Knowledge Synthesis Seed Grants: To support knowledge syntheses including systematic reviews and scoping reviews that are relevant to maternal and infant health in low and middle income countries

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Background

Healthcare systems worldwide are faced with the challenge of improving the quality of care and decreasing the risk of adverse events. Reviewing, appraising, and synthesizing available evidence from clinical research is a necessary first step to developing tailored knowledge tools and products for healthcare system stakeholders, with the ultimate goal of closing the knowledge-to-practice gap.

This seed grant opportunity is offered through the GREAT Network (Guideline-driven, Research priorities, Evidence synthesis, Application of evidence, and Transfer of knowledge). The GREAT Network is an umbrella organization that provides guidance, technical assistance, and support to local stakeholders of the healthcare system who are focused on enhancing maternal and perinatal health through implementation of relevant evidence-based clinical practice guidelines in low and middle income countries (LMICs). The GREAT Network was established in 2012 by the World Health Organization, St. Michael’s Hospital/University of Toronto, and international partnerships with LMICs and is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Purpose

This funding program is designed to support the completion or updating of knowledge syntheses that are relevant to maternal and infant health.

The specific objectives of this funding program include:

1. To support completion of knowledge syntheses including systematic reviews and scoping reviews that are relevant to maternal and infant health in LMICs OR to the implementation of evidence-based guidelines to optimise maternal and infant health in LMICs; and
2. To support the updating of knowledge syntheses that are relevant to maternal and infant health in LMICs OR to the implementation of evidence-based guidelines to optimise maternal and infant health in LMICs.

Eligibility

Teams must include a minimum of 2 applicants, including a principal investigator with expertise in the conduct of knowledge syntheses. Teams should also consider including a content expert (i.e., an individual with relevant expertise in maternal and/or infant health); a statistician; and an information scientist. If these resources are not available locally, applicants are encouraged to...
mention this in the application as these resources may be available from the GREAT Network to support the reviews.

**Funding Amount and Allowable Costs**

This fund is for **up to $5,000.00 CDN (Canadian funds)** per successful application per year for 1 year.

Eligible costs include:
- Knowledge translation costs such as open access publication in a peer reviewed journal.
- Personnel costs such as a research coordinator or information scientist are allowable costs.

Ineligible costs include:
- Equipment.
- Release time for salaried academic researchers with appointments.

**Application Requirements**

The research proposal must include the following components:

1. The research question with a description of the significance of the issue and how it aligns with the objectives of this Call for Proposals.
2. The rationale for the knowledge synthesis, including relevant background literature and a description of the contribution of the project to maternal and infant healthcare.
3. The methods for the knowledge synthesis. If you are proposing to update of a review, also provide a description of when the last review was conducted.
4. Timeline for the review, including milestones.
5. A description of the team including their relevant expertise (i.e., abbreviated 4-page CVs which outlines current position, areas of expertise, training, and activities in the related field).

*Note: Successful applicants must register their protocol with PROSPERO (http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/).*
How to apply for funding

To prepare your application, please include the following modules with the required specifications:

1. **Research Module**: Project proposals will be limited to 6 pages, excluding references; and should adequately address the requirements outlined above. Proposals should use Times New Roman 12-point font with single spacing and margins of 2 cm. Up to 2 appendices may also be provided, if necessary (e.g., detailed search strategy, summary of previous review findings, etc.).

2. Completion and attachment of **Applicant Information Sheet (refer to pages 4-5)** should also be included as the cover page of the Research Module.

3. **CVs**: Abbreviated (4 page) CVs from all team members. Any format is fine but they should include relevant expertise/publications.

4. **Budget Module**: A budget and justification should be included to a maximum of 2 pages.

Send the completed application package to:

**By email:**

Dr. Sharon Straus at sharon.straus@utoronto.ca

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**Application deadline: All applications must be submitted and received by 30 JANUARY 2015 by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)**

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**Review Process**

Each application will be reviewed independently by 2 experts, using the following criteria:

1. Is the proposal relevant to the objectives of this Call for Proposals?
2. Is the research question clear and sound?
3. Does the proposal appropriately justify the need for the knowledge synthesis?
4. Are the methods appropriate to complete the proposed knowledge synthesis?
5. Are the timelines and milestones realistic?
6. Does the proposal identify potential challenges and mitigation strategies?
7. Does the team have the relevant expertise and experience to complete the project?
Next Steps for Successful Applicants

Reporting requirements:

Teams are expected to provide a final report within 6 months of the completion of the funding period. Additional details to follow.

Timeline at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 January 2015</td>
<td>Application deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 February - 27 February 2015</td>
<td>Application review period</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 March 2015</td>
<td>Response deadline (successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified)</td>
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If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact:

Caitlyn Timmings, St.Michael’s Hospital/University of Toronto at timmingsc@smh.ca or by phone: 1-416-864-6060 ext. 77566
Applicant Information Sheet

Please complete all applicable sections of the below form and submit one copy along with your completed application package.

Applicant Details

Applicant name:

Mailing address:

Role/position:

Affiliation/organization:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Contact Person and Details (if different than applicant):

Project Details

Project Title:
Proposed Project Duration:

Project Start Date:

Funding Amount Requested (can be less than $5,000.00 CDN if intended for a smaller activity/initiative):

Total Project Budget:

Additional sources of funding (if being sought):