CTA application, and intellectual property and commercialization activities).
- Salary or honoraria for PIs and Co-Investigators
- Fringe benefits for students, postdoctoral fellows and clinical research fellows
- Conference travel (except where noted above)
- Entertainment and hospitality costs
- Membership fees, union dues

### **Conditions of Funding**

Successful applicants funded through this funding opportunity must fully comply with the following conditions:

- Acknowledgment of PCC and the Movember Foundation's support in all publications and presentations that result from the funded research. In addition, PCC staff must be notified prior to publication of a research paper (upon acceptance of a research paper).
- The PI will be required to submit to PCC annual written progress reports that include a list of all publications resulting in whole or in part from this grant, as well as lay summaries for each publication.
- Financial statements must be submitted to PCC annually no later than 45 days after the end of each grant year by the PI receiving funds from PCC.
- The PI will be required to submit to PCC a final written report with a final financial statement.

## Performance Indicators

Performance indicators will be developed in order to evaluate the success of the Targeted RFA Grants.

## Section V. Submission Information

Please read all instructions before applying.

- The application process for this funding opportunity is comprised of two steps: Step 1 - Registration and Step 2 - Full Application.
- To complete your registration, please follow the instructions found below.
- Please ensure that your registration is complete (includes all required sections) and is submitted online and on time to PCC.

### Phase 1 – Registration Requirements

Your registration must be submitted online by **5:00 PM (ET) on May 15, 2018**. The online application is available at: <https://pccgrants.smartsimple.ca>

### Registration Submission

#### 1. Participant info:

- **Principal Investigator (PI)**
- **Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PI)**
- **Co-Investigators (Co-I)**

*(Note: Collaborators may be identified at the full application stage).*

NOTE: Each investigator is linked to the application using a PIN obtained from registering at the link above.

The Principal Investigator will provide the single point of contact between PCC and the research team.

Each named participant in these categories must qualify as an **independent investigator**:

- An individual who has an academic or research appointment which:
  - Must commence by the effective day of funding; and
  - Allows the individual to pursue the proposed research project, to engage in independent research activities for the entire duration of the funding, to supervise trainees, and to publish the research results; and
  - Obliges the individual to conform to institutional regulations concerning the conduct of research, the supervision of trainees and the employment conditions for staff paid with PCC funding
- Will assume financial responsibility for his/her portion of the award at his/her own institution and will be responsible for reporting this information back to PCC.

*Attachment:* (to be attached to the **Full Application**): Abbreviated **CVs** for PI, each Co-PI and Co-I: Include the following information:

- Training and education
- Degrees
- Positions and honours
- Relevant publications (past 5 years)
- Research Support, ongoing and completed (past 5 years)

2. **Project Title**
3. **Area of Research**
4. **Keywords** (5-10 required)
5. **Dean of Faculty/Head of Division or Vice President/Director, Research**
6. **Financial Officer**
7. **Reviewer Recommendations (3-5 required)** International recommendations preferred. For each, list:
  - Name
  - Institution
  - Contact info including e-mail address
  - Area of expertise
8. **Reviewer exclusions (optional): For each, list:**
  - Name
  - Institution
  - Reason for exclusionNote that assigned reviewers will have access to this information.

## **Phase 2 – Full Application Submission Requirements**

Your full application must be submitted online by **5:00 PM (ET) on July 9, 2018**

9. **List of collaborators:** A Collaborator can be: an independent investigator (inside or outside Canada), a graduate student, a postdoctoral fellow, a research associate or technical support staff who contributes to the project. List all collaborators by name and institution.  
Attachment: Letters of Collaboration
10. **Case for Support (maximum 250 words):** Using everyday language, tell us why this is the most important project to fund. How would you describe to a prospective donor how the project will advance the field of prostate cancer research and improve the lives of prostate cancer patients or their caregivers?
11. **Scientific Abstract (maximum 250 words):** Provide a summary of the proposed research, indicating specific aims, methodology of the proposed research, intended outcomes and potential significance to prostate cancer.
12. **Research Proposal (maximum 5,000 words, not including Attachments)**  
Note: Each application may be composed of one single project or distinct projects that are tightly linked within a program.



