

## The Riddell Centre for Cancer Immunotherapy 2025 Grants Competition

### Funding Opportunity

The Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute invites applications for a new funding opportunity, offered by the Riddell Centre for Cancer Immunotherapy. We are seeking innovative research proposals across the spectrum of health research that align with the Centre's mission and priority research areas. Funding is available to support the launch of new ideas or enhance existing projects. Further details are provided below.

### About the Riddell Centre

The Riddell Centre for Cancer Immunotherapy is dedicated to developing and testing all forms of immunotherapies, including oncolytic viruses, cancer vaccines, immune modulators, targeted antibodies, and cell therapies, for cancer patients with high unmet needs. This will be achieved within a fully integrated bench-to-bedside research ecosystem that combines cutting-edge discovery and innovation science with rapid translation into early-phase clinical trials.

The Riddell Centre is focused on three key priority areas:

- **Discovery and Innovation:** Enhancing the effectiveness and safety of immunotherapies in treating cancer, by identifying better cancer targets, developing next-generation therapies, and evaluating them in laboratory models that mimic the patient's cancer.
- **Biomanufacturing:** Manufacturing high-quality cell therapeutics and other priority bioreagents to support cell and immune therapy research throughout the bench-to-bedside continuum.
- **Clinical Research and Translation:** Advancing the development of experimental immunotherapies and improving upon the safety and efficacy of approved immunotherapies for cancer patients, while producing clinical data and enabling deep bio-correlate studies that feedback and inform subsequent preclinical research.

### Funding Streams

1. **General Funding Stream:** one award for a research project aligned to any of the Riddell Centre's three key priority areas, as described above.
2. **Non-Cell Therapy Funding Stream:** one award reserved specifically for a research project focused on non-cell therapy approaches to cancer immunotherapy— such as oncolytic viruses, cancer vaccines, immune modulators, or targeted antibodies.

### Funds Available & Application Deadline

**Total funds available:** \$600,000

**Number of awards available\*:** 2 (up to \$300,000 each), with one in each funding stream listed above

**Maximum budget per proposal:** \$300,000 (\$100,000 per 12-month period). Funds will be disbursed annually.

**Duration of project:** up to 36 months

**Application deadline:** May 16, 2025

**Funding decision date:** June 30, 2025

**Funding start date:** April 1, 2025 (funds will be retroactively released back to April 1, 2025).

Please submit applications to: [charbonneau@ucalgary.ca](mailto:charbonneau@ucalgary.ca)

## Application Guidelines

- **Eligibility:** The Principal Applicant must hold an academic appointment (including adjunct) at the University of Calgary or at Alberta Health Services.
- **Membership:** Members of the Riddell Centre for Cancer Immunotherapy and the Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute are eligible to apply. If you are not yet a member of the Riddell Centre or the Charbonneau, you may apply for membership at the same time you submit this application.
- **Collaboration:** Research funded by this opportunity should demonstrate collaboration with other [Riddell Centre members](#). Additionally, joint applications from two or more investigators / research groups to foster collaborations are encouraged.
- **Health Research:** Researchers across the four pillars of health research are encouraged to apply, including those conducting biomedical, clinical, health services, and social, cultural, environmental and population health research.
- **Use of Funds:**
  - Funds can be used for:
    - Salary support for research staff, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, trainees, patient partners
    - Research support for consumables, equipment, services, software, clinical/administrative data access, data storage, and other relevant research costs
    - Conference registration of travel, costs to bring visiting scientists and other researchers to Calgary
    - Capital equipment, administrative costs, including faculty or staff professional development expenses related directly to the project.
  - Funds cannot be used for:
    - Overhead costs
    - Faculty salary
    - Capital expenditures, including facility renovations or structural alterations;
    - Legal costs associated with generating/reviewing agreements, intellectual property applications, patents, or commercial product development; and/or
    - Travel, registration fees, accommodation or other costs related to present research not directly related to work described in the application.
  - Funding must not overlap with other funding sources.
  - If you have any questions about the eligibility of a proposed expense, please contact [charbonneau@ucalgary.ca](mailto:charbonneau@ucalgary.ca).

## Application Documents:

- **Cover sheet:** Use the attached form provided on the next page.
- **Lay Summary (500 words or less):** Provide a lay summary of the research proposal.
- **Proposal (4 page maximum):** Sections to be included in the proposal are provided in the attached application template.
- **Tables and Figures (optional):** 1 page maximum
- **References:** No page limit
- **Budget:** Itemized budget and budget justification (no page limit)
- **Abridged CV(s) (5 page maximum per applicant):** CVs must be provided for principal applicant and co-applicants, highlighting publications, current and pending (applied for) funding, and any accomplishments relevant to the application.

## Evaluation:

- Applications will be evaluated by a panel of experts with relevant expertise.
- Awards will be evaluated based on the project's innovation, scientific merit, feasibility (timeline, research environment, expertise of the applicant/team), potential impact, and relevance to the Riddell Centre's

mission.

- One award will be reserved for a non-cell therapy research project that advances the Riddell Centre's mission.
- Applications for new projects that have the potential to grow to larger projects are encouraged.

### **Responsibilities of Recipients:**

The recipient(s) of funding from the Riddell Centre for Cancer Immunotherapy will be responsible for providing a report on the use of funds provided by the award and acknowledging the Riddell Centre for Cancer Immunotherapy as appropriate in publications and presentations. Recipients may be asked to present at the Riddell Centre's annual retreat.

The Project Lead will be responsible for managing expenditures in accordance with the approved budget and reporting on an annual basis project expenditures and outcomes.



<b>APPLICANT DETAILS</b>		
Title of Proposal:		
Principal Applicant	Name: Email:	Signature:
Co-Applicant(s) (if applicable)	Name: Email:	Signature:
	Name: Email:	Signature:
Other Members (if applicable)	Name:	Email:
	Name:	Email:
	Name:	Email:
Names of three (3) suggested EXTERNAL reviewers	Name:	Email:
	Name:	Email:
	Name:	Email:

**All applications must include the following:**

- **Completed cover sheet**
- **Lay summary (500 words maximum)**
- **Proposal (4 page maximum) using the following subheadings:**
  - Section I: Alignment with the funding competition goal - briefly state how the proposed project aligns with the funding competition goal, as stated in the program guidelines.
  - Section II: Background and rationale - provide background information, relevant literature, and rationale for the project, including why it is important and how it addresses a gap or challenge.
  - Section III: Approach and methods - state the research question or objectives of the project. Describe the proposed approaches, study design, and scientific methods, data collection, etc., including practical considerations and any potential challenges and mitigation strategies.
  - Section IV: Significance of the work and anticipated results or impacts - briefly describe the significance of the project, anticipated results or impact(s), and next steps if successful.
  - Section V: Team composition and research environment - describe the team and roles, qualifications, and relevant experience of team members. Describe the research environment, including key facilities, equipment, resources, and/or partnerships needed to complete the work.
- **Tables and Figures (optional, 1 page maximum)**
- **References (no page limit)**
- **Budget (no page limit)**
- **Abridged CV(s) (5 page maximum / CV)**

Please submit as a single PDF to [charbonneau@ucalgary.ca](mailto:charbonneau@ucalgary.ca). Deadline is 4PM, Friday May 16, 2025.