

CDF Bridge Funding for CIHR Proposals Submitted by Canadian Dermatologists

Vision

Healthier skin,
better life.

Mission

Promote skin
research.

Advance
dermatology.

Strategic Goals

A governing-
type board
in place with
appropriate,
scheduled
turnover of
members.

Growth of the
restricted fund
to \$10 million.

Increased
targeting of
funding to CDF
high-priority
applications.

Strategic Focus

Grow and
support
Canadian
dermatologist
researchers to:

1. Discover
and enhance
knowledge
in the field of
Dermatology;

2. Raise the
profile of
dermatology;

3. Improve
societal
outcomes
and influence
health policy.

Objectives and Rationale:

The primary goal of the Canadian Dermatology Foundation is to provide seed funding for Canadian dermatologists conducting patient-oriented research. A key long-term objective of CDF funding is to help promising research projects progress toward successful applications to major national funding agencies, including the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Cancer Research Society (CRS), and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

However, these national funding competitions are highly competitive, and many high-quality proposals are not funded despite receiving strong reviews. This includes proposals submitted by Canadian dermatologist researchers. Establishing a CDF bridge funding mechanism for high-scoring CIHR proposals would serve two important purposes:

1. **To encourage Canadian dermatologists to submit research proposals to CIHR**, thereby elevating their research activities, scientific competitiveness, and grantsmanship to the national level.
2. **To provide bridge funding of \$100,000** to enable investigators to generate additional data, strengthen their proposals, and improve the likelihood of success upon resubmission in a subsequent CIHR competition.

Proposed Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration, the following criteria must be met:

- The CIHR proposal must have a Canadian dermatologist as the Nominated Principal Applicant.
- The applicant must have a primary affiliation with a dermatology unit at a Canadian institution.
- The proposal must have been submitted to the Spring CIHR Project Grant competition in time for consideration within the current CDF grant cycle.
- The proposal must have been scored by CIHR within the fundable range (>3.5) but not funded due to budgetary limitations.
- If multiple proposals meet the eligibility criteria, the proposal with the highest final CIHR score will be considered for CDF bridge funding.
- The applicant must provide a brief written explanation of how the CDF bridge funding will be used, why the proposed use of funds will strengthen the application, and how the funding will support resubmission.
- The applicant must commit to resubmitting the same or substantially related proposal to CIHR within 12 months of receiving the CDF bridge funding.

Conditions of Accepting CDF Bridge Funding

Acceptance of the CDF bridge funding will be subject to the following conditions:

- The applicant must resubmit the same or substantially related CIHR proposal within 12 months of receiving the CDF bridge funding.

- If the applicant does not resubmit the proposal within the expected timeframe, the applicant will not be eligible to apply for CDF funding for an additional two years.
- The recipient of the CDF bridge funding, who should not hold active CDF grant at the time of application, will not be eligible to receive additional CDF funding for two years, including the current funding year.
- If the resubmitted CIHR proposal is successful, the applicant will not be eligible to apply for additional CDF grant funding during the period in which the project is supported by the CIHR grant.

Implementation

This funding mechanism will begin with the **2026 CDF grant season**. A total of **\$100,000 from the CDF annual grant budget** will be reserved for CIHR bridge funding, provided that one or more qualified proposals are identified.

If no eligible proposal is identified in a given year, the reserved funds will be returned to the general CDF grant pool for that year or carried forward to support future CDF grant initiatives, as determined by the Executive Council.

Addendum:

** This policy was established at the May 16, 2026, Executive Council Strategic Retreat I Vancouver, and Approved by the Board at the Annual General Meeting on June 26, 2026.