**Call for projects 2020-2021 - Inter-network initiatives**

### AIDS and Infectious Diseases Network (SIDA-MI) and Quebec Cell, Tissue and Gene Therapy Network (ThéCell) – COVID-19

This joint program between the SIDA-MI and ThéCell Networks aims to promote interactions between researchers from Quebec networks who carry out research on issues common to both partner networks. Proposed projects must be aligned with the networks' mission and focus on the respective research themes of the concerned networks, in this particular case the projects submitted must be related to COVID-19. This funding should be used for at least one of the following purposes:

* Generate knowledge and data that can lead to a concrete clinical or health care application;
* Obtain sufficient preliminary data to allow the team to submit funding requests to granting agencies;
* Serve as leverage for larger grants from partners to conduct a long-term research program;
* Allow Quebec researchers to establish their leadership at the national and international levels in the targeted research themes;
* Allow, as much as possible, to have an activity or a product dedicated to knowledge transfer toward users or target populations.
* Have a COVID-19 related topic.

A project corresponding to the research areas of the networks and tied to at least one of the above objectives will be funded based on excellence. This project must involve at least one regular member of each network (SIDA-MI and ThéCell). The project may involve more than two Quebec research centers, as well as other centers in Canada or internationally. The eligibility criteria and the evaluation method are described below. One project of excellent scientific quality demonstrating a structuring effect for research within the two networks will be funded at the level of $ 20,000 for one year.

**The deadline for submitting applications is August 16, 2020,**

**And the funding will be announced by the end of September 2020.**

Requests submitted late, incomplete or that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be evaluated.

**Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria:**

1. The application must involve two principal researchers: a regular member of SIDA-MI and a regular member of the ThéCell;
2. Co-researchers affiliated with Quebec research centers may receive funding only if they are members of one of the two networks before submission of the final application;
3. **Only one application per year as a principal investigator** can be submitted for the Inter-Network Initiatives competition. There is no limit as a co-investigator.
4. Requests for funding for new collaborations between researchers will be favored;
5. The inclusion of at least one young researcher eligible for the FRQS Junior 1 will be considered favorably (5 points);
6. For this program, researchers may be part of the same research center;
7. Applications may include additional centers in Quebec, in Canada or internationally. However, funds are allocated to Québec member researchers;
8. Applications involving at least one student, postdoctoral fellow or resident (*registered at a Quebec university*) will be judged favorably (5 points). In addition, it is highly recommended that one or more knowledge users be involved in the project (5 points). The student and the knowledge user (if any) must be identified when the application is submitted. We would like to remind you that ThéCell offers internship funding that could be beneficial to your project, the deadlines are available on the [website](http://www.reseauthecell.qc.ca/index.php/menu-etudiants/dates-limites);
9. Demonstration of the structuring effect for research within the networks, according to their objectives (*e.g. establishment of new inter-sectoral collaborations within the network or internationally, standardization of methods, implementation platform or common resources*);
10. Demonstration of a clear plan for obtaining subsequent funding from an external organization other than the SIDA-MI or ThéCell (*e.g., CIHR, private partner or other*);
11. It is the responsibility of researchers to ensure that they follow good research practices and obtain and maintain all necessary certifications from their respective institutions (*e.g., radiation protection, biosafety, animal or human ethical committee approval, authorizations associated with controlled substances used in the project*). Verifications could be made with the affiliated research centres and documentation must be provided to ThéCell when the scientific end-of-project report is submitted.

**Duration of awards**:

The $ 20,000 award is granted for a period of one year. Expenditures must be made during this period and must comply with FRQS policies.

**Obligations of researchers towards the program:**

By applying to this program and if the project is funded, the researchers commit to:

1. Acknowledge networks support as an initial funding agency in any publication (e.g. abstract, peer-reviewed manuscript) or poster or oral presentation resulting from this research;
2. Produce a progress report at the end of the year (at the end of the funding period). This report will summarize the status of the research results, including copies of articles published as a result of this research. In addition, annual monitoring for another three (3) years will be conducted to document the impact of this project;
3. Produce financial reports at its home network at the end of each fiscal year in which funds were used (March 31 and at the end of the project).
4. Participate in the scientific day and Annual Assembly of its home network in order to keep all members informed of the results of the funded project;
5. Notify the Networks of any positive decision of granting agencies related to the subsidized project.

**Documents required for submission:**

1. The form "Request for funding of the inter-network program" duly completed and printed in PDF and the accompanying documents;

All these documents (in PDF format) must be sent by email to [friederike.pfau@crchdudequebec.ulaval.ca](mailto:friederike.pfau@crchdudequebec.ulaval.ca).

1. An up-to-date curriculum vitae (FRQS version *including the Detailed Contributions section* or CCV (<https://ccv-cvc.ca>) along with a publication list for the last 5 years) for every the researchers participating in the application. For all researchers outside Quebec, an equivalent of the FRQS CV is accepted (e.g. CIHR CV).
2. Figures grouped into a single PDF file (if applicable).

