

Agnico Eagle Beyond Chemotherapy Grand Challenge
Hosted by Princess Margaret High Definition Therapeutics Strategic Pillar

2023 Request for Applications

Registration is due on Monday, October 23rd, 2023 at 11:59 pm EST
Full Applications are due on Monday, November 6th, 2023 at 11:59 pm EST

Description

The **Agnico Eagle Beyond Chemotherapy Grand Challenge** supports bold, innovative and high-impact projects across the spectrum of cancer care. Grand Challenges are open to applicants from all UHN campuses, across all disciplines. The aim is to uncover, trial, and expand alternative treatments that are highly effective while minimizing harmful side effects for patients. Through clinical advancement in particle therapy, theranostics, immunotherapy, genomics, and revisions in novel models of care, the High Definition Therapeutics strategic pillar strives to support positive patient outcomes by implementing targeted, innovative therapies, and taking steps to bridge the gap from lab to clinic.

Princess Margaret Cancer Centre aspires to be a leader globally in replacing non-specific cytotoxic therapies with less toxic and more, or equally effective alternates. Applications should focus on projects with a clear trajectory that result in a sustainable decrease in the use of cytotoxic therapy. The team is looking to support multiple applications, with a total of \$500,000 available to distribute across all successful applicant(s).

There are three project areas of specific interest:

1. Novel projects that immediately look to reduce non-specific cytotoxic therapies with alternative approaches that are ready for broad use in targeted patient populations and clinical testing within 6-9 months of our funding.
2. Research projects that further at-home biomarker discovery early in development, or need additional support for conducting impactful correlative analyses at UHN.
3. Underway projects in need of additional funds to cover the cost of upstart of studies that are ready for clinical testing or drug purchasing.

Projects must be “Shovel-ready” to be considered. They must articulate:

- Commitment to clearly defined quarterly milestones, a realistic endpoint.
- Feasible patient enrollment strategy and timeline with clear patient impact achievable within our 18 month period and sustainable thereafter.
- REB approval must be in-process for clinical trials, and received approvals are preferred. Considerations for all timelines must fit within the funding period.

Additional Preferred Criteria:

Projects which have built meaningful and strong partnerships between scientists and clinicians, involve multi-disciplinary teams, involve external partners where relevant (especially those in which available matching funds are applied to increase impact), will be favorably viewed. Platforms/therapies that have been developed by PM/UHN investigators or scientists will also be favorably viewed. Projects that leverage existing designated funding from The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation will also be attractive.

Funding:

- Funding will be assigned based on the scale, timelines and projected impact; Award amount will be negotiated with successful applicants.
- There is a budget up to \$500,000 (inclusive of 10% UHN overhead) available to distribute across all successful projects. In line with that, applicants should submit a reasonable budget to help catalyze initiatives with a timeline not to exceed 18 months.
- Funding will be a non-renewable grant.
- Funds will expire after 18 months.

Eligibility:

- Applicants from all UHN campuses are eligible to apply.
- Applicants can be the nominated lead in only one (1) Grand Challenge application.
- At least one of the principal applicants must have a faculty appointment as a clinician or scientist or relevant professional practice at UHN.

What are the expected reporting requirements and outputs?

Successful applicants will be required to provide:

- A quarterly Progress & Spending Report Update, unless specified otherwise.
- Commitment to providing relevant abstracts, updates, publication messaging, for our annual High Definition Therapeutics Impact Report and Term End Reports.
- A presentation of the project at one of our Strategic Pillar Steering Committee Meetings, when requested.
- A Presentation of the project at UHN-wide symposium speaker series, if requested.

Application Process:

Submission is a two-step process requiring: (1) registration submission and (2) full application submission entirely through our website (<https://pmbeyondchemo.ca/>).

1. **Registration is due on Monday, October 23rd, 2023 at 11:59pm EST.** To register, please go to <https://pmbeyondchemo.ca/> and follow the instructions & form in “Funding Opportunities” section.
2. **Full applications are due on Monday, November 6th, 2023 at 11:59pm EST** via our website as a single PDF. Late applications will not be accepted
 - Full applications should be limited with no more than two (2) pages addressing the project, the team, and the deliverable. Please use the following PDF format: 12-point Times New Roman font, single-spaced, 0.75 inch margins.
 - A maximum of two (2) pages of figures can be appended.
 - The budget and project timeline should be justified and appended, references are not required
 - Registration form with any updates (e.g. additional investigators)

Selected applications may be invited to submit a longer written proposal and/or make an oral presentation.

Please note that project management will be applied to selected Grand Challenges to ensure milestones and deliverables are achieved.

More Information:

Please direct questions about funding opportunity details, eligibility, or questions about the application process to Judy Zhu, at judy.zhu@uhn.ca