



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Funding Organization: AMS Healthcare
Program Name: Compassion and Artificial Intelligence Small Grant
Partner: Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit
Program Launch Date: November 18, 2021

KEY DATES

Full application
Information webinar: December 8, 2021
Submission deadline: February 22, 2022
Notification date: June 2022
Funding start date: September 2022

PARTNERS

With a vision of *Compassionate, quality healthcare for all Canadians, in a system advanced by technology, innovation, and a rich understanding of our medical history*, AMS Healthcare strives to improve care for all Canadians. We achieve this by convening networks, developing leaders, and funding crucial activities in healthcare research, education, and clinical practice. In recent years, AMS Healthcare has provided funding for activities that address two key factors of the health care system: Compassionate care; and, artificial intelligence and digital health solutions. The Compassionate Care in a Technological World strategic priority focusses on promoting the integration of digital technology and compassionate care in the delivery of health care services, education of health professionals as well as facilitating the leadership needed to realize the promise of technology. Click [here](#) to learn more about compassionate care in a technological world.

The **Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit** is the catalyst for patient-oriented research in Ontario. OSSU provides supports such as expertise, infrastructure, training and resources to people conducting patient-oriented research. OSSU also supports the dissemination and uptake of research evidence to policy and decision makers and funds EMPOWER end-of-grant knowledge translation awards.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Technology will transform healthcare in ways we are only beginning to understand and healthcare's readiness to embrace this transformation – and ability to translate technology opportunities into sustainable solutions to the most pressing issues in healthcare – will be the central challenge for

practitioners, providers and policymakers alike. Expectations about compassionate care will also evolve as patients increasingly look for empathy, as well as connectedness, responsiveness, and empowerment to act together to improve health and address illness. AMS Healthcare is inviting health professionals, educators, academics and clinicians of all disciplines to seize the opportunity to explore and lead this transformation by deepening our understanding of the various aspects of compassion through the lens of technology and better ensure that technologies are enabling of healthcare's compassionate purpose.

The AMS Healthcare **Compassion and Artificial Intelligence Small Grant Program** provides highly-qualified individuals (prepared with either a PhD or Master's degree) a unique opportunity to apply their research and analytic talents to the critical challenge of the impact of digital technology and artificial intelligence (DT/AI) on the delivery of compassionate healthcare. This innovative grant program is designed to support projects that will generate new knowledge and evidence to advance the education/training of undergraduate, graduate and practising healthcare professionals, and clinical, health systems and related field researchers on compassionate patient care and DT/AI.

Proposals may include development and testing of new ideas, innovation in education or practice, or knowledge translation. Projects might also include requests for seed funding to develop research initiatives. The project grants are expected to advance the education of health professionals or the provision of compassionate patient care and system delivery modalities that enhance the quality and effectiveness of health care services. There is an expectation that during the period of these grants or within a year of their completion, one or more publications/presentations will result from this funding.

Core criteria for the grants include:

1. the grant explores specific attribute(s) of compassion (i.e., provider-patient relationship, equity, trust, patient safety, suffering, provider burnout, etc.) in relation to digital technology/AI;
2. Compassion is clearly conceptualized and defined in the proposal¹; and
3. the exploration of compassion in relation to digital technology/AI is core to the proposal.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

AMS Healthcare's financial contributions for this initiative are subject to availability of funds. Should AMS Healthcare funding levels not be available or are decreased due to unforeseen circumstances, AMS Healthcare reserves the right to reduce, defer or suspend financial contributions to awards received as a result of this funding opportunity.

1. The total amount available for this funding opportunity is \$200,000, enough to fund ten (10) grants of up to \$20,000 each for up to a maximum of 12-months.

ELIGIBILITY

¹ Compassion is conceived as a state of concern for the suffering or unmet need of another, coupled with the desire to alleviate that suffering [Goetz et al, 2010]. An experience of compassion is defined in this way involves several distinct components:

1. Awareness of the suffering or needs in another individual,
2. Feeling moved, and recognizing this as a response to others need,
3. Appraisal of one's own feelings, social roles, and abilities within the context of another's suffering,
4. Judgement that the other person is suffering,
5. Engagement in behaviours that drive social affiliation and caregiving and motivate helping and behaviours to alleviate suffering

(NB This definition is meant to guide applicants and reviewers, not serve as a "checklist" for inclusions into the LOI).

From: Seppälä, E.M., Simon-Thomas, E., Brown, S.L., Worline, M.C., Cameron, C.D., and Doty, J.R. (2017). *The Oxford Handbook of Compassion Science*. Oxford Press. DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190464684.001.0001 (p.3)

To be eligible for this award, the applicant must be either:

- Be an early or mid-career academic health investigator working in a CIHR eligible institution in Canada. CIHR defines a new/early career investigator as someone who has assumed his/her first independent academic position (e.g., faculty appointment) within the last 5 years. Mid-career is an individual within 5-10 years from the date of their first research-related appointment, minus eligible delays in research
- a regulated healthcare professional with graduate school training or an academic in a field related to/focussed on healthcare (i.e. health ethics, health law, computer scientist with an interest in health applications) working in a health care organization, provincial government, academic setting or a provincial/national health professional organization.

Preference will be given to applicants who reside in Ontario and are a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

Activities proposed in the application must occur at an organization located in Canada.

GUIDELINES

Applicants may hold only one AMS awards in the same year. Funding may only be used to cover reasonable expenses directly related to the grant project. Questions regarding the eligibility of expenses will be: addressed at the information teleconference; summarized in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document; and, answered directly by OSSU during the application phase of the competition. Grant funding can not be used to support organizational administrative or infrastructure expenses.

REVIEW PROCESS and EVALUATION

Objectives

The AMS Compassion and DT/AI Small Grant Program is expected to:

- Support research, knowledge translation and spread and scale activities;
- Promote relevant collaborations across disciplines and professions; and,
- Engage the healthcare community in the exploration and evaluation of topics related to compassion and technology.

Criteria for the Small Grant program

To support the objectives of the grant award program, the following criteria will be used.

1. Concept of the proposal
 - Proposal addresses the core criteria of the grant program as described above.
 - The significance, novelty and potential impact of the proposed activities.
 - Consistency of the proposal with AMS's Mission, Vision, Goals and priorities.
 - Likelihood of the proposed activities to broaden knowledge related to DT/AI and compassionate care.
2. Feasibility of the proposal
 - Appropriateness and feasibility of the approaches and methods to be used for the proposed activities.
 - Expertise and experience of the applicant and the team.

- Appropriateness of the budget in relation to the proposed activities. (Preference will be given to applications that demonstrate strong partnerships with their home agency and have identified co-funding or in-kind contributions)
3. Applicants are strongly encouraged to include patients and caregivers, community and or service end users as advisors to the project.

Expectations

In addition to the traditional methods of knowledge dissemination such as publications and social media, the awardees are expected to:

- Prepare annual update and end-of-grant reports of this opportunity to AMS Healthcare;
- Share learnings and experiences in their community and at the annual AMS Healthcare Conference; and,
- Establish and participate in a community of practice regarding DT/AI and compassionate care.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for this funding opportunity will undergo a single Full Application stage. Application guidelines and templates for this award can be found at www.ossu.ca/resources/ams-healthcare.

Applicants are required to submit a complete Full Application as well as additional documentation requested in the call to OSSU, at ossu@ossu.ca, by **5:00 pm (eastern time), Tuesday, February 22, 2022**.

Following administrative review (for completeness and eligibility), applications will be adjudicated by a panel of experts in the challenges and potential impacts of digital technology and artificial intelligence on the delivery of compassionate healthcare.

The result of the review will be determined by the AMS Board's Review Committee. All applicants will be notified of the results in **June 2022**

Funding will commence on **September 1, 2022**.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Click [here](#) to learn more.

This program is offered as a partnership between the [AMS Healthcare](#) and the [Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit](#).

