

## OIRM KICK-START

### Program Guidelines

#### **The Program:**

The KICK-START program is designed to advance promising regenerative medicine (RM) technologies, attract early-stage investment and build valuable intellectual property 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.

#### **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 within 2-3 years (up to a maximum 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
  - Novel development 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
  - Gene therapies with a regenerative application
  - Others – please contact OIRM if you are unsure
- Projects in the area of cancer stem cell therapy are not eligible unless they are related to a regenerative therapeutic technology (i.e. cell or gene-based)
- All projects must include HQP throughout the one-year 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

**Timelines:**

- Stage 1: Notice of Intent
  - o Launch: Fri, Jan 22/21
  - o NOI Deadline: Fri, Mar 12/21
- Stage 2: Program Guidelines and Application
  - o Program Launch: Mon, Apr 5/21
  - o Program Webinar: Thurs, Apr 8/21
  - o Application Deadline: Mon, Jun 7/21
- Stage 3: Scientific Review Process:
  - o OIRM to screen all applications for omissions
  - o Scientific Review Starts: Mon, June 14/21
  - o Scientific Review Ends: Fri, Aug 6/21
- Stage 4: Commercialization Review Process
  - o The Commercialization Review Panel (CRP) will meet the week of Mon, Sept 6/21
- Stage 5: Funding Decision Announced
  - o Mid-Sept 2021