**Applications Assessment Process:**

An external scientific committee will be formed to evaluate all applications submitted. The co-chairmanship of the committee will be held by a member of the executive committee of each network who has not submitted an application. The funding will be announced by the end of September 2020.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

***1) Originality of the request and scientific merit of the project (30 points):***

* **Clarity and testability of hypotheses (10) :**
  + *Originality of the hypotheses, clarity of the research question and clarity of scientific rationale;*
  + *Feasibility of the methodological approach in the proposed financial framework.*
* **Realistic and well-defined objectives (10) :**
  + *Appropriate experimental design to attain objective;*
  + *Potential to create new knowledge.*
* **Methodology and analysis (10) :**
  + *Novelty of the approach, new methodologies, or new application of existing methodologies including participant recruitment, access to databases, laboratory methods or any other data collection method.*

***2) Competence and complementarity of the research team (35 points):***

* **New collaboration, quality of research teams and multicentricity (20) :**
  + *The relevance of each Research Theme/Networks should be clearly identified in this section ;*
  + *Establishment of new intersectoral local or international collaborations ;*
  + *Scientific achievements, history of publication, funding and students training;*
  + *Complementarity of the participating teams (e.g. how the expertise of each will be used to carry out the project).*
* **Integration of a Young investigator (5).**
* **Student training and implication of one or more knowledge users (10) :**
  + *Importance given to the training of students (5).*
  + *Immediate involvement and future role of the knowledge user (5).*

***3) Potential impact and structuring effect for research within networks (25 points):***

* **Relevance, scientific or clinical impact of the project related to the participating networks and their themes (15) :**
  + *Immediate or potential impact of the proposed project on research within the networks, according to their objectives ;*
  + *Standardization of methods, establishment of a platform or common resources.*
* **Plan to obtain external funding for the project (10) :**
  + *Clarity and feasibility of the plan to obtain future or concomitant funding from sources external to SIDA-MI / ThéCell Networks (e.g. CIHR, foundations, private partners).*

***4) Realism of the budget proposal (10 points):***

* **Budget justification (10) :**
  + *Relevance of the proposed use of the funds.*

Any request for additional information may be directed to the **Coordinator** of the Network sida et maladies infectieuses (SIDA-MI), **Mario Legault**, Tél. 514 890-8000 ext 35978, email : [mario.legault.chum@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:mario.legault.chum@ssss.gouv.qc.ca) or to the **Coordinator** of the Quebec Network for Cell, Tissue and Gene Therapy (ThéCell), **Friederike Pfau**, Tél.: 418-649-0252 ext. 61685, email: [Friederike.pfau@crchudequebec.ulaval.ca](mailto:Friederike.pfau@crchudequebec.ulaval.ca).

**SIDA-MI/ThéCell Inter-Network Initiatives**

*Instructions for the application form*

**1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS (SIDA-MI AND ThéCelL NETWORKS)**

**Name of the Principal Investigator from SIDA-MI (Regular Member):** *max. 100 characters including spaces*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Main affiliation**: *max. 120 characters including spaces*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**I am a young researcher (eligible for the FRQS Junior 1): Yes or No**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Affiliation to other research networks (several possible choices):**

□ Another FRQS Network (which one or which ones?);

□ Réseau québécois COVID-Pandémie

□ Others.

**Name of the Principal Investigator from ThéCell (Regular Member):** *max. 100 characters including spaces*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Main affiliation**: *max. 120 characters including spaces*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**I am a young researcher (eligible for the FRQS Junior 1): Yes or No**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Affiliation to other research networks (several possible choices):**

□ Another FRQS Network (which one or which?);

□ Stem Cell Network

□ Others. Click or tap here to enter text.

**2. general Informations**

**Project title:** *max. 256 characters including spaces*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Project title in French:** *max. 256 characters including spaces*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Theme(s) SIDA\_MI Network (several choices possible):**

□ VIH-SIDA

□ Hépatite C (VHC)

□ Virus du papillome humain (VPH)

**Theme(s) ThéCell (several choices possible):**

□: Musculoskeletal and nervous system

□ Cardiovascular, Pulmonary, Renal and Digestive System

□ Skin and Cornea

□ Hematology, Oncology and Immunology

**Axes (several choices possible):**

□ Pre-clinical research

□ Clinical research

□ Fundamental research

□ Research on biomedical prevention and/or programmatic and/or community

**Possibility of 7 co-investigators: (***duplicate this section as needed***)**

**Co-investigator's Name:** *max. 100 characters including spaces*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Affiliation:** *max. 120 characters including spaces*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**I am a young researcher (eligible for the FRQS Junior 1): Yes or No**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Affiliation to research networks (several possible choices):**

□ SIDA-MI network;

□ ThéCell network.

□ Another FRQS Network (*which*); Click or tap here to enter text.

□ Stem Cell Network;

□ Others (*which*).Click or tap here to enter text.

