

## Health Research Cluster Grant

Thompson Rivers University is pleased to announce the launch of the Health Research Cluster Grant to encourage TRU researchers to form Health Research Clusters with Interior Health (IH) health care professionals.

**Aim:** To collaborate and co-develop research programs on one of the five “Areas of shared focus” identified collectively in the first Health Planning Meeting held in April 2018 at the Royal Inland Hospital. The award is intended to build regional research capacity, facilitate partnerships, provide student research opportunities, and help Health Research Clusters become more competitive for external funding.

\*Areas of shared focus:

1. Indigenous Health
2. Practice-based Nursing Research
3. Clinical Infectious Diseases
4. Trauma Care, in particular, Neurotrauma and Neurocritical Care
5. Tertiary Care in Psychology/Psychiatry

Health Research Cluster, for the purpose of this call, is defined as an interdisciplinary group of TRU faculty, IH Care Professionals (i.e., Health Care Professionals employed by IH working in Kamloops, for example, Allied Health Professionals, Nurses, Pharmacists, Knowledge Coordinators, Regional Practice Leaders), and Physicians with hospital privileges (i.e., physicians working at Royal Inland Hospital or Tertiary Mental Health) with shared research interests.

Health Research Clusters should undertake activities addressing key challenges facing health, health system services, and social, cultural, environmental and population health; involve the training of highly qualified personnel; mobilize new knowledge; and demonstrate a willingness to seek external funding for collaborative research. Health Research Clusters are expected to leverage regional, provincial and national collaborations.

### Value and Duration

- The initial \$45,000 fund has been established to provide a minimum of 3 awards. A grant of up to \$15,000 per research cluster is available, with an expectation of cash and in-kind support from the partners
- In accord with our commitment to undergraduate (UG) research and interdisciplinary team work, successful teams will be eligible to request additional *supplemental funding* to hire an interdisciplinary cohort of up to three (3) UG research assistants (\$3,000 for each student) with this application
- Maximum of one award available per faculty member as Health Research Cluster Lead
- Funding can be renewed for the second year and Clusters are encouraged to plan activities for two years; although funding can be allocated only on an annual basis based on the performance and outcomes (final report) in the first year
- Funds must be expended within one year of approval and expenditures must conform to the [Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide](#).

### Applicants’ eligibility

Health Research Clusters must contain at least *three members* that include one full-time TRU faculty member as Health Research Cluster Lead (with ongoing or tenure-track appointments, and term-certain appointments of more than one year and not in the final year of those appointments), a Health Research Cluster Co-Lead from IH, and a Knowledge User and/or a community member. Cluster should also involve [Early Career Researchers](#) (ECRs) and describe their commitment to [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#) (EDI).



**Expense eligibility:** Eligible expenditures must adhere to the [Tri-Agency financial administration guide](#) governing the use of funds, and may include but are not limited to:

- salaries/benefits for undergraduate and graduate students
- direct cost of the research including data procurement (if any)
- travel for field work
- cluster activities such as meetings and workshops for the development of the partnerships
- knowledge mobilization activities (cannot exceed 20% of the overall budget)
- cost for the development of research proposal for sustaining cluster activities

Funding *cannot* be used for:

- release time for TRU faculty, IH Health Care Professionals or physicians
- salary and benefits for a Post-Doctoral Fellow or visiting scholar
- publication costs
- office supplies, computers and equipment

## Evaluation Criteria

Priority will be given to proposals that:

- build new collaborative and interdisciplinary teams at TRU and IH and involve the promise of significant and long-term collaboration
- demonstrate existing or potential cash and in-kind contributions
- have potential to leverage regional, provincial and national partnerships
- are judged as most likely to produce tangible research results addressing one of the five areas of shared interest (i.e., peer-reviewed publications, advances in policy/practice)
- have potential to secure external funding within two years from the start of the grant
- are judged as feasible, given their scope, timelines and the research excellence of the applicants
- are most likely to develop and enhance the applicants' research and scholarly profile
- develop and enhance TRU's research capacity by including, where appropriate, ECRs and considerable HQP training. In assessing the *supplemental UG student funding envelope* adjudicators will consider the research experience for the student, the academic preparation of the student, and quality of faculty track record in the supervision of students

## Adjudication

A sub-committee of the Research Committee of Senate will adjudicate proposals.