For each project, detail the goals and specific aims, significance of the problem and how it is innovative. Describe the strategy, methodology and analyses to be used, along with potential problems, alternative strategies, expected outcomes and impact that the results will have on that area of research.

The feasibility of the implementation of the project at the clinical or population level must also be described in detail.

Identify the milestones in this project and the appropriate timeline for meeting them.

*Attachment:* Related tables/figures

References

**13. Certificates required:** Identify institution(s) for each type of certificate required:

- Biohazard/Biosafety
- Animal Care
- Ethics
- Stem Cells

**14. Current and Pending Funding (PI and Co-PIs)**

Using the categories: 1) Active Grants and 2) Pending Grants, provide one consolidated list that includes information for the **Principal Investigator** and additional **Co-Principal Investigators** using the following format:

**List each grant only once**, clearly indicating all of the applicants that are affiliated with the grant. The following format is to be used:

- Title of Grant
- Source
- Grant #
- Dollars Awarded
- Dates of Approved Project (start/end)
- Name of PI, % of time PI will devote to the work of the listed grant
- List of Co-investigators, % of time each Co-I will devote to the work of the listed grant
- The major goals of this project
- % Overlap with current application

For **Co-investigators with overlap**, please provide current and pending funding information where there is a % overlap with the current application. Use categories as noted above.

*Attachment:* For PIs and Co-PIs, abstracts must be attached for each grant or pending grant. Where Co-I overlap with current application is declared abstracts must be attached. Ensure that the title of the project is clearly indicated on the abstract.

**15. Detailed Budget with Justification:**

Note: PCC will allow an application that forms a component of a larger multi-funder initiative; however PCC's approval will be contingent upon funding approval for the larger initiative. In such a case, provide budget details for the larger initiative as an attachment.

There is no yearly maximum; however the complete budget must not exceed \$1.5M. Overall total and year by year totals must match detailed budget figures. Show consolidated budget for the PCC contribution year by year:

- Salaries
  - Salaries of research staff
  - Stipends to trainees
- Small equipment (maximum 5% of total budget)
- Research materials and supplies
- Services
- Data collection, database management
- Regional, national and international networking activities
- Knowledge translation activities
  - Travel to conferences when presenting results from the funded research grant/award (maximum of 1% of budget)
  - Publication costs relating to the funded research
  - Other knowledge dissemination activities
- Other expenses

Provide full justification for all budget elements

*Attachment:* Budget support documents

***Attachments:***

**1. CVs** for each Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigator and Co-investigator. Include:

- Training and education
- Degrees
- Positions and honours
- Relevant publications (past 5 years)
- Research Support, ongoing and completed (past 5 years)

**2. Letters of Collaboration**

Attach Letters of Collaboration as appropriate.

**3. References for the Research Proposal**

**4. Tables/Figures** related to the proposal

**5. Current and Pending Funding Abstracts (PI and Co-PIs, Co-Is)**

Abstracts must be attached for each grant or pending grant for the PI and Co-PIs, ensuring that the title of the project is clearly indicated on the abstract. Abstracts must be attached for grants for the Co-I where overlap is declared.

**6. Reprints/Preprints/Abstracts:** maximum 3 relevant to the application

**7. Budget Support Documents:** If this submission is part of a larger multi-funder initiative, provide budget details for the larger initiative as an attachment. Documents may also include quotes for equipment, services, etc.

**8. Signature Page** – signed by Principal Investigator, all Co-Principal Investigators, Co-Investigators, Host Institution Dean of Faculty/Head of Department/VP Research, Host Institution Financial Officer

### Contact Information

For questions relating to this RFA please contact:

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For more information on this funding opportunity, visit [prostatecancer.ca](http://prostatecancer.ca).

For more information on Movember, visit [www.movember.com](http://www.movember.com).