



OIRM KICK-START

Innovation Investment Program

The Questions:

- Are you an innovator?
- Do you have a disruptive technology in an area of unmet need?
- Do you have a vision for a company creation?

The Answer:

- The OIRM KICK-START program is designed to advance promising regenerative medicine (RM) technologies, attract early-stage investment and build valuable intellectual property (IP) in support of a company creation. OIRM will work alongside C3i, as a commercialization partner, to enable successful development of these technologies and the creation of vibrant RM start-ups in Ontario. As this is an investment program, each successful team will work with OIRM to set up a business structure that successfully promotes onward growth while generating value for the initial stakeholders, including the science team, the science institution and OIRM.

The Benefits:

- **Action:** Your innovation gets a chance to move to an incorporated business with support to develop a market assessment, IP strategy and commercialization plan.
- **Enablement:** Targeted investment funding up to \$100,000 and strategic translational guidance will help you focus on completing pivotal experiments that will increase the likelihood of attracting early-stage investment and building valuable IP.
- **Persistence:** You will engage directly with venture capital, investment banking and private sector expertise to develop a tactical business plan, access additional funding opportunities and receive strategic support needed to successfully bring the technology to market.

The Expertise:

- BioInnovation Fund, Bloom Burton, C3i, OBIO, OIRM and Versant Ventures

Next Steps:

- Read eligibility criteria on next page of document
- Complete a Notice of Intent (NOI) and submit it to OIRM by Friday, March 12, 2021
- Applicants who do not submit an NOI, cannot submit a full grant application
- The KICK-START Innovation Investment Program competition will formally launch on Monday, April 5, 2021 with full program guidelines and application package posted on the OIRM website
- Full applications will be due on Monday, June 7, 2021
- OIRM will host a webinar to coincide with the launch of the competition to outline this innovative new program and answer questions from investigators

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The Fine Print (Eligibility):

- Applicants must hold a full-time, primary faculty appointment in Ontario in an area relevant to RM
- Projects need to focus on disruptive RM technologies with novel IP that could be in a phase I clinical trial, ideally within 2-3 years (max of 5 years), in an area of unmet clinical need
- Projects will be assessed and prioritized based on:
 - The discovery of a novel disease mechanism that can be targeted using regenerative/biological therapies and/or
 - Identification of a regenerative/biological product, process or technology
- Projects could include those that are developing cellular or stem cell-related therapeutic approaches to tissue repair and regeneration for specific diseases, including:
 - Highly innovative allogeneic/autologous technologies such as iPSC, NK, CAR-Ts etc.
 - Completion of proof-of-principle experiments in small animal models or tissue engineered construct
 - Production of reagents or assays necessary for the completion of a clinical trial
 - Toxicology studies to determine safety/dosing of a technology
 - Process development for technology transfer into GMP
 - Platform technologies
 - Others - please contact OIRM if you are unsure
- Projects in the area of cancer stem cell therapy are not eligible but projects using other stem cell-derived therapies to treat cancer may be eligible
- All projects must include HQP throughout the funding period
- This program is not intended to cover discovery level research
- Technologies that are already supported by a company creation are not eligible for this program
- Final program guidelines are subject to change

**Do you have questions about eligibility
before you submit an NOI?**

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