**Name of the student, postdoctoral fellow or resident directly involved in the project:** *max. 250 characters including spaces*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Current study program and level of study: *max. 250 characters including spaces*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Affiliation: *max. 250 characters including spaces*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Name of the research director: *max. 250 characters including spaces*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Other students, postdoctoral fellows, residents or research professionals involved in the project, if relevant** (Name, level of study in progress or position (function), name of research director and affiliation):*max. 256 characters including spaces*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Name of knowledge user(s) directly involved in the project:** *max. 250 characters including spaces*

Affiliation: *max. 250 characters including spaces*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**How many Quebec research centers are involved in the work**: Click or tap here to enter text.

**Quebec research centers directly involved in the work:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Research Center(s) outside Quebec directly involved in the work (optional):**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Location (s) of Research:** Name of the city (ies) (e.g. Sherbrooke and Quebec City) where research will take place and a short description if necessary. *max. 256 characters including spaces*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**3. PROJECT SUMMARY**

Provide a summary of the project to present the general idea of this Inter-Network Initiative.

*max. 2200 characters including spaces*

*(Note: This summary may be evaluated by representatives of the general public, and abstracts of funded projects may be used as a press release and will be posted on our Networks' website).*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Also provide a French version of this summary:

*max. 2200 characters including spaces*

*(Note: This summary may be evaluated by representatives of the general public, and abstracts of funded projects may be used as a press release and will be posted on our Networks' website).*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Provide a description of the project including scientific rationale, objectives and hypotheses, methodology and potential benefits. Please also include a paragraph that presents the originality of your project (*Potential for creating new knowledge, originality of hypotheses and research questions, novelty of the approach, new methodologies or new application of existing methodologies*). Please structure the text with the following sections:

* Objectives;
* Hypothesis ;
* Methodology ;
* Analysis;

Figures can be added as an appendix only, as a single PDF file (see *Documents required for submission* above).

*max. 10 000 characters including spaces (excluding references - see section # 5*

***Evaluation criteria:***

***Originality of the request and scientific merit of the project (30 points):***

* **Clarity and testability of hypotheses (10)**
  + *Originality of the hypotheses and clarity of the research question and scientific rationale.*
  + *Feasibility of the methodological approach in the proposed financial framework.*
* **Realistic and well-defined objectives (10)**
  + *Appropriate experimental design to attain objectives.*
  + *Potential to create new knowledge.*
* **Methodology and analysis / Methodology and analysis (10)**
  + *Novelty of the approach, new methodologies, or new application of existing methodologies. including participant recruitment, access to databases, laboratory methods or any other data collection method.*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**5. BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

Provide all bibliographic references related to the submission.

Click or tap here to enter text.

**6. COMPETENCE AND COMPLEMENTARITY OF THE RESEARCH TEAM**

Provide a description of the team formed and its complementarity, scientific achievements, history of publication, funding, and student training (*e.g. how each person's expertise will be used to carry out the project*).

*max. 2800 characters including spaces*

***Evaluation criteria:***

***Competence and complementarity of the research team (35 points):***

* **New collaboration, Quality of research teams and Multicentricity (20)**
  + *The relevance of each Research Theme / Networks should be clearly identified in this section.*
  + *Establishment of new local or international intersectoral collaborations.*
  + *Scientific achievements, history of publication, funding and training of students.*
  + *Complementarity of the participating teams (e.g. how the expertise of each will be used to carry out the project).*
* **Integration of a Young investigator (5)**
* **Involves knowledge user(s) and Contributes to training (10)**
  + *Importance given to the training of students and research professionals (5).*
  + *Immediate or future involvement of knowledge user (5).*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**7. STRUCTURING EFFECT FOR RESEARCH BETWEEN NETWORKS**

Provide a description of the structuring impact of the research project in terms of the objectives of the networks (*e.g. establishment of new inter-sectoral collaborations within/between the networks or internationally, standardization of methods, implementation of a platform or common resources*).

*max. 1400 characters including spaces*

Provide a plan for obtaining external funding. Describe the strategies that will be used to obtain subsequent or concomitant funding from sources outside SIDA-MI and ThéCell.

*max. 1400 characters including spaces*

***Evaluation criteria:***

***Potential impact and structuring effect for research within networks and external funding potential (25 points):***

* **Relevance, scientific or clinical impact of the project related to the participating networks and their themes (15*)***
  + *Immediate or potential impact of the proposed project on research within the networks, according to their objectives.*
  + *Standardization of methods, establishment of a platform or common resources.*
* **Potential for external funding following the pilot project (10*)***
  + *Clarity and feasibility of the plan for obtaining future or concomitant funding*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**8. BUDGETARY CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION**

**Summary budget and complementary sources of funding:**

Provide a summary description of the use of the funds. Indicate if any source of concomitant funding and the amounts that will be used for the progression of the project. Note that overheads are not eligible.

For the 20 000$ granted, 10 000$ comes from SIDA-MI and 10 000$ from ThéCell. Please provide the funds repartition between the co-applicants.

*max. 1400 characters including spaces*

***Evaluation criteria :***

***Realism of the budget proposal (10 points):***

* **Budget justification (10)**
  + *Relevance of the proposed use of the funds.*

Click or tap here to enter text.