



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH



McGill  
UNIVERSITY

Edinburgh  
Neuroscience



neuro

Institut-Hôpital  
neurologique de Montréal  
Montreal Neurological  
Institute-Hospital

## Neuroscience Collaboration Between The University of Edinburgh and McGill University

### *Call for Applications for Joint Research Funding*

McGill University and The University of Edinburgh have partnered to establish collaborative research and training opportunities in **Neuroscience**. This partnership focusses on the following three main areas: (i) **autism/neurodevelopmental conditions**, (ii) **intellectual disabilities** (with particular focus on studies using human induced pluripotent stem cells), and (iii) **neurodegenerative diseases**.

Within the framework of this collaboration, the partners announce a call for applications for competitive *Joint Pilot Project Grants* to support collaborative work in the three identified research areas. The objective of these pilot projects will be to build on synergistic interactions between the two universities to establish long-standing collaborations, ideally leading to joint external research grant applications.

Proposals are invited for up to three 1-year Joint Pilot Project Grants, one in each of the research areas identified above, to support new or ongoing collaborations. The maximum amount that can be requested for each application is C\$80,000 (approximately £45,000). High-risk approaches will be considered. In these cases, risk will be evaluated against the potential to deliver ground breaking results.

Applications should involve one McGill-affiliated principal investigator (PI) and one University of Edinburgh-affiliated PI. Each PI can participate in maximally one application.

Proposals should clearly demonstrate

- the added value of the planned joint research.
- how planned joint research will provide training opportunities for at least one trainee (MSc, PhD, MD students or postdoctoral fellows).

It is anticipated that data generated through these collaborations will allow researchers to pursue more comprehensive joint external research funding.

## Key Dates

	2020 competition
Competition launch	September 1 2020
Deadline for application	September 22 2020
Decision expected	November 2020

## Eligible Costs

Funds can be requested for:

- Directly incurred costs of the research project, including laboratory consumables.
- Costs of regular meetings and exchanges between collaborating laboratories (it is envisioned that these exchanges will occur mainly virtually in 2020-2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic)

## Non-eligible Costs

- Salaries of PIs.
- Visitor fees, student fees, or bench fees (either University will not charge fees on collaborative activities funded under this scheme).
- Honoraria for guest lecturers.
- Costs of publication.
- Significant items of equipment (over C\$ 1,000).

## Review Process

An *ad hoc* Joint Review Panel composed of McGill and University of Edinburgh PIs will review applications according to the following criteria:

- Quality and originality of the proposed activities.
- Alignment with the priority areas described above.
- Track record of the applicants.
- Evidence that the proposed research might lead to a continuing collaboration between the partner laboratories.
- Demonstrated potential for enhancement of training of students/fellows.

Each partner institution will establish a review committee of approximately 3-5 senior researchers to conduct the first review of the proposals. The recommendations of these two committees will be forwarded to the Joint Review Panel, which may choose to seek further scientific expert advice if deemed necessary in order to reach a consensus on recommendations for funding. Funding recommendations may take into consideration the longer-term strategic objectives of the partnership as agreed at that time; or other factors deemed appropriate. The Panel's decision will be final and there will be no appeal procedure. The Joint Review Panel reserves the right to not award any grants. Applicants may not take part in the review process.

## How to Apply

For each application, PIs will need to send electronically:

- Completed application form (attached).
- Biosketch of PIs including a list of significant recent publications.
- Short biosketch of any listed collaborators (publication list not required).
- A budget including justification of all costs requested.

At project end, pilot projects and workshops should provide a brief (normally 1 page max) report detailing achievements. This should highlight key results, potential impacts of continued research in the area, student mobility, abstracts, talks at scientific meetings, funding applications, publications in preparation, and any media highlights.

Any publications generated as a result of an award must acknowledge the partnership specifically referring to support from “**The University of Edinburgh/McGill University Neuroscience Collaboration**”. Investigators should update the partnership coordinators on the progress of publications arising from these awards. Should a project cease for any reason, including project end, unspent funds will be returned to the partnership.

Please email applications to both [stefano.stifani@mcgill.ca](mailto:stefano.stifani@mcgill.ca) and [Head.CDBS@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Head.CDBS@ed.ac.uk).

The following websites can be consulted to find research partners at the University of Edinburgh and McGill University.

### McGill:

McGill Integrated Program in Neuroscience

<https://www.mcgill.ca/ipn/>

(with links to affiliated Institutes and associated Departments)

### Edinburgh:

Edinburgh Neuroscience (EN):

<http://www.edinburghneuroscience.ed.ac.uk/our-researchers>

Centre for Discovery Brain Sciences (CDBS):

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/discovery-brain-sciences/our-staff/research-groups>

Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences (CCBS):

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/clinical-brain-sciences/people/ccbs-principal-investigators>

Simons Initiative for the Developing Brain (SIDB):

<https://www.sidb.org.uk/people>