



Terms of Reference

University of Ottawa Centre for Neuromuscular Disease
-and-
Claude Bernard Université Lyon 1 Institute NeuroMyoGene

Joint Collaborative Research Program

Introduction

The University of Ottawa and l'Université Claude Bernard (UCBL, Lyon1), for the purpose of strengthening and extending ties between their respective institutions, have signed a joint cooperation agreement intent on exploring international collaboration and academic interactions of mutual benefit to their organizations.

As part of this agreement, a joint collaborative research program between the **University of Ottawa Centre for Neuromuscular Disease** (hereinafter referred to as "CNMD") and **The Claude Bernard Université Lyon 1 Institute NeuroMyoGene** (hereinafter referred to as "INMG") has been established to support basic and clinical research collaborations in neuromuscular disease, an area of strength and strategic priority for both institutions. These strategic priorities include, Neuromuscular Function and Dysfunction, Therapeutic Development for Neuromuscular Diseases, and Clinical/Translational Research in Neuromuscular Disease.

The CNMD unites more than 50 basic and clinical researchers from across the University of Ottawa and affiliated hospitals to advance our understanding of the underlying pathological mechanisms and identify novel treatment strategies for neuromuscular disease patients.

The INMG consists of 14 research teams from the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), the Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale (INSERM) and the University Claude Bernard in Lyon. The INMG gathers a community of researchers and clinicians with expertise at all levels of the neuromuscular system to develop multidimensional approaches ranging from molecular biology, cell biology, electrophysiology to integrated human physiology.

The joint collaborative research program will support world-leading research between our two institutions, while providing a strong foundation for basic and clinical scientists to successfully compete for national and international research grants. Combined collaborative training programs between both centres will also provide exceptional opportunities for trainees, postdoctoral and clinical residents/fellows in neuromuscular disease research, enhancing the international profiles and visibility of both institutions.



General Principles:

- **Aim of program:**
 - To support on-going and new research linkages between basic or clinical neuromuscular researchers at the CNMD and INMG. The total funds available per year are \$100,000 CAD + €50,000 Euros. The goal is to fund 4 **joint** projects per year, with a maximum value \$25,000 CAD and €12,500 Euros/year.
- **Eligibility:**
 - **uOttawa:** Applicants from Ottawa must be full-time Faculty members with primary appointment in a Basic Science or Clinical Department within the Faculty of Medicine, and be affiliated with the Centre for Neuromuscular Disease.
 - **Lyon1:** Applicants must be full-time Faculty members affiliated with The Institute NeuroMyoGene at Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1.
- **Maximum Budget per grant:** Approximately \$40,000 CAD (to a maximum of \$25,000 CAD uOttawa + a maximum of €12,500 Euros UCBL). The funds committed by each university are expected to be applied to research performed at that institute.
- **Teams:** Both active and new **joint collaborative projects** between researchers from CNMD, uOttawa Faculty of Medicine and INMG, UCBL will be considered.
- **Requirements:** Proposals must support a collaborative team made up of at least one uOttawa and one Lyon1 researcher

Application Process:

1. The applicants must complete the uOttawa CNMD/UCBL INMG **collaborative research application** with appropriate signatures from both institutions
2. The applicants must provide an up to date CV (2 pages per CV, including: education, professional appointments, active grants, awards and honors (last 5 years), conference presentations and invited talks (last 5 years), publications (last 5 years).
3. The complete package (application and CVs) must then be submitted to resmed@uottawa.ca by **5:00 EDT on December 22nd, 2021**.

Review Process:

1. All applications will be reviewed by a joint committee which will be composed of senior researchers from both uOttawa and UCBL as well as external experts. The chair will be chosen by members of the committee. The recommendations of this committee will be presented to the Deans of Medicine for uOttawa and the president of UCBL for approval.
2. Criteria for funding will include excellence of the proposal, relevance to strategic priorities, previous accomplishments of the applicant, feasibility, and impact on health and-or patient care. Funds can be used to support operating expenses for research pilot projects, travel between the two universities, and stipends for graduate students or postdoctoral fellows.
3. Up to four joint applications will be funded in 2022.



Additional Requirement during the Tenure of the Award:

Successful CNMD-INMG research teams will agree to:

1. Demonstrate effective use of the research funds and the impact of the research through submission of a 2-page final report detailing: summary and scope of research, number of papers published, additional new grant money obtained, new graduate student or postdoctoral fellow recruitment, conference posters or oral presentations.
2. Acknowledge CNMD and INMG in all formal presentations. The CNMD/INMG should be included in the affiliation line of all manuscripts and posters, and the University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine/ the University Claude Bernard in Lyon should be cited in the Acknowledgements.
3. Although renewal applications are not permitted, applicants can reapply in subsequent years to competitively obtain funds to extend their work on the project.