

**Subject:** Pre-announcement: 2015 Focus on Brain / Focus sur les neurosciences 2015

# Pre-announcement: 2015 Focus on Brain Program for the development and commercialization of platform technologies in neurosciences.

**Call for Proposals:**

**September 15, 2015**

**LOI Deadline:**

**December 15, 2015**

Brain Canada and CQDM are pleased to announce the 2015 edition of their joint initiative: ***Focus on Brain*** which focuses on the **translation of platform technologies into products and services** that will enable drug discovery in the area of neurosciences and mental health.

## **Description**

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As research uncovers new understanding of the workings of the brain, and of the mechanisms underlying neurological and mental health disorders, there is an urgent need to apply this new knowledge to the development of pharmaceuticals and other agents which will treat these disorders. The goal of the 2015 Focus on Brain Program is to support research that will lead to the improvement and acceleration of the drug discovery and development process that targets brain disorders, believing that this approach will have a catalytic effect on the approach to treatment of the entire range of brain disorders. Through this funding program, we will enable researchers and clinicians to make breakthrough discoveries that have the potential for immediate application and benefit millions of people in Canada and around the world who are living with a disease,

disorder, or injury of the brain, spinal cord or nervous system—and for their families and caregivers.

## **Current status**

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In the 2014 competition, 6 multidisciplinary projects of translational research in neurosciences were funded. An additional \$5M is available for the 2015 competition, which will retain the same scientific focus: supporting the development of breakthrough technologies that enhance biopharmaceutical R&D productivity and accelerate the development of new, safe and effective drugs.

## **Program highlights**

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- A multidisciplinary approach focusing on innovation and translational research in neurosciences and mental health;
- Deliver platform technologies addressing the most pressing unmet medical needs and that will accelerate the discovery of new therapeutics in neurosciences;
- Capacity to fund strong networks across Canada and to nurture true partnerships between academic institutions and private organizations (SMEs);
- A milestone-driven approach with a rigorous follow-up of the funded research;
- Access to CQDM's mentorship program whereby scientists from the global pharma industry are providing industrial expertise to the funded investigators.

## **Funding specifics**

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- Total funding available for this competition: \$2.5M from CQDM and \$2.5M from Brain Canada (through the Canada Brain Research Fund), for a total of \$5M
- Duration of each project: maximum 3 years
- Total budget: up to \$1.5M per project

- It is expected that 3-4 projects will be jointly funded by CQDM and Brain Canada, depending on the number of proposals judged to be fundable, and their approved budget.

## Project selection

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The funding will be awarded following an open, national competitive process, in two stages:

- Letters of Intent: *Potential to address an unmet medical need and to be commercialized, global competitiveness and innovativeness of the proposed platform.*
- Full Applications: *Scientific evaluation, risk assessment, potential impact on the biopharmaceutical research.*

More details about the Focus on Brain funding opportunity will be available on Brain Canada's and CQDM's websites on September 15, 2015. For more information, please contact: [programs@braincanada.ca](mailto:programs@braincanada.ca)