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## NAVIGATOR RESEARCH PROGRAM REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS 2025 COMPETITION

### **Timeline**

- LOI (electronic copy) due: April 30, 2025 (5:00 PM ET)
- Full proposal (electronic copy), if requested, due: June 4, 2025 (3:00 PM ET)
- Recipients to be notified: end of August, 2025
- Funding may commence: September 1, 2025

### **Background**

Last year, the NAVIGATOR Research Program received 15 applications for consideration. Building on this momentum, we are pleased to announce that this year, up to **four** awards are available to support innovative and impactful research projects related to Huntington disease (HD). All information and documents related to the Program are available at: <https://www.huntingtonsociety.ca/navigator-program/>.

### **1) Goal**

The goal of the Program is to provide funding for Canadian scientific research of direct and immediate relevance to HD; to provide a platform for the future recruitment of outstanding investigators to HD research; to facilitate research collaboration nationally and internationally, and research which is relevant to other neurodegenerative disorders as well as HD.

### **2) Eligibility**

Primary Investigators (PI) holding a full-time faculty appointment in an appropriate discipline at a Canadian university, research institute, or hospital are eligible to apply for funding through the NAVIGATOR Research Program.

### **3) Criteria**

All letters of intent and applications for funding through the NAVIGATOR Research Program are subject to review by the Society's Research Council, which may elect to enlist external reviewers with particular expertise in the appropriate area.

Letters of intent will be assessed based on eligibility and relevance to the call.

The criteria for evaluating applications are:

The direct and immediate relevance of the work proposed to Huntington Disease (i.e., improved understanding of pathogenic mechanisms; significance with respect to the development of new

treatments); the scientific excellence of the research proposal; the potential relevance of the work to other neurodegenerative disorders; the specific rationale and budget rationale for support (i.e. how will support enable the laboratory to pursue research not funded from other sources, and contribute to the emergence of special areas of expertise), and collaborative potential.

#### **4) Term and Amount**

Funding recommendations for awards through the NAVIGATOR Research Program will be made by the Research Council, subject to the availability of funds.

Each NAVIGATOR award will provide funding of up to \$75,000 per year for one or two years.

It is the Huntington Society's intention to provide seed funds (and ongoing support to projects) prioritized by the Research Council, and to laboratories that are actively engaged in Huntington Disease research.

#### **5) Terms and Conditions**

i) Institutional Approvals: Institutional approvals for research involving humans, animals, and/or biohazardous materials must be submitted to the Huntington Society prior to the release of funding.

ii) Expenditure of Funds: Funds awarded through a NAVIGATOR grant must be expended in accordance with the approved budget, within the following categories:

Personnel (i.e., technicians);

Supplies (i.e., expendables, services, animals);

Equipment (not to exceed \$5,000);

Travel (i.e. to present research findings or to attend a major conference or symposium; not to exceed \$3,000);

Knowledge translation (not to exceed \$3,000).

Funds may not be allocated to institutional overheads, or construction. The Huntington Society of Canada does not fund indirect costs, overhead or institutional support costs.

Up to 25% of funds awarded to a laboratory through the NAVIGATOR Research Program may be remitted by the receiving institution to other laboratories outside of Canada, where this will help to promote collaborative research for the grant funded.

iii) Payment of Grants: The payment schedule will be confirmed along with notification of the award, to the financial officer of the principal investigator's institution.

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**Please Note: The 1<sup>st</sup> year progress report (with budget summary) must be received by August 7, 2026.** If the report is not received by the above date, funding will NOT be extended for the second year unless provisions have been made with HSC to approve an extension. A request for an extension of the timeline must be provided in writing, with reasons for the delay and a proposed date of completion, prior to **August 7, 2026.**

iv) Deficits: The Huntington Society of Canada and Brain Canada are not responsible for any expenditure incurred by a grantee over the approved budget.

v) Unexpended Funds: Any unexpended funds must be returned to the Huntington Society of Canada and Brain Canada on completion of the period of the grant, unless the Society approves, in advance, an extension to the term of the grant.

vi) Financial Reporting: All grantees must provide a financial statement within three months of the completion of the period of the grant.

vii) Research Reporting: As a general principle, grantees must openly share their findings with the scientific community on a timely basis for the purpose of accelerating the process to find treatments for Huntington disease. In other words, all grantees must ensure that the findings of their research are available to the widest possible audience at the earliest possible opportunity.

viii) HSC Open Science Policy: Our Open Access policy contains the following elements:

- a. Publications Are Discoverable and Accessible Online. Publications will be deposited in a specific repository(s) with proper tagging of metadata.
- b. Publication Will Be On “Open Access” Terms. All publications shall be published under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 General License. This will permit all users of the publication to copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format and transform and build upon the material, including for any purpose (including commercial) without further permission or fees being required.
- c. Publications Will Be Accessible and Open Immediately. All publications shall be available immediately upon their publication, without any embargo period. This can be accomplished by uploading a manuscript to a preprint server such as BioRxiv.
- d. Data Underlying Published Research Results Will Be Accessible and Open Immediately. The HSC will require that data underlying the published research results be immediately accessible and open. A 12-month embargo will be applied.
- e. It is the responsibility of the grant recipient to notify the Society prior to publication.

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All grantees must provide copies of publications reporting on research supported in whole or in part by the Huntington Society. In addition, all grantees must provide a brief summary, in lay language, of the results of their work, within 3 months of the mid-point of their work and again within 3 months upon completion of the grant.

ix) Acknowledgement of Support: The Huntington Society of Canada and Brain Canada should be acknowledged in all publications, presentations, and other public information relating to research supported in whole or in part by the Society.

x) Ethics: The research that results from the Program will comply with the Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research and any other applicable policy or practice.

## **How to Apply**

### **Letter of Intent (LOI)**

- i) LOI (electronic copy) due no later than 5pm ET on April 30, 2025
- ii) The letter of intent is available at <https://www.huntingtonsociety.ca/navigator-program/>

### **Full Application**

- i) Full applications (electronic copy) due no later than 3pm ET on June 4, 2025
- ii) The application form is available at <https://www.huntingtonsociety.ca/navigator-program/> and must comply with the requirement to include an appropriate structured lay summary of the proposed work.
- iii) Comprehensive CV of the PI and co-Investigators should be completed using the NIH Biosketch format.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>

Send Letters of Intent, applications and any questions to:

[research@huntingtonsociety.ca](mailto:research@huntingtonsociety.ca)

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## **About Brain Canada Foundation**

Brain Canada Foundation (Brain Canada) is a national registered charity that enables and supports excellent, innovative, paradigm-changing brain research in Canada. For more than 25 years, Brain Canada has made the case for the brain as a single, complex system with commonalities across the range of neurological disorders, mental illnesses and addictions, and brain and spinal cord injuries. Looking at the brain as one system has underscored the need for increased collaboration across disciplines and institutions, and to ensure that Canada has a robust pipeline of talent to remain at the forefront in the field of brain research. Brain Canada's vision is to understand the brain in health and illness, to improve lives and achieve societal impact.

The Canada Brain Research Fund (CBRF) is an innovative arrangement between the Government of Canada, through Health Canada, and Brain Canada Foundation, designed to increase support of brain research on behalf of Canadians, and maximize the impact and efficiency of those investments. The Fund supports the very best Canadian neuroscience, fostering collaborative research and accelerating the pace of discovery, in order to improve the health and quality of life of those who suffer from brain disorders.

[www.braincanada.ca](http://www.braincanada.ca)

## **About the Huntington Society of Canada**

The Huntington Society of Canada (HSC) is part of a wonderful Huntington disease community made up of fundraisers, volunteers, researchers, advocates, donors, clinicians, and individuals and families affected by the disease. HSC's mission is to improve the quality of life for those affected by Huntington disease via support, education, and research.

[www.huntingtonsociety.ca](http://www.huntingtonsociety.ca)