

Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit (OSSU)

Request For Proposals: EMPOWER Awards

Engaging Multi-stakeholders for Patient Oriented-research Wider Effects and Reach

June 18th 2019

SUMMARY

Program:	EMPOWER Awards
Overview:	...
Funding:	\$25,000 for 6 months
Launch Date:	June 18 th 2019
Application Deadline:	July 31 st 2019
Anticipated Notification:	September 16 th 2019
Funding Term:	6 months from October 1 st , 2019 – March 31 st 2020.

ABOUT SPOR AND OSSU

Canada's [Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research](#) (SPOR) is a national collaboration of federal, provincial and territorial partners dedicated to enhancing the integration of research into care. SPOR was created by the [Canadian Institutes for Health Research](#) (CIHR) to integrate funding, research and expertise to foster evidence-informed health care by bringing innovative diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to the point of care to ensure greater quality, accountability and accessibility. SPOR has several elements through which to achieve its goals, including the provincial and territorial SUPPORT Units and national SPOR research networks. The [Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit](#) (OSSU) will facilitate the implementation of SPOR in Ontario.

Established in 2013, OSSU is a collaboration of 15 leading health research centres, supported by a Coordinating Centre which facilitates, connects and integrates activities across the network. Jointly funded by the Government of Ontario and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the initiative engages patients, researchers, clinicians, policy makers, industry representatives and other health system professionals to implement SPOR within Ontario.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: EMPOWER Awards

Ontario is home to a wealth of high-quality patient-oriented research, with research teams meaningfully partnering with patients, families, caregivers and communities to deliver rigor, relevance and results from their patient-oriented research projects. For these patient-oriented research findings to enter the evidence chain for changing health policy, practice and health outcomes, there is often a need to support end-of-grant knowledge translation activities to build the relationships and push the results to those who can use them to effect real impact and change for Ontario.

OSSU is inviting proposals from qualified research teams who can demonstrate the patient-oriented health research they have undertaken with patient partners in the last 2 years that would benefit from an injection of end of grant funding to empower the research to impacts in the province.

Healthcare is changing in Ontario and beyond, to a situation where the use of computers and information technology is transforming healthcare delivery. Many of Ontario's patient-oriented research

teams have been pushing the boundaries in digital health (see Box 1) for a person-centred health system, although with many innovations being developed, it can be difficult to take patient-oriented digital health research to the next level. While OSSU's EMPOWER Awards are open to all patient-oriented research projects, with this round of EMPOWER Award funding, OSSU is particularly interested in receiving applications that relate to 'digital health' patient-oriented research.

Digital health is defined by Canada Health Infoway as “the use of information technology/electronic communication tools, services and processes to deliver health care services or to facilitate better health”.

Box 1. Digital health patient oriented research

OSSU's EMPOWER Awards will be expected to complete the following in their funding period:

- At the outset of the funded period, OSSU's Research Centre at the McMaster Health Forum will run a mandatory online training session for all awardees that will cover:
 - Writing policy briefs;
 - Engaging with citizens and plain language outputs;
 - Integrating knowledge users in knowledge translation activities to increase impact; and,
 - Utilizing multiple information and activity streams to support knowledge translation activities.
- All awardees will be required to produce a policy brief around the findings of their POR project.
- Awardees will be expected to produce a diverse set of approaches to knowledge translation that are designed to meet the needs of stakeholders who can make the most impact from the digital health POR project findings.

The OSSU EMPOWER Awards are NOT to supplement research activity funding or to conduct further research based on the initial patient-oriented research project.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

OSSU will allocate up to \$25,000 for the period October 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

HOW TO APPLY

Proposals should involve two documents:

1. 5-page workplan
2. Budget using the OSSU budget template provided

Workplan

The workplan for the EMPOWER Award proposal should follow the OSSU Workplan Template provided.

The workplan must clearly identify:

- That the EMPOWER Award being applied for is related to a patient-oriented health research project with meaningful patient partnership (through a short patient partner¹ testimony from a partner in the initial project);
- The proposed stakeholders are identified who will be targeted through the EMPOWER Award to maximize the impact of the POR project; and,
- How patient partners are going to be an integral part of the proposed EMPOWER Award.

¹ "Patient" in the terminology of SPOR includes patients, family members, caregivers and community members.

Budget

Using the budget template provided, prepare the budget. Honoraria or other compensation for patient partners are eligible costs under the OSSU budget process.

Proposals are to be submitted electronically to ossu@ossu.ca by 5:00 pm on **Wednesday July 31st, 2019**. Please include “**RFP – EMPOWER Awards**” in the subject line of the email.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for this funding opportunity, proposals must identify:

- That the initial research to be translated can demonstrate meaningful patient partnership;
- That the initial research to be translated was NOT funded by the Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit as part of its IMPACT Award demonstration projects;
- That the proposed research and knowledge translation team incorporates patient partnership in the proposed activities; and,
- That the nominated principal applicant (NPI) is associated with a CIHR-eligible institution to whom OSSU funds can be flowed.

REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION

Applications received by the closing date will be assessed by a peer-review panel of experts in patient-oriented research, healthcare, health policy, implementation science and knowledge translation. These assessments will consider:

- The quality of the initial patient oriented digital health research project that will be built on with the EMPOWER Award (scientific quality, patient partnership approach);
- The potential utility of the findings from the initial patient oriented research project;
- The relevance of the stakeholders implicated in the proposed EMPOWER Award; and
- The appropriateness of the activities outlined in the proposed EMPOWER Award.

Those proposals successfully shortlisted for potential funding will then be assessed by the OSSU Patient Partners Working Group, who will be assessing proposals based on the meaningful engagement of patient partners in the initial research and in the proposed knowledge translation activities, as well as on the potential benefit to patients, families, caregivers and communities of the outcomes of the proposed knowledge translation activities through the Award.

Based on the findings of the expert peer review and the patient partner review, up to four applicants will be selected for funding.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Workplan Template
Budget Template

CONTACT

Further information about the call and application requirements can be obtained by contacting Eddy Nason at eddynason@ossu.ca.

Online resources related to Patient Oriented Research

OSSU	www.ossu.ca
CIHR	www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca
PCORI	www.pcori.org
INVOLVE	www.invo.org.uk