

# Memorandum

**Office of the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)**

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**TO:** Board of Governors  
**FROM:** Dr. Rose Goldstein, Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)  
**SUBJECT:** Grant Application to Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)  
**DATE:** October 6, 2016  
**DOCUMENT #:** GD16-07  
**ACTION REQUIRED:**  INFORMATION  APPROVAL/DECISION

**ISSUE & EXPECTED OUTCOME:**

Approval is sought to submit a grant application for \$47.4 million to the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) 2017 Innovation Fund. The proposal is entitled “*The Douglas Center for Translational Psychiatry*” led by Principal Investigator Brigitte Kieffer at the McGill affiliate Douglas Mental Health University Institute.

**BACKGROUND & RATIONALE:**

**CFI 2017 Innovation Fund:** This competition provides funding for research infrastructure such as equipment and facilities at Canadian post-secondary institutions. The specific objectives are to enable institutions and their best researchers to:

- Strive for global leadership by conducting world-class research in areas of strategic institutional priority;
- Enhance research capacity by forging productive partnerships within and among institutions, sectors and disciplines for the effective and sustainable use of the research infrastructure and facilities;
- Generate social, health, environmental and/or economic benefits for Canadians, including better training and improved skills for highly qualified personnel.

As of September 23, 2016, McGill will be submitting 21 projects as the lead institution and 18 as a partner on projects led by other institutions. One single proposal has a proposed budget above \$25 million and requires approval by the Board of Governors for submission. The deadline to submit proposals is October 11, 2016.

**About the Proposal:** The proposal outlines the construction of laboratory space and research equipment to establish the Douglas Centre for Translational Psychiatry. The research will span from discovery research to clinical implementation. An animal research facility is a key component to the proposal needed to synergize basic and clinical research by testing hypotheses from rodents to humans and vice-versa in the area of mental health and disease. There will be four Translational Platforms:

	<p>(i) Behavioral Phenotyping; (ii) Neural Networks; (iii) Biomarker Discovery; and (iv) Bioinformatics.</p> <p><b>McGill Process:</b> Identification of projects for the CFI Innovation Fund 2017 competition started in the fall of 2015. The Faculty of Medicine strongly supported this project from the initial stages and deemed it a strategic priority for the Faculty. The project was also reviewed by a Joint Selection Committee, chaired by the VP (Research and Innovation), which included leading McGill and external scientists as reviewers.</p> <p><b>Project Cost:</b> The total cost of the project is \$47.4 million. The funds will be used by the Douglas Research Institute to renovate space in the Institute and to purchase research equipment.</p> <p>The Douglas cannot apply for CFI grants on its own, however the University may apply on behalf of all McGill affiliated hospitals. When a project receives an award, an agreement is put in place with the hospital to transfer the awarded funds. The hospital becomes responsible for project execution. This is in line with CFI best practice and has been the standard protocol in the past.</p> <p><b>Sources of Funding:</b> CFI funding is normally composed of 40% from the federal government, 40% from the provincial government, and the remaining 20% from industrial in-kind and McGill contributions. The federal and provincial governments will provide \$37.9 million, \$3.3 million is committed by partners, and the University has committed \$6.2 million, which includes \$5.8 million from fundraising initiatives and \$420,436 from McGill's planned cash contribution to awarded CFI 2017 IF projects.</p>
<p><b>ALIGNMENT WITH MISSION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:</b></p>	<p>This proposal is aligned with the McGill Strategic Research Plan's focus on Neuroscience and McGill's commitment to health research and health care delivery. The project is linked with McGill's successful CFREF program "<i>Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives (HBHL)</i>" (funded at \$84 million over 7 years), which includes McGill and affiliated hospitals. The proposed CFI-funded infrastructure at the Douglas will support HBHL research.</p> <p>In addition, this project will strengthen McGill's reputation as a world class leading institution in the field of Neurosciences.</p>
<p><b>COMPLIANCE WITH UNIVERSITY POLICY:</b></p>	<p>This request is presented to the Board in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Regulations Relating to the Approval of Contracts and Signing Authority</i>. The Principal is authorized to sign, on behalf of the University, grant applications valued up to \$25 million to the CFI. The current proposal is over this threshold.</p>
<p><b>COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION/ EXTERNAL REGULATIONS:</b></p>	<p>This proposal has been prepared according to the guidelines of the CFI 2017 IF and in accordance with eligibility criteria governed by the federal government.</p> <p>If the project is approved for funding, an award agreement will be developed between McGill and the Douglas for transfer of funds. A template for such agreement is available and will require Legal review prior to signing.</p>
<p><b>RISK FACTORS:</b></p>	<p>Given that 20% of the grant must come from industrial in-kind and McGill contributions, the University will be required to secure additional sources of funding. McGill University Advancement will lead the fundraising of \$5.8</p>

	<p>million. If the University is unable to secure this funding, it would need to agree with CFI on a reduced scope for the project, or turn down the award.</p> <p>The proposal includes a detailed sustainability plan for operations and maintenance of the infrastructure.</p>
<b>SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS</b>	The renovation component of this project is planned with a rigorous sustainability approach according to the Quebec Sustainable Development Act (RLRQ, c. D-8.1.1, Article 6) and is meeting LEED certification standards.
<b>IMPACT OF DECISION AND NEXT STEPS:</b>	<p>As the value of this proposal exceeds the Principal's signing authority, the submission is conditional upon Board approval.</p> <p>Decisions are expected to be announced in June 2017. Payment of grant funds to successful institutions would begin during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.</p>
<b>MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL:</b>	<i>Be it resolved that the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation), approve the submission of a grant application valued at \$47.4 million in support of the proposal entitled "The Douglas Center for Translational Psychiatry" to the Canada Foundation for Innovation 2017 Innovation Fund and authorize the Principal or the Principal's delegate to sign any related documents, provided that where necessary, they are reviewed by Legal Services.</i>
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	The draft proposal is available upon request.