

**2019 Systematic Review Grant
Competition**

October 2018

Call for Proposals

Scientific Office
Emergency Strategic Clinical Network



BACKGROUND

The Emergency Strategic Clinical Network (ESCN) Scientific Office was created to lead Alberta Health Services (AHS) in the promotion, adoption and diffusion of innovation as well as the creation and use of evidence to drive decision-making in emergency medicine. The SCN Scientific Offices pursue six pillars of activity:

1. Advancing Research Knowledge
2. Knowledge Translation
3. Research Facilitation
4. Engaging and Building Partnerships for Research and Innovation
5. Research Capacity Building and Training
6. Research Prioritization

The ESCN Scientific Office has identified several key activities that may support these pillars. One such activity includes the provision of research funding to support the completion of high quality systematic literature reviews which address issues in emergency medicine.

Systematic reviews of primary research are considered to be the highest standard in evidence-based health care. The purpose of this funding call is to offer timely, relevant and scientifically rigorous evidence to emergency medicine decision-makers and knowledge-users in Alberta. In addition to achieving the goal of Building Research Capacity, this funding opportunity also serves to engage and collaborate with the network of academic researchers established by the ESCN Scientific Office. Further, this funding call supports the AHS Strategy for Clinical Health Research Innovation and Analytics which endorses partnerships with academic researchers at Alberta universities.

This Systematic Review Grant competition will encourage the development of implementable and scalable ideas that will improve the quality of emergency medicine care delivery within the Health Quality Council of Alberta's six domains of quality: appropriateness, accessibility, effectiveness, efficiency, safety, and acceptability. This competition will advance the ESCN Scientific Office's long-term research goals, which are aligned with the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences' performance indicators: (1) advancing knowledge; (2) capacity building; (3) informing decision making; (4) health impacts; and (5) broad economic and social impacts.

ELIGIBILITY

When considering proposals for systematic literature reviews from applicants, the review process will consider the following criteria:

- The review team must be comprised of more than one individual and include a medical librarian;
- The review team must be comprised of at least one member with an MD or a PhD in a discipline relevant to emergency medicine (i.e., content knowledge);
- Past experience in conducting research relevant to emergency medicine;
- Past experience in conducting systematic literature reviews is essential.

Principal Investigators (PIs) may only hold one ESCN Systematic Review award at a time; however, PIs may be co-investigators on multiple applications. PIs who received an ESCN systematic review grant in the previous year may not be funded as PIs this year, however they may be Co-Investigators.

TASKS TO BE PERFORMED

- 1) Clearly define the research question that is relevant to Emergency medicine in Alberta;
- 2) Prepare a protocol and register the protocol on PROSPERO;
- 3) Conduct a systematic search of the literature where information sources and search strategies are clearly described (including the grey literature) with the assistance of a trained medical librarian;
- 4) Employ strategies to mitigate publication and selection bias;
- 5) Describe and utilise a method to assess risk of bias of individual trials;
- 6) Describe and utilise a formal methodology for analyzing and summarizing the results;
- 7) Employ an accepted methodology for grading the level of evidence and the strength of recommendations of the findings;
- 8) Prepare a written report for the ESCN Scientific Office which documents the literature review and analysis including the research question, methodology and conclusions;

FUNDING

The maximum amount of a single award is \$15,000; however, lesser amounts and co-funding projects are encouraged. The maximum amount of funds available in this competition is \$45,000 (3 grants).

Funds must be expended within one year from the time they are made available and projects should be completed within this year.

The time frame and associated expenses must be clearly justified in the budget. The grant is non-renewable.

Funding may be requested for:

- Stipend support for trainees or salary support for research associates and technical/professional assistants;
- Research operating expenses, including general office supplies and software;
- Other expenses will be considered, but must be justified.

Funding will NOT be provided for:

- Travel to conferences, meetings, symposia or presentations;
- Expenses incurred prior to implementation of the grant;
- Computer & equipment purchases;
- Principal Investigator salaries;
- Legal or patent fees, membership fees, academic fees, secretarial support.

Budget Review

The ESCN Scientific Director and Assistant Scientific Director will review the budget section of those proposals selected by the Review Panel to receive funding. Applicants may be asked to revise their proposed budgets at the discretion of the ESCN Scientific Director and / or Assistant Scientific Director in order to comply with funding program policies.

REPORTING

Investigators will be required to keep separate, accurate, and up-to-date accounts and records of the receipt and expenditure of the funding monies received, as well as all invoices, receipts and accounts and any other relevant documents relating to the expenditure of the funding. The ESCN Scientific Office will retain the right to review, at reasonable request, the accounts and records that relate to the expenditure of the funding and will have the right to hold copies of such accounts and records.

Investigators will be required to closely monitor the delivery and success of the project throughout the funding period to ensure that milestones are being met and deliverables are being provided. Investigators will provide the ESCN Scientific Office with a final report on completion of the funding period which will confirm whether the project has been successfully and properly completed.

All publications, including public messages, arising from this grant will acknowledge the support of the ESCN. The following statement should be included in the Acknowledgements section of the publication:

“Research reported in this publication was supported by the Alberta Health Services Emergency Strategic Clinical Network (ESCN). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the views of the ESCN Scientific Office or Alberta Health Services”.

TIMELINES

October, 2018	Call for Systematic Review Grant Applications
February 12, 2019	Applications Due
March 26, 2019	Notification of Awards

PROGRAM POLICIES

1. Applicants may only apply once to the Systematic Review Grant Competitions as a Principal Applicant but may be a Co-Applicant on multiple applications.
2. PIs who received an ESCN systematic review grant in the previous year may not be funded as PIs this year; however, they may be Co-Investigators.

3. PIs must be affiliated with an Alberta-based academic institution.
4. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
5. Any unused funds at the end of the award term must be returned to the ESCN Scientific Office for use towards future research funding opportunities.
6. Failure to submit a final report within 6 months of completing the systematic review will disqualify the PI from future funding.
7. Important changes to the proposed study protocol must be reported to the ESCN Scientific Office immediately. If changes are deemed to be substantial departures from the original application, the grant may be closed and in this case the funds must be returned.

EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

All submitted proposals will first be reviewed by the ESCN Scientific Office to determine the eligibility of the proposed research given the funding program policies.

Those applications which pass through this first evaluative step will then be reviewed and scored by members of an independent academic Review Panel according to 3 major criteria using a 5-point scale:

CRITERIA	Score
Expertise of the Investigative Team	
Academic track record and historical research productivity of the principal applicant.	/5
Skills and experience of the investigative team to conduct a systematic review.	/5
Appropriate content knowledge of the topic to be reviewed by members of the investigative team.	/5
Quality of the Proposed Methods	
Background evidence to justify the review/demonstrate significance of the problem.	/5
Clarity of the research question.	/5
Systematic review is an appropriate way to address the research question.	/5
Appropriateness of inclusion criteria, search strategies, critical appraisal methodology, and data collection/synthesis.	/5
Feasibility of the project (e.g. proposed work is accomplishable in the timeline given, literature exists on the subject to support a systematic review)	/5
Potential Impact for Emergency Medicine	
Alignment of proposed research with ESCN priority areas.	/5
Results could be published in a peer-reviewed journal	/5
Potential to inform improvement in patient outcomes/policy development/health services delivery (as applicable) for emergency care within Alberta and beyond, considering the size and healthcare needs of the patient population to be impacted.	/5
Total	/55

Scoring: 5 = Outstanding 4 = Very Good 3 = Good 2 = Fair 1 = Poor NP = Not Provided

HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

1. Systematic review proposals will be limited to a maximum of 5 pages using the provided template. References and the Principal Investigator Bio Sketch are not included in the 5 page limit.
2. Appendices of up to 2 pages are allowed.
3. The Principal Investigator must submit a Bio Sketch using the templates provided (no other Bio Sketches will be reviewed).
4. Complete budget details and justification must be included.
5. Email a PDF copy of the completed, signed application to:

Patrick McLane, PhD
Assistant Scientific Director
Emergency Strategic Clinical Network
patrick.mclane@ahs.ca

In the subject line, write "**Principal Investigator Name** 2018 ESCN SR Grant Application."

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

Title of Proposed Review:

Review Team Members

(Please list the names of all review team members, their roles, tasks, current job title and employer using a table similar to the one provided below.)

Title	Name	Role	Tasks	Current Job Title & Employer
Dr./Ms/Mr.	Xxx	e.g. Principal Investigator, Research Assistant, Librarian, Reviewer, Etc.	e.g. Leading review, research design, study review and appraisal, etc.	e.g. Professor, University of Alberta

Experience of the Review Team

(Please provide a brief summary of the experience your team has in conducting the proposed study. The review team should be comprised of members with sector experience in emergency medicine, members with experience/knowledge in conducting systematic literature reviews, an experienced librarian to supervise the search strategy and members with appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods knowledge to interpret analyses in the literature and perform any proposed meta-analysis.)

Background

(Please provide a brief outline of the issue that this systematic review will address. Indicate the current state of existing evidence.)

Research Question

(Please state the research question that is relevant to emergency medicine in Alberta)

Review Methods

(Please indicate how you will conduct the review using the following headings.)

Inclusion Criteria

Population

Intervention

Comparisons

Outcome(s)

Study designs to be included

Detailed Search Methodology

Study Selection and Quality Assessment

Data Extraction/Analysis

Subgroups and Sensitivity Considerations

Potential Impact for Emergency Medicine in Alberta

(Please describe how the results from this review will impact health services delivery or policy creation/implementation for emergency medicine in Alberta.)

Alignment with the Health Quality Council of Alberta's Six Dimensions of Quality

- ACCEPTABILITY
Health services are respectful and responsive to user needs, preferences and expectation.
- ACCESSIBILITY
Health services are obtained in the most suitable setting in a reasonable time and distance.
- APPROPRIATENESS
Health services are relevant to user needs and are based on accepted or evidence-based practice.
- EFFECTIVENESS
Health services are based on scientific knowledge to achieve desired outcomes.
- EFFICIENCY
Resources are optimally used in achieving desired outcomes.
- SAFETY
Mitigate risks to avoid unintended or harmful results.

Timeline

(It is important that the review team has dedicated time to complete the proposed work. Please provide a timetable/schedule for all tasks included in the proposed study.)

Budget

(Please list and justify all requested funds (up to a maximum of \$15,000) to complete this proposed study.)

References

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR BIO SKETCH

NAME		POSITION TITLE		
EDUCATION/TRAINING <i>(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, and include postdoctoral training.)</i>				
INSTITUTION AND LOCATION		DEGREE <i>(if applicable)</i>	YEAR(s)	FIELD OF STUDY

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE/EMPLOYMENT (list)

BOOKS (list)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (list)

BOOK CHAPTERS (list)

PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS (list)

CURRENT FUNDING: (list)

Signature Page

Principal Investigator:

Signature

Date

University Department Head:

Signature

Date

University Associate Dean:

Signature

Date

University Research Office:

Signature

Date