## Application Submission

1. **Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply:** Health Research Cluster Lead must submit NOI to [facultyresearch@tru.ca](mailto:facultyresearch@tru.ca) by **Feb 15, 2019**. The NOI is non-competitive and will be used to plan the review panel.

NOI should include names and affiliation of the Health Research Cluster Lead, Co-Lead, Knowledge User and other cluster members; name and 'Area of shared focus' of the research cluster; brief summary of the research program and cluster activities (250 words); itemized budget request; and number of UG research assistants (a cohort of up to three at \$3,000 each) as part of the *supplemental funding envelope* (no justification is required at this stage).

2. **Full Application:** A full application as a *single PDF document* must be prepared according to the following guidelines and must be submitted to [facultyresearch@tru.ca](mailto:facultyresearch@tru.ca) by March 1, 2019.

*Application guidelines:*

**1. Title and Area of Focus of the Proposed Health Research Cluster:** Provide a description of the Area of focus (theme) of the research cluster with a clear rationale for the interdisciplinary nature of the cluster providing names and roles of the TRU and IH collaborators and other partners describing the cluster's commitment to EDI (200 words).

**2. Research Program:** Provide a description of your *research program* and the *activities* undertaken to establish a cluster in any of the five 'Areas of shared focus'. The description should make a case for the uniqueness and value of the proposed research cluster, provide details of research to be undertaken, the research methodology, and the anticipated research contributions and impacts. Cluster activities leading to tangible scholarly events such as meetings, workshops and partnership development should be provided (2 pages).

**3. Student Training:** Provide a detailed description of the role of students in the project and benefits to students. Please describe your experience in supporting, mentoring and/or supervising research assistants (½ page).

If requesting *supplemental funding* to support the hiring of UG research assistants, please include the student's ID#, cumulative GPA (identified student will normally have a minimum GPA 3.2, at least 30 credits and be a full-time TRU student), and resume/CV.

**4. Knowledge Mobilization Plan:** Describe how the cluster intends to ensure results are made available to knowledge users, shared and used in practice/policy setting, planned publication outcomes and timeline (½ page).

**5. Plan to Secure Future Funding:** Provide a brief plan for how the cluster will pursue external funding to achieve a *sustained funding model*, identifying specific award programs, potential sponsors and future partners, design of the collaborative partnership, potential cash and/or in-kind contributions, and timelines for preparing proposals (½ page).

**6. Budget Justification:** Provide a detailed itemized budget request and justification for the funds being requested. Include number of graduate research assistant, potential sources of cash and/or in-kind contributions, and any additional UG research assistants (up to three at \$3,000 each) requested as part of the *supplemental funding envelope* (1.5 pages).

**7. Current CVs** of Health Research Cluster Lead and Co-Lead, and **letters of support** from the applicant's Dean and the appropriate supervisor(s) from the IH Health Care Professional and/or physician must accompany the application.

*Proposals must be written using 11 point Arial black font, single line spacing and normal page margins.*

**Result Announcement:** Successful applicants will be notified within 3-4 weeks of the deadline. If awarded, funds will be available for use starting **March 31, 2019**. If your research requires human ethics, animal care and/or biohazard approval, the fund will not be established until such approvals are in place.

Successful clusters will be required to attend a post-award workshop and luncheon with AVP Research in April, 2019 and successful applicants will be notified in their award letters.

**Report:** A final report is required to be submitted at the end of the first year (March 31, 2020) before fund is renewed for a second year.

For questions and enquiries, please contact [facultyresearch@tru.ca](mailto:facultyresearch@tru.